

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
JANUARY 20, 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, January 20, 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           Tracey Solomon  
                                  Kylie Kelleher        Dan Drugan

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

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:04 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:**

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. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2026**

The Regular Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2025 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2025. 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 December 16, 2025 Regular meeting 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 December. Various topics were discussed including the announcement for the new Executive Director of Central Coast Water Authority, Peter Thompson, effective May 15, 2026. Mr. Thompson will be the Associate Director for the period February 9, 2026 through May 15, 2026.

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

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

**A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

1. Financial Report on Administrative Matters

- a) Draft June 30, 2025 & 2024 Audited Financial Statements – Presentation by Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf LLP

Mr. Garcia introduced Ms. Tracey Solomon from Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf, LLP for the presentation of the District's draft June 30, 2025 and 2024 Financial Statements. Ms. Solomon explained that she is the newly assigned partner for the District's annual financial statement audit. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) mandates that audit partners serve in their roles for a maximum of five consecutive years. Last year was John Britton's fifth consecutive year serving as the District's assigned partner for the annual financial statement audits.

Ms. Solomon reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of Financial Statements for fiscal years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 that included the Independent Auditor's Report, Required Communications, Accounting Standards Update, and an Overview of Annual Financial Statements. She reviewed the District's Balance Sheet which included the District's assets, liabilities, and fund equity, along with the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. Ms. Solomon reported that the District's financials conform to required Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States of America (GAAP) and the State Controller's Minimum Audit Requirements for California Special Districts. She stated that the District's audit resulted in no disagreements with Management relating to the financials and issued a clean audit opinion with no reportable findings or exceptions.

The Board thanked Ms. Solomon for her presentation. Ms. Cota thanked the staff at Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf for their assistance with the audit.

Mr. Garcia recommended acceptance and approval of the audited June 30, 2025 and 2024 Financial Statements as presented, and authorization for Management to post and submit the final audited Financial Statements to the State Controller's Office and the County of Santa Barbara.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote to Accept and File the June 2025 & 2024 Audited Financial Statements.

- b) 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 December. 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 half of the fiscal year. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by \$621,544.10 and the year-to-date December 2025 net income was \$2,540,511.22.

c) 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 26984 through 27037 in the amount of \$519,090.88.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for December 17, 2025 through January 20, 2026.

2. Personnel Policy Manual

a) Resolution No. 858: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Amending the District's Personnel Policy Manual

The Board packet included a January 13, 2026 Memorandum from Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth and a copy of Resolution No. 858.

Mr. Garcia explained that Mr. Jared Speier of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth conducted an annual review of the District's Personnel Policy Manual, and based upon his assessment of existing policies, changes in the law, and discussion with management, recommended three revisions to the Personnel Policy Manual.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the suggested revisions to Section 3(4) – Sick Leave, Section 3(17) – Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and other Crimes, and Section 4(17) – Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation Prevention Policy.

No public comment was provided.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, to adopt Resolution No. 858, a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement No.1 Amending the District's Personnel Policy Manual. Resolution No. 858 passed by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes, Trustees:** Brad Joos  
Nick Urton

Mark Moniot  
Mike Burhardi  
Jeff Clay

**Noes, Trustees:** None  
**Abstain, Trustees:** None  
**Absent, Trustees:** None

**B. OPERATIONS**

1. General Updates

Mr. Drugan presented a general operations update to the Board, noting that staff recently received notification from the Division of Drinking Water that the District's Cross Connection Control Plan has been approved, and that a Request for Bids (RFB) has been finalized to upgrade the remaining security fencing along Madera Street.

2. Recommendation and Proposed Professional Services Agreement for Hydrogeologic Consulting Services

Mr. Drugan and Mr. Garcia presented a Staff Report regarding a recommended consultant for hydrogeologic consulting services. Mr. Drugan reported that the District received four proposals in response to the Request for Proposals issued by the District in October 2025. Staff's recommendation was to authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc., for hydrogeologic consulting services.

**9. 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 the Notice and Agenda for the December 18, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area.

Mr. Garcia summarized several topics that were discussed at the recent EMA GSA meeting. Mr. Garcia reported that the next EMA GSA meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2026 and the next EMA CAG meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2026.

**B. Central Coast Water Authority**

1. Assignment of State Water Contract from Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to CCWA

Mr. Garcia shared with the Board that after many years of contract discussions and related litigation, the State Water Contract with the Department of Water Resources has been officially assigned to the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA).

**C. Water Industry Updates**

1. Draft 2025 Annual Review of the State Water Project

Mr. Garcia discussed an informational article regarding the Draft 2025 Annual Review of the State Water Project, which was included in the Board packet.

2. Overview of State Division of Drinking Water

Mr. Garcia discussed an additional informational article regarding the State Division of Drinking Water, which also was included in the Board packet.

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**

Mr. Garcia presented several informational items included in the Board packet.

Trustee Moniot reported that he attended the recent Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCSD) Regular Board Meeting.

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:**

President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for February 17, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

14. **CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:19 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]

15. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 5:36 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 14.A through 14.B, and that there was no reportable action for any of the closed session Agenda Items.

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 5:36 p.m.

**THE JANUARY 20, 2026 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026 BOARD MEETING.**