

# TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES

October 4, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Tri-County Water Authority met in the second-floor conference room, 944 Whitley Avenue, Corcoran, California, on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at the hour of 1:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted both in person and via teleconference.

Chair VanderHam presided and Staci Wilkins kept the minutes.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Cory VanderHam  
Carlo Wilcox  
Michael Nordstrom  
Wade Magden

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deanna Jackson, Executive Director  
Staci Wilkins, Executive Assistant  
Jason Howard, McCormick Barstow LLP  
Stacie Ann Silva  
Don Wright  
Alex Aretakis  
Myron Schotanus  
Ariel Namvar  
Rusty Areias  
Ron Cook (via phone)

Chair VanderHam called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

#### **ACTION AGENDA**

1. Review and consider action to appoint applicant to fill open Southeast Management Area representative to the Board of Tri-County Water Authority.

Executive Director Jackson noted that three applicants submitted their names for consideration of the position by the September 22 deadline. The Board was advised that one applicant later removed their name from the eligible candidates. Myron Schotanus and Ariel Namvar were introduced to the Board and each gave background information on their involvement in the Southeast area. Questions were fielded by both applicants.

Upon motion of Director Wilcox and seconded by Director Magden, the Board voted to appoint Myron Schotanus as the At-Large Director representing the Southeast Management Area with a term through December 31, 2023. The Directors voted as follows:

Magden	Nordstrom	VanderHam	Wilcox
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

Mr. Howard administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Schotanus.

2. Review comments submitted on the SGMA portal for the Tule Subbasin GSP revisions.

Executive Director Jackson distributed the five comment letters that were submitted directly to the SGMA portal. The comments from the NGO Community Water Center were for the entire subbasin but focused primarily on ETGSA, concentrating on the human right to clean water. Three comments were exactly the same and signed by growers in the Tipton area who were concerned about Angiola Water District and the well fields. Delano/Earlimart ID submitted a letter that suggested a lack of complete cooperation with them and a gap in the data monitoring along the GSA borders.

Following the review, the Board advised Deanna to draft a clarification letter to the three growers in Tipton and to engage Geosyntec to address the concerns raised by Delano/Earlimart ID. Draft letters will be prepared and reviewed at the next regular meeting in November.

3. Review comments submitted on the SGMA portal for the Tulare Lake Subbasin GSP revisions.

Two letters were distributed to the Board for the comments received directly on the SGMA portal. There was a letter from DWR in regards to the California Aqueduct. They were pleased with the overall revisions, with only a few questions on data gaps. The second letter had been submitted by El Rico GSA and it voiced its concern over last-minute suggested changes offered by Southwest Kings GSA. They express hope that the revisions will be found acceptable despite the inconsistency of resolutions passed to adopt the revisions.

The Board determined that there did not need to be any further action taken.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

4. **CLOSED SESSION** – The Board entered into Closed Session at 1:31 p.m.
  - a. Conference with Legal Counsel regarding potential litigation Anticipated Litigation [Govt. Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4)] (3 potential case)

Director Nordstrom left the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

5. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** – The Board returned to Open Session at 2:39 p.m.. Mr. Howard reported that the Board voted to terminate the Cooperation and Administrative Services Agreement with Southwest Kings GSA, citing Section 12.1(c) which states that "...services cannot be provided due to conflict of interests between TCWA and SKGSA, in which case, the Agreement shall be suspended or terminated at the time the conflict, or potential conflict, is identified." The termination of the Agreement will happen in 30 days or any day sooner should a notice from the Department of Water Resources arrive requiring a probation hearing. Directors Magden, VanderHam, and Schotanus voted in the affirmative. Director Wilcox abstained.

**ADJOURNMENT**

6. There being no further business to come before the Board on the occasion of the October 4, 2022, meeting, Chair VanderHam adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m. until the Regular Board Meeting to be held on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. in the Tri-County Boardroom or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Attest:



Carlo Wilcox, Director



Deanna Jackson, Executive Director