

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No.1
MARCH 28, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

A Special 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 28, 2023, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street and via teleconference.

Trustees Present: Jeff Clay Michael Burchardi
 Brad Joos Nick Urton

Trustees Absent: Jeff Holzer

Others Present: Paeter Garcia Mary Martone
 Karen King Eric Tambini
 Elisabeth Esposito

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., he stated this was a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Martone conducted roll call and reported that four Trustees were present, and Trustee Holzer was absent.

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. Martone presented the affidavit of posting of the Agenda, along with a true copy of the Agenda for this meeting. She reported that the Agenda was posted in accordance with the California Government Code commencing at Section 54953, as well as District Resolution No. 340. The affidavit was filed as evidence of the posting of the Agenda items contained therein.

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 participating remotely 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. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2023

The Regular Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2023. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to approve the February 21, 2023 Minutes as presented.

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.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8. 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. Martone announced that the Financial Statements were emailed to the Board members that morning and posted on the District’s website in the Board packet materials for any members of the public wishing to follow along or receive a copy.

Ms. Martone 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 also referenced the Fiscal-Year-to-Date Statement of Revenues and Expenses that provides a budget to actual snapshot from July through February. Ms. Martone reported that District expenses exceeded revenues by \$116,683.84 for the month of February and the year-to-date net income was \$2,240,433.09, which will be earmarked and utilized for the District’s annual State Water Project payment due in June 2023.

Ms. Martone also informed the Board of the successful efforts of the Administrative staff in working to significantly reduce the District’s past due customer balances. She reported that past due balances had increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic and recognized staff for their diligence and excellent customer service in working to successfully reduce the arrearages by 90 percent.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

Ms. Martone announced that the Warrant List was emailed to the Board members that morning and posted on the District’s website in the Board packet materials for any members of the public wishing to follow along or receive a copy.

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 25045 through 25103 in the amount of \$967,061.82.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to approve the Warrant List for February 22, 2023 through March 28, 2023.

B. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

1. Zone 3 Concrete Tank Cleaning and Repair

a) Change Order No.1

The Board packet included a February 14, 2023 Change Order No.1 in the amount of \$13,594 from DN Tanks, LLC.

Mr. Eric Tambini discussed the project and explained the change order for alternate items that were included as part of the bid. He reported that DN Tanks completed the cleaning and repair work at the Zone 3 Tank site.

b) Notice of Completion

The Board packet included a Notice of Completion for the Zone 3 Concrete Tank Cleaning and Repair Project.

Mr. Garcia recommended approval of the Notice of Completion and requested authorization for the General Manager to sign and file the Notice of Completion for the Zone 3 Concrete Tank Cleaning and Repair project.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to approve and authorize the General Manager to sign and file the Notice of Completion with the Santa Barbara County Clerk Recorder's Office.

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

A. STATEWIDE STORM EVENTS AND RELATED PROJECT CONDITIONS

1. Cachuma Project Update

The Board packet included the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Lake Cachuma Daily Operations Report, Santa Barbara County Flood Control District Rainfall and Reservoir Summary, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Santa Barbara County Public Works Department correspondence regarding the Cachuma Project WY 2022-2023 Allocation.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Lake Cachuma Daily Operations Report and current Cachuma reservoir conditions for the months of February and March. He indicated that spill operations are projected to continue as additional storms occur and bring more inflow into the Lake. Mr. Garcia reported that the reservoir was reported to be at full capacity at the end of March. He referred to the Board packet material and stated that in January 2023, the Cachuma Member Units collectively requested an increase in the Cachuma Project water supply allocation to 100 percent for Water Year 2022-2023, which request was approved by the Bureau of Reclamation by letter dated February 28, 2023.

2. State Water Project Update

The Board packet included the Department of Water Resources Current and Historical Reservoir Conditions, Central Coast Water Authority March 23, 2023 Water Supply Situation Report, Department of Water Resources Announcement of an Increase of State Water Project 2023 Allocation to 35 percent, and a News Article relating to the Recent Winter Storms.

Mr. Garcia reviewed a diagram published by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding current and historical reservoir conditions and explained that recent storms have significantly increased reservoir storage levels throughout California. He also reviewed portions of a Water Supply Situation Report prepared by the Executive Director of the Central Coast Water Authority that included rain and snowfall conditions for the Northern Sierra, San Joaquin, and Tulare Basin Stations. Mr. Garcia reported that a high probability exists for San Luis Reservoir to spill within the near term, where ID No. 1 currently has 222 AF of carryover water that would be subject to that spill. Mr. Garcia indicated that on February 24, 2023 DWR increased the 2023 SWP Table A allocation from 35 percent to 75 percent.

B. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

The Board packet included a Notice of the March 23, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area, a PowerPoint Presentation regarding Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Overview of Historical Water Level Trends and March 2023 Measurements, Draft Policy Options for Administering Well Verifications, and the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin EMA Annual Report Water Year 2022.

Mr. Garcia reported on the activities related to the EMA GSA. He stated that the GSA met last week on March 23, 2023 where an update was provided on March 2023 groundwater levels in the EMA. He indicated that rain events this year are recharging the EMA, yet overall the groundwater levels remain below historic conditions because of the last 10-year drought cycle, thus additional above-average rain years are needed for groundwater recovery. Mr. Garcia reported that the GSA Committee also considered revised Draft Policy Options for administering Well Verification requests in the EMA. He indicated that the 2nd Annual Report for the EMA has been finalized and will be submitted to DWR by the April 1st deadline.

C. SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1. Draft Forty-Fifth Annual Engineering and Survey Report

The Board packet included the Draft Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Forty-Fifth Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions

Mr. Garcia provided an overview of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District's Draft Forty-Fifth Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions. He indicated that certain statements in the Draft Report may not be accurate. He also noted that for purposes of groundwater resources in the EMA, much of the information presented in the District's Report is already being prepared and presented in the Annual Reports now required for the EMA under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which raises a question of whether the District's groundwater reporting has become obsolete.

10. 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 a March 2023 Announcement from California State Treasurer, Fiona Ma regarding the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), and the March 2023 Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing.

Trustee Burchardi reported that he attended the Santa Ynez Community Services District Board meeting in March and reported on the topics discussed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS:

The Correspondence List was received by the Board.

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

There were no requests from the Board.

13. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for April 18, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

14. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:00 p.m.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – 2 Cases]

1. 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

2. 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]

15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The public participation phone line was re-opened, and the Board reconvened to open session at approximately 5:50 p.m.

Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session concerning Agenda Items 14.A.1, 14.A.2, and 14.B and that there was no reportable action from closed session.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:51 p.m.

THE MARCH 28, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE APRIL 18, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.