

SAN ELIJO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024
AT THE SAN ELIJO WATER CAMPUS

Kellie Hinze, Chair

Kristi Becker, Vice Chair

A meeting of the Board of Directors of San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) was held Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., at the San Elijo Water Campus.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hinze called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

Kellie Hinze
Kristi Becker
Allison Blackwell
David Zito

Others Present:

General Manager	Michael Thornton
Director of Operations	Chris Trees
Director of Infrastructure and Sustainability	Tom Falk
Interim Director of Finance	Richard Duffey
Management Analyst I	Abby Schlenk
Financial Analyst I	Erica Zito

SEJPA Counsel:

Procopio	Adriana Ochoa
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City of Solana Beach:

Director of Engineering/Public Works	Mohammad "Mo" Sammak
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San Dieguito Water District:

Principal Engineer	Habib Hariri
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3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair, Kellie Hinze, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

5. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- California Sanitation Risk Management Authority (CSRMA) 2022/23 Workers' Compensation Excellence Award

- California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Safety Plant of the Year (Medium) for San Diego Section
- California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Quarter Century Award – Todd Hutchinson

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Board Member Becker and seconded by Board Member Zito to approve the Consent Calendar.

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| Agenda Item No. 7 | Approval of Minutes for the January 16, 2024 Board Meeting |
| Agenda Item No. 8 | Approval for Payment of Warrants and Monthly Investment Report – January |
| Agenda Item No. 9 | Wastewater Treatment Report – December |
| Agenda Item No. 10 | Recycled Water Report – December |
| Agenda Item No. 11 | Reportable Meetings |
| Agenda Item No. 12 | Appointment of Treasurer and Update to Authorized SEJPA Officers for the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) |
| Agenda Item No. 13 | Extension of Information Technology (IT) Services with the City of Encinitas |

Motion carried with the following vote of approval:

AYES:	Hinze, Becker, Blackwell, Zito
NOES	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

15. SAN ELIJO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY MID-YEAR REVIEW OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 OPERATING BUDGET

General Manager, Michael Thornton, stated that SEJPA provides wastewater treatment and disposal, water recycling, and technical support to local stormwater and clean-water programs. In providing these services, SEJPA seeks to accomplish its mission in an environmentally, socially, and fiscally responsible manner. The total budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 is \$18,918,171, which includes operating expenses of \$9,974,623, capital expenses of \$6,570,000, and debt service of \$2,373,548.

Total operating expenses for all programs are expected to be under budget by \$223,893 or 2.2% in FY 2023-24. Nine of the twelve operating programs are tracking at or under budget and three programs are tracking between 3.0% and 6.8% over budget. One program is expected to be 24.4% over budget due to additional work that has been requested, which will be reimbursed by the requesting agency. The recycled water

program is projected to produce revenues of \$3,374,267, which is 6.4% below budget due primarily to wet weather decreasing irrigation demand. Due to lower water sales, this year operating expenses (including debt service) will exceed revenues by \$173,856. This anticipated net operating loss will be balanced by recycled water reserve funding.

No action required. This presentation is for information only.

16. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Michael Thornton introduced Richard Duffey as the newest SEJPA employee. As a retired CPA with more than 40 years of accounting and auditing experience, Mr. Duffey will be providing temporary finance and accounting support to SEJPA. General Manager Thornton then gave an overview of organizational performance highlights of the 2023 calendar year, including zero missed workdays due to injury, zero claims or lawsuits against SEJPA, full compliance with the Ocean Discharge Permit, and no reportable wastewater spills at the pump stations. He then gave an update on the accomplishments of SEJPA and its staff through the 2024 January storm, reporting that the SEJPA facilities operated as designed and had no wastewater spills nor were there injuries to staff, despite the challenges posed by the flooding and power outage. The General Manager gave a brief overview of the water campus tours given to over one hundred Ocean Knolls Elementary School fifth graders whose teacher organized a visit to SEJPA, then ended his presentation with a farewell to Abby Schlenk, Management Analyst I and administrative clerk for SEJPA Board meetings, who will be departing at the end of February.

16. GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

Legal Counsel, Adriana Ochoa, commended staff on having no spills through the catastrophic January storms, commenting on the many spills that occurred throughout Southern California, including a 11-million-gallon spill in San Diego.

Ochoa gave a brief update from her attendance of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) conference, stating that there was no notable legislation to bring to the SEJPA Board. She reported that Procopio is watchful of PFAS legislation. One case that Ochoa deemed worthy to share, more so for the member agencies than for SEJPA, was a Prop 218 case titled Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association v. Coachella Valley Water District, which is the first case Procopio is aware of where the court awarded a refund to taxpayers for violations of Prop 218. Ochoa explained that CASA drafted an amicus brief in support of the Coachella Valley Water District to dispute the award of a refund due to constitutional language which does not allow for a refund. Ochoa is interested to see if the decision will be upheld by the court.

Procopio is hosting a free webinar on February 21, 2024 at 12:00 pm to 12:45 pm, entitled "How to Social Media," as a guide for public agencies and officials on how to navigate social media with respect to public record laws, the Brown Act, and First Amendment rights. Information and registration for the event can be found online at www.procopio.com.

17. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

18. CLOSED SESSION

None.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Thornton", written over a horizontal line.

Michael T. Thornton, P.E.
General Manager