

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
MARCH 19, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

Trustees Present:           Michael Burchardi  
                                  Jeff Clay  
                                  Brad Joos  
                                  Mark Moniot  
                                  Nick Urton

Trustees Absent:           None

Others Present:           Paeter Garcia           Mary Robel           Joe Come'  
                                  Karen King            Dan Drugan           Danny Durbiano  
                                  Gary Kvistad           Ray Stokes  
                                  Randy Murphy        Mark Infanti

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Robel conducted roll call and reported that all Trustees were present.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

President Clay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTING OF THE NOTICE AND AGENDA:**

Ms. Robel reported that the Agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with the California Government Code commencing at Section 54953, as well as District Resolution No. 340.

**4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA:**

There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President Clay welcomed any members of the public and offered time for members of the public to speak and address the Board on matters not on the Agenda. There was no public comment. Mr. Garcia reported that no written comments were submitted to the District for the meeting.

**6. EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS: SUPERINTENDENT JOE COME' AND DISTRIBUTION & OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR DANNY DURBIANO**

Mr. Garcia informed the Board that Employee Spotlights are intended to provide an opportunity for members of the District Team to be introduced to the Board and the public, and to discuss their experience and highlight their respective areas of responsibility within the District. He then introduced the District's Superintendent, Mr. Joe Come', and the District's Distribution & Operations Supervisor, Mr. Danny Durbiano. Mr. Garcia provided an overview of their respective work histories, experience, special certifications, and roles and responsibilities within the District. Mr. Garcia and the Board expressed their appreciation to Mr. Come' and Mr. Durbiano and thanked them for their leadership, professional capabilities, and dedication to the District.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Consent Agenda Report was provided in the Board Packet.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of February. Several Board questions were received and addressed.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Consent Agenda.

8. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: OVERVIEW OF THE CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY**

Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. Ray Stokes, Executive Director of Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA). Mr. Stokes provided a PowerPoint presentation related to CCWA, the State Water Project (SWP), and SWP supplies and deliveries. The presentation covered a variety of related topics, such as the CCWA staffing structure, history of the SWP, CCWA facilities, water deliveries, financial matters, current issues affecting the SWP, and future goals. Mr. Stokes provided time for the Board and public to ask questions and provide comments. The Board and staff thanked Mr. Stokes for his presentation.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024:**

The Regular Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2024 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2024. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the February 20, 2024 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

10. **MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**

**A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters

a) Presentation of Monthly Financial Statements – Revenues and Expenses

Ms. Robel announced that the Financial Statements were provided to the Board via email earlier in the day, and also were included in the meeting handout materials and posted on the District's website.

Ms. Robel reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of February. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month and referred to the Fiscal-Year-to-Date Statement of Revenues and Expenses that provides a budget to actual snapshot for the month of February. Ms. Robel reported that the District expenses for the month of February exceeded the revenues by \$211,532.08 and the year-to-date net income was \$1,614,274.56.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

Ms. Robel announced that the Warrant List was provided to the Board via email earlier in the day, and also included in the meeting handout materials and posted on the District's website.

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 25734 through 25791 in the amount of \$869,912.29.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for February 21, 2024 through March 19, 2024.

2. Personnel Recruitment Update

Mr. Garcia reported that staff continues to work with Regional Governmental Services (RGS) in the recruitment process for several District positions. He explained that the District has completed in-person interviews for the Water Resources Specialist I/II and the Administrative & Financial Manager positions. He announced that Mr. Vincent Cerda has accepted the Water Resources Specialist position with a start date of April 1, 2024, and that Ms. Racel Cota has accepted the position of Administrative & Financial Manager with a start date of April 15, 2024.

**B. OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Dan Drugan, Deputy Water Resources Manager, provided a PowerPoint overview of the District's facilities and operations, and an update of recent and ongoing infrastructure improvements, including the Districtwide meter replacement program, SCADA software enhancements, and Phases 1 & 2 of the Motor Control Center upgrade project. Mr. Drugan provided time for the Board and public to ask questions and provide comments.

**11. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**

**A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

Mr. Garcia provided an overview of the Board packet materials, beginning with the February 22, 2024 Regular Meeting of the ESA GSA. He reviewed the agenda topics discussed at the meeting which included requests for written verifications; updates on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the EMA; DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant, Third Annual Report for the EMA; SGMA Governance and Draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA; and DWR Groundwater Awareness Week, which occurred March 10-16, 2024. Mr. Garcia reported that discussions continue regarding finalization of a JPA for EMA governance. He stated that discussions continue regarding agricultural representation on the EMA JPA Board. Mr. Garcia stated that he remains hopeful that the parties can come to a consensus and move forward with finalizing the JPA. He stated that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) has indicated that it is working on a proposed allocation of the DWR grant funds among the three Management Areas of the Basin.

Mr. Mark Infanti, Solvang City Mayor and Mr. Randy Murphy, Solvang City Manager, provided public comment regarding the ongoing negotiations for a new JPA governance in the EMA.

Mr. Garcia stated that the next Special meeting of the EMA GSA is scheduled for March 28, 2024.

**B. HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM (CR6) – PROPOSED MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)**

1. Update on SWRCB Proposed Drinking Water MCL for Cr6 of 10 parts per billion (ppb)

The Board packet included the State Water Resources Control Board Summary of Rulemaking Proceedings for a Hexavalent Chromium MCL (SWRCB-DDW-21-003)

Mr. Garcia provided an overview of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) activities relating to a new proposed MCL regulation of 10 ppb for Hexavalent Chromium.

He noted that the SWRCB website for Cr6 recently added a line item suggesting a hearing date of April 17, 2024 to adopt the proposed MCL; however, no official public notice of the hearing has been issued at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding the current federal and state standards for Total Chromium in drinking water (100 ppb and 50 ppb respectively), the proposed compliance period for the newly proposed 10 ppb standard, treatment facility and operational costs, studies for alternative treatment procedures, and potential legal challenges.

Mr. Garcia stated that staff continues to monitor SWRCB's actions regarding the proposed adoption of a new Cr6 MCL and will provide further information as it becomes available.

**12. REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION:**

The Board packet included the Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing for the month of March, along with various publications honoring the life and passing of Family Farm Alliance President Pat O'Toole.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS:**

The Correspondence List was received by the Board.

**14. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:**

There were no requests from the Board.

**15. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for April 16, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

**16. CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:45 p.m.

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION**

[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - 3 Cases]

1. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Permits 11308 and 11310 issued on Applications 11331 and 11332 to the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Cachuma Project
2. Name of Case: Adjudicatory proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Permit 15878 issued on Application 22423 to the City of Solvang, Petitions for Change, and Related Protests
3. Name of Case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, et al., Santa Barbara County Superior Court Case No. 21CV02432

**B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION**

[Subdivision (d)(2) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - Significant Exposure to Litigation Against the Agency - One Matter]

**C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION**

[Subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - Potential Initiation of Litigation By the Agency - One Matter]

17. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 7:05 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 16.A.1, 16.A.2, 16.A.3, 16.B., and 16.C. He reported that there was no reportable action for any of the closed session Agenda Items.

18. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Urton, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Burchardi absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:06 p.m.

**THE MARCH 19, 2024 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE APRIL 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.**