

Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District Regular Board Meeting October 20, 2025

Location:

3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821, Audio Conference at 1-669-900-6833, and Video Conference using Zoom at Meeting ID #891 7321 0146

Call to Order

President Wichert called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Wichert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Jay Boatwright, Craig Locke, Kevin Thomas, and Robert Wichert.

Directors Absent: Dave Jones.

Staff Present: General Manager Dan York, Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood, Heather Hernandez-Fort, Jeff Ott, Dane Westivik, Dana Dean, Julie Nemitz, and Mike Simi.

Public Present: Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz, William Eubanks, Dave Ross, Trish Harrington, Roy Wilson, Kathy Lauer, Bridget Garlinghouse, Jennifer Harris, Tony Barela, Ashley Casey, and Shirley McNichols.

Announcements

General Manager Dan York (GM York) announced:

- Emily Hathaway and Shirley McNichols have both been appointed to the Del Paso Manor Advisory Committee.
- Director Boatwright has been elected to serve on the ACWA Region 4 Board for the 2026-2027 term beginning January 1, 2026.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Items

1. **Draft Minutes of September 15, 2025, Regular Board Meeting**
2. **Treasurer's Report**

Director Boatwright moved to approve the Consent Items; Director Locke seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Boatwright, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:	Jones.		

Items for Discussion and/or Action

3. Pipeline Artificial Intelligence Predictive Failure Modeling

Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood (AGM Underwood) presented the staff report and introduced Bridget Garlinghouse (Ms. Garlinghouse), Director of Sales with VODA.ai. AGM Underwood and Ms. Garlinghouse answered clarifying questions.

William Eubanks (Mr. Eubanks) emphasized that VODA.ai was only as effective as the information input into it, noting that it was inexpensive.

Dave Ross (Mr. Ross) recommended proceeding with a one-year term initially, then reevaluating after that period to determine its effectiveness.

Trish Harrington (Ms. Harrington) asked whether the VODA.ai analysis would include the Del Paso Manor Service Area (DPMSA) and any potential future mergers.

Director Locke agreed with Mr. Ross, noting that DPMSA did not have sufficient data to include and that a term longer than one year was unnecessary. He stated that a one-year term would allow prioritization of projects.

Director Locke moved to proceed with a one-year term with the unlimited option; Director Thomas seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Boatwright, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:	Jones.		

GM York thanked the Board and staff for the significant effort that went into this matter.

4. Water Forum 2050 - Draft Water Forum Agreement and Draft Purveyor Specific Agreement

GM York presented the staff report and introduced Ashley Casey (Ms. Casey), Executive Director of the Water Forum, who answered clarifying questions from the Board.

Jennifer Harris expressed concern regarding joint powers agreements and excessive bureaucracy.

Ms. Casey provided an overview of the Water Forum and responded to additional clarifying questions.

GM York expressed that staff would bring additional information to a future Board meeting.

5. **Calendar Year 2025 Budget Amendment No. 3**

Jeff Ott (Mr. Ott) presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

Director Locke moved to approve the staff recommendation; Director Boatwright seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Boatwright, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:	Jones.		

6. **Update on Analysis of Alternatives for Pipeline or Service Saddle Replacement in the Vicinity of Elkhorn Blvd and Butterball Way**

Dana Dean (Mr. Dean) presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

President Wichert inquired what the root cause of the service connection failures was, noting that he felt a full root cause analysis had not been completed and emphasized that the issue was not due to a lack of adequate corrosion protection. He requested staff conduct a thorough root cause analysis, noting that the Board should understand the different alternative mitigation recommendations and should agree with staff's recommendations before proceeding.

Director Locke asked clarifying questions regarding costs, noting that paving was a significant expense.

GM York noted past partnerships with the County regarding similar projects.

The Board discussed paving and associated funding.

Discussion ensued regarding the timing of the project.

Director Locke stated he preferred to begin the work sooner rather than later and expressed frustration that more pipe has not yet been installed.

President Wichert reminded the Board that the approved rate study accounted for the project's extended timeline and noted that implementing the project sooner would require higher rates. He suggested that the project's priority could potentially be moved up and asked staff to present options for consideration.

Director Locke noted that this was a budget-related discussion.

GM York stated that staff could review and discuss options at the upcoming Budget Workshop.

Mr. Ross commented that the paving cost to the District represented a double cost, as ratepayers already pay the County in their taxes.

7. **Del Paso Manor Service Area AT&T Water Meter Billing Error**

Mr. Ott presented the staff report.

Director Thomas requested to review the regulations to determine how far back adjustments could be made.

Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz (Mr. Horowitz) noted that the regulation allowed a four-year lookback, based on the statute of limitations for overbilling, but added that a one-year limit was generally more appropriate. He stated that the Board could revisit this if desired.

Director Locke stated that the regulations should be brought back for review.

Ms. Harrington noted her experience at AT&T, mentioning that a malfunctioning air conditioner caused water to run during the summer, which could have contributed to their issue.

Mr. Ross noted that AT&T's billing had previously spiked due to chiller issues, and that someone at the company was supposedly monitoring the situation.

Kathy Lauer questioned why the overbilling had been allowed to continue from the former Del Paso Manor Water District staff.

8. **Election of Special District Representative to Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission**

President Wichert presented the staff report.

Director Boatwright moved to approve the staff recommendation; Director Locke seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Boatwright, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:	Jones.		

9. **Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Asset Management Plan Implementation Status**

Dane Westvik (Mr. Westvik) presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

President Wichert complimented Mr. Westvik, stating that it was a very good report.

10. **Options for Improved Efficiencies in Regular Board Meetings**

President Wichert presented the staff report and noted that last month's meeting included two long presentations with many slides, contributing to the extension of the meeting. He stated that the approach taken tonight made more sense than the recommendations in the report. He proposed that slides from the Water Forum and VODA.ai reports be included in the meeting package for review, but not presented in detail. He suggested Board members read the slides, but to focus discussion on questions rather than going through the full presentations.

Director Locke noted that reviewing the remaining informational items would take the rest of the meeting. He stated that monthly updates on Engineering status were unnecessary, as project managers and staff were handling the work. He indicated that having the information in writing was sufficient to him and additionally noted that Asset Management Plan (AMP) discussions were acceptable, but he did not believe monthly updates on every AMP were needed, as that was GM York's responsibility.

Director Boatwright questioned how the public would view the Board if presentations were minimized.

President Wichert stated that materials were made available 10 days in advance for the public to review. He noted that interested members of the public could ask questions during the meeting and that reading the materials provided more information than presenting them slide by slide.

GM York stated that presentations could be minimized if that was the desire of the Board.

Director Locke stated that an hour and a half was sufficient for Board meetings, while President Wichert indicated he felt a target of two hours was appropriate.

GM York added that some items could be placed in the informational section, with Board members pulling items for discussion if desired.

Director Locke emphasized that public comment should be limited to three minutes and remain as comment only, without dialogue.

GM York noted a time clock could assist with time management of public comments.

Mr. Eubanks stated that the written material was sufficient for the public.

Chair Boatwright suggested that informational items, such as departmental status reports, be included in the agenda but only discussed if a Director requested it.

Director Locke agreed, noting that the General Manager and Board President should meet before each meeting to review the agenda to determine what was action versus informational.

President Wichert agreed with Director Locke's suggestion.

Mr. Wilson supported minimizing presentations and suggested breaking items into sections as needed, while maintaining opportunities for public input.

President Wichert stated that he wanted interaction with the public, not just passive acknowledgment.

Mr. Horowitz added that a standard practice is to group all department reports into a single informational item, with items presented only if pulled by a Board member.

President Wichert indicated he would take this advisement under consideration.

General Manager's Report

11. General Manager's Report

GM York presented the staff report.

- a. *Kirby's Pump and Mechanical Update*
GM York presented the staff report.
- b. *District Facility Consolidation Update*
GM York presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.
- c. *Regional Water Authority Tour*
GM York presented the staff report.

Del Paso Manor Service Area

12. Del Paso Manor Service Area Updates

Mr. Ott presented the staff report.

- a. *Grant Funding*
A written report was provided.
- b. *Reorganization Task List*
A written report was provided.
- c. *Financial Information*
A written report was provided.
- d. *Advisory Committee Members Status Update*
A written report was provided.

Department/Staff Reports

13. **Groundwater Well Status Report**
Mr. Dean presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.
14. **Engineering Report**
Mr. Dean presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.
 - a. *Major Capital Improvement Program Projects*
A written report was provided.
 - b. *Other Projects*
A written report was provided.
15. **Financial Report**
Mr. Ott presented the staff report.
 - a. *Financial Statement Highlights*
A written report was provided.
 - b. *Budgets*
A written report was provided.
16. **Operations Report**
Mike Simi presented the staff report.
17. **Customer Service and Community Outreach Report**
Julie Nemitz presented the staff report.

Information Items

18. **Upcoming Water Industry Meetings/Conferences**
A written report was provided.

Director's Reports (Per AB 1234, Directors will report on their meeting activities)

19.
 - a. Regional Water Authority (Director Wichert)
The Agenda from the September 11, 2025, meeting was provided.
 - b. Sacramento Groundwater Authority (Director Boatwright)
The Agenda from the October 9, 20205 meeting was provided.
 - c. Director Reports – AB 1234

President Wichert provided an oral report of the Performance Review meeting he attended on September 4, 2025; the meeting with the General Manager he had on

September 9, 2025; the meeting with Ron Greenwood he had on September 10, 2025; the RWA meetings he attended on September 11, 17, 23, and 29, 2025; and the Water Forum Plenary meeting he attended on September 25, 2025.

Director Thomas provided an oral report of the Water Caucus meeting he attended on September 3, 2025; the meetings with the General Manager he had on September 4 and 12, 2025; the RWA meetings he attended on September 11 and 17, 2025; the AeroJet CAG meeting he attended on September 16, 2025; and the Water Forum Plenary meeting he attended on September 25, 2025;

Director's Comments/Staff Statements and Requests

None.

Adjournment

President Wichert adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Heather Hernandez-Fort
Board Secretary
Sacramento Suburban Water District