

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
FEBRUARY 17, 2026 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, February 17, 2026, 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 Racel Cota Ray Stokes
Kylie Kelleher Peter Thompson Stephanie Hastings
Dan Drugan Jessica Diaz

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cota 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. Cota 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:

Mr. Garcia requested that the Board allow the adjustment of the Agenda order and move into Closed Session at this time.

5. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:05 p.m.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

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

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

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - POTENTIAL LITIGATION

[Subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Potential Initiation of Litigation by the Agency – Two Matters]

6. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION: 5:40PM**
[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 5:40 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 5.A through 5.B (as adjusted), and that there was no reportable action for any of the closed session Agenda Items.

7. **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.

8. **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2026**

The Regular Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2026 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2026. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

9. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Consent Agenda Report was provided in the Board Packet.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of January. Various topics were discussed.

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

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

Ms. Cota reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of January. 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 first seven months of the fiscal year. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by \$358,944.63 and the year-to-date ending January 31, 2026 net income was \$2,878,003.61.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

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

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 27038 through 27093 in the amount of \$411,174.80.

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 January 21, 2026 through February 17, 2026.

c) Quarterly Balance Sheet Inclusive of Reserve Accounts and Proposed Transfer to Reserve Accounts

Ms. Cota presented the Statement of Changes in Cash and Investments, which summarized the change in cash and investments for the quarter ending December 31, 2025. The report provided an overview of the District's cash and investments for all activities that occurred during the period October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Ms. Cota reported that no activity occurred for the District's Restricted and Unrestricted Board Reserved funds during that period. She reported a total Unrestricted Unreserved balance of \$14,119,090.74,.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by President Clay, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Statement of Changes in Cash and Investments for the quarter ending December 31, 2025.

Ms. Cota stated that in January 2026 the Board approved and accepted the Financial Statements for fiscal years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 resulting in \$3,796,466 of surplus revenues due to several financial factors. She stated that management has reviewed the District's Unrestricted Board Reserved fund balances as of December 31, 2025 and recommends that the Board consider splitting the surplus revenue balance 60/40 and transferring \$2,277,880 and \$1,518,586 to the Plant Expansion and the Repair and Replacement Unrestricted Board Reserved funds, respectively.

After Board discussion, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to authorize the transfer of \$3,796,466 of surplus revenues to be split 60/40 at \$2,277,880 and \$1,518,586 to the Plant Expansion and the Repair and Replacement Unrestricted Board Reserved funds, respectively.

B. OPERATIONS

1. General Updates

Mr. Drugan reported that all District employees completed CPR/AED training on February 2, 2026. Staff also responded to a minor service leak for a commercial location in Santa Ynez, which was promptly repaired. He also noted that a Request for Bids is expected to be issued soon for Phase 2 of certain security fencing improvements for District property along Madera Street. Mr. Drugan then informed the Board that the Division of Drinking Water will be visiting the District in February to conduct its bi-annual sanitary survey inspection, and provided a brief update on recently completed maintenance activities for the Meadowlark building.

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

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

The Board packet included copies of the Notice and Agenda for the January 22, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) and the February 12, 2026 Meeting of the Eastern Management Area Citizens Advisory Committee (EMA CAG).

Mr. Garcia summarized several topics that were discussed at the recent EMA GSA and EMA CAG meetings. He reported that the next EMA GSA meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Burchardi mentioned to the Board that Santa Ynez Airport Day will be taking place on May 16, 2026. Mr. Garcia noted that the District will plan to host an informational booth at the event similar to the last several years.

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 March 17, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:40 p.m.

THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE MARCH 17, 2026 BOARD MEETING.