



*Setting Standards of Excellence in Public Service*

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR & SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Wednesday, September 7, 2022 – 3 p.m.**  
**7811 University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942-0427**  
**Virtual/Hybrid Meeting**

**OPEN MEETING**

1. President Hedberg called the September 7, 2022, regular and special board meetings to order at 3 p.m. The meeting was turned over to Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen to verify all board members, staff and members of the public could hear one another.

The roll call showed a quorum of the board. Directors Hedberg, Verbeke, McMillan, Gracyk and Scalzitti were present.

Staff present: Olney, Bryant, Miller, Ross, Valdez, Solano, Janzen, Malkin, Pope, Curtis, Jones, Annett, Mackey, Uhrhammer and Dambrose. General Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull, Jennifer Bradlee and Mrunal Shah of Best Best & Krieger were also present.

Others present: San Diego Union Tribune Reporter Lauren Mapp, Emily Burgueno, Gabby Coburn and Hayley Olson were present in addition to, Fieldman Rolapp and Associates Vice President Lora Carpenter and Executive Vice President Robert Porr. Environmental Protection Agency Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program Underwriter Mia Billetdeaux and WIFIA Environmental Engineer/Technical Support Branch Ashley Longrie were in attendance.

2. Director Gracyk led the Pledge of Allegiance. No invocation was provided.
3. General Manager Brian M. Olney reported there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. There were no public comments. The motion to approve the agenda carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Verbeke  
Second: Gracyk

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

4. President Hedberg provided opportunity for members of the public to address the board on any item under the subject matter jurisdiction of the district. Santa Ysabel Ipai Nation Cultural Leader Emily Burgueno, Gabby Coburn and Hayley Olson were recognized to speak. Each shared with the board their desires for educational solutions regarding tipis being rented for camping purposes by both the Lake Cuyamaca Recreation Park District and at the Lake Jennings campground. District Counsel clarified that the board does not have jurisdiction over the LCRPD. Directors McMillan and Scalzitti requested staff place the topic on the October 13, 2022, special Parks, Land, Lakes and Garden Committee meeting for further investigation and discussion. President Hedberg requested General Manager Brian M. Olney continue to work with the speakers regarding respectful cultural educational opportunities.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

5. The motion to approve the consent agenda carried unanimously by roll call vote except for item 5 c) iii check number 221190 in the amount of \$194,428 to the City of La Mesa for Harry Griffen Regional Park landscaping services. There were no public comments.

Motion: McMillan

Second: Scalzitti

- a) Memorandum dated September 7, 2022, from Secretary of the Board Sandra L. Janzen submitting expense and per diem claims was approved.
- b) The board approved the minutes for the August 17, 2022, regular board meeting.
- c) The board ratified the following operating account checks:
  - i. Checks dated August 19, 2022
  - ii. Checks dated August 26, 2022
  - iii. Checks dated September 2, 2022, except for check number 221190
- d) The board adopted the following resolutions:
  - i. 22-40 authorizing and appointing General Manager Brian M. Olney and Director of Engineering Timothy J. Ross as the district's agents to accept and consent to deeds or grants of real property, effective immediately
  - ii. 22-41 authorizing and appointing General Manager Brian M. Olney and Assistant Board Secretary Jessica V. Mackey as the district's assistant board secretaries

- iii. 22-46, 22-47 and 22-48 to add General Manager Brian M. Olney as a designee who may deposit and withdraw money in the Local Agency Investment Fund and modify the authorized signers on the district's bank accounts
- iv. 22-49 declaring construction complete and authorized filing a notice of completion for Naranca Elementary School project RMB20089

Following approval of the consent agenda, except for check number 221190, President Hedberg opened board discussion. Directors McMillan and Scalzitti requested a letter be sent to the Harry Griffen Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and member agencies clarifying that the district paid the original agreed upon 10% and the additional 25% required due to the hardships of the City of El Cajon.

The motion to ratify check number 221190 in the amount of \$194,428 to the City of La Mesa for Harry Griffen Regional Park landscaping services with staff sending a board approved letter to all partners carried unanimously. There were no public comments.

Motion: McMillan  
Second: Scalzitti

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- 6. The board adopted Resolution 22-44 amending Resolution 22-30, establishing job classifications and monthly rates of pay for fiscal year 2022-23. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. There were no public comments.

Motion: Gracyk  
Second: McMillan

Director Gracyk clarified with Human Resources Manager Anne D. Solano that the assistant general manager position was removed from the new resolution.

- 7. The board adopted Resolution 22-50 authorizing the execution and delivery by the district of an installment sale agreement, an assignment agreement, a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act credit agreement and a term sheet for the purpose of securing a WIFIA loan, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$18,972,800, from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, an agency of the United States of America, acting by and through the administrator of the EPA to finance certain improvements to the district's water system. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: McMillan  
Second: Scalzitti

Director of Administrative Services Jennifer C. Bryant provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered all questions regarding the ability to reset the interest rate of the WIFIA loan one time, the terms of repayment and the fees associated with servicing the loan. President Hedberg congratulated the board and staff for the successful completion of the application.

8. The board adopted Resolution 22-39 declaring construction complete and authorized filing a notice of completion for pipeline project CIP19002. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Verbeke  
Second: Scalzitti

Director of Water Quality/System Operations Luis Valdez provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered all questions regarding the Vernon Way reimbursement of \$101,557. Director Scalzitti commended staff for completion of the project.

9. The board authorized General Manager Brian M. Olney to execute a professional services agreement between Helix Water District and COAR Design Group in the amount of \$87,200 and appropriated funds in the amount of \$120,000 from the fiscal year 2022-23 capital budget for the design of the administration office building and Nat L. Eggert Operations Center tenant improvements CIP23404. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Scalzitti  
Second: Verbeke

Director of Engineering Timothy J. Ross provided a PowerPoint presentation and clarified that the mapping room could now be used for office space due to the ability to download maps electronically. Director Gracyk requested staff bring metrics to the Engineering and Operations Committee documenting improved working flow and efficiencies from moving the meter team to the operations center and the inspection group to the administration office. Director Gracyk verified that the design group could begin work immediately providing a minimum of two options.

#### **INFORMATION ITEM**

10. The board received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation in recognition of the district's outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. Director Gracyk accepted the certificate on behalf of the board of directors during the California Special District conference.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

11. Directors Verbeke, McMillan, Gracyk and Scalzitti provided written reports. In addition, Directors Scalzitti detailed the agenda items from the August 25, 2022, San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors meeting. A discussion ensued regarding the Carlsbad Desalination plant. Director McMillan reported attending the September 6, 2022, San Diego East County Chamber of Government Affairs, Infrastructure and Land Use meeting and the August 24 to 26, 2022 Urban Water Institute Conference. Director Gracyk reported attending the August 24, 2022, California Special District Association Conference and requested with President Hedberg that the board consider becoming a Special District Leadership Foundation District of Distinction. Director Gracyk reported he will be discussing an initiative with General Manager Brian M. Olney before coming to the board with a suggested response. There were no public comments.

12. President Hedberg suggested the board consider the Special District Leadership Foundation District of Distinction during a future board retreat. She also provided an Urban Water Institute Conference report regarding the board of directors panel she sat on. Discussion ensued. President Hedberg recognized the last board meeting of Assistant Board Secretary Lorri S. Annett. The board presented Ms. Annett with flowers, a gift card and each provided words of gratitude for her 22 years of district service.

President Hedberg recessed the meeting at 4:49 p.m. for photographs.

President Hedberg reconvened the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

President Hedberg requested Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen share that the district received customer compliments regarding Valve Maintenance Technician Michael T. Pepin, Lake Jennings Campground reservation staff, Customer Service Representative Michelle I. Harrison, Utility Crew Supervisor Junior Pilar, Equipment Operators Garrett T. Hurst and Taidgh D. Horan, and Utility Crew Members Austin C. Harp and Tucker J. Bomenka. There were no additional public comments.

13. General Manager Brian M. Olney detailed the agenda items to be covered during the 3 p.m. September 21, 2022, regular board meeting, the September 22, 2022, 4 p.m. special Finance and Administration Committee meeting, the 3 p.m. September 28, 2022, Committee of the Board meeting and the 3 p.m. October 5, 2022, regular board meeting. Mr. Olney reported that staff has been working closely with President Hedberg to support the Association of California Water Agencies in requesting that Senate Bill 222 is vetoed unless amended and detailed system operations to conserve electricity while keeping the treatment plant flowing. There were no public comments.

14. General Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull provided a written report regarding Assembly Bill 1944 and Assembly Bill 2449 regarding continued teleconferencing. Ms. Hull reported the items

to be discussed in closed session for the special and regular board meetings. There were no public comments.

**RECESS**

15. President Hedberg recessed the meeting to closed session at 5:08 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION FROM THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – INITIATION OF LITIGATION**

Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(4)

Number of Cases: Four Cases

**CLOSED SESSION FROM THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – PENDING LITIGATION**

Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1)

Name of Case: Schneider et al v. Helix Water District et al

Case Number: 3:22-cv-01295-LL-RBB

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE CLOSED SESSIONS**

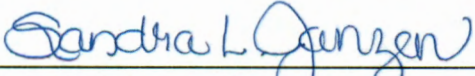
16. President Hedberg adjourned the regular board meeting closed session and the special board meeting closed session at 5:25 p.m. and reconvened open session at 5:25 p.m. There was no reportable action taken during either closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

17. President Hedberg adjourned the regular and special board meetings at 5:26 p.m.

  
Kathleen Coates Hedberg, President

**ATTEST:**

  
Sandra L. Janzen, Secretary of the Board