

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
JULY 15, 2025 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, July 15, 2025, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street, Santa Ynez, California.

Trustees Present: Michael Burchardi
 Jeff Clay
 Brad Joos
 Nick Urton
 Mark Moniot (via telephone from remote location as listed on the Notice and Agenda)

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Paeter Garcia Dan Drugan Kylie Kelleher
 Gary Kvistad Racel Cota Bill Buelow

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**
President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:01 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, with Trustee Moniot participating via telephone in accordance with the Meeting Notice and Agenda.
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. **CLOSED SESSION:**
The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:04 p.m.
 - A. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: TITLE - GENERAL MANAGER**
[Section 54957 of the Government Code]
 - B. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR:** Jeff Dinkin – Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth; Unrepresented Employee - General Manager [Section 54957.6 of the Government Code]
7. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**
The Board reconvened to open session at 3:41 p.m.

A. Consideration and Approval of General Manager Cost of Living Adjustment Increase and Compensation Adjustment

Mr. Jeff Dinkin, District Employment Counsel, reported that the Board met in closed session and completed the performance evaluation of the General Manager. He discussed a compensation adjustment and a cost of living adjustment for the General Manager. Mr. Dinkin, acting as the Board representative, reported that the following occurred:

Consideration of General Manager Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase. The Board determined to approve a 3.1% COLA increase effective the first pay period beginning July 1, 2025, which is the same COLA increase that all other District employees received pursuant to the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 that was approved by the Board in June 2025.

Consideration of General Manager Compensation Adjustment. The Board determined to grant the General Manager a 5% compensation merit increase effective the first pay period beginning July 1, 2025.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Buchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote to approve an 8.1% compensation adjustment consisting of a 3.1% cost-of-living adjustment and a 5.0% compensation merit adjustment for the General Manager's salary effective the pay period beginning July 1, 2025.

8. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 17, 2025:

The Regular Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2025 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2025. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the June 17, 2025 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 June.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, 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 and 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 June and noted that the year-end numbers are preliminary and unaudited numbers for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 as invoices from vendors and consultants will continue to be submitted for purchases and services incurred in the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025. 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 from July through June. Ms. Cota reported that the District expenses for the month of June exceeded the revenues by \$383,522.31 and the year-to-date net income was \$5,278,403.01.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

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

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 26654 through 26701 in the amount of \$442,729.42.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for June 18, 2025 through July 15, 2025.

B. OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Mr. Drugan provided the Operations Update to the Board.

Regarding SWP deliveries, he reported that in mid-June a leak detected in the DWR Coastal Branch facilities at a point upstream of CCWA's Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant that required CCWA to drastically reduce water supply deliveries while DWR performed emergency work to repair the leak. From an operational standpoint, CCWA's extreme low flow conditions required ID No.1 to completely switch off from SWP supplies to local well production, which the District field team handled seamlessly. Mr. Drugan noted that DWR completed its repairs in less than a week, and that the District remained on local supplies through early July and then successfully transitioned back over to State water deliveries.

Mr. Drugan noted that the District experienced a PG&E power safety power shutdown (PSPS) on June 21st, which only affected the District's well sites south of Highway 246. He noted that the District was prepared for the PSPS and had mobilized generators in advance of the power shutdown to allow continued operation of key wells during the shutdown. Mr. Drugan reported that PG&E power was restored within a few hours and use of generator power was not necessary.

Mr. Drugan gave brief updates on a few ongoing District projects, including the Refugio 3 Pump Station Project which he stated should be starting very soon.

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 the Notice and Agenda for the June 26, 2025 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Eastern Management Area, along with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed EMA GSA groundwater production charge.

Mr. Garcia summarized several topics that were presented at the recent EMA GSA meeting. In particular he noted that the GSA conducted a public hearing on the proposed EMA groundwater production charge, which was unanimously adopted by the EMA GSA Board of Directors. He reported that the next Regular Meeting of the EMA GSA is currently scheduled for July 24, 2025.

B. SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1. Adoption of Groundwater Production Charges for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Mr. Garcia reported that on June 26th the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) adopted its annual groundwater production charges for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2025-2026. He indicated that ID No.1 submitted a detailed comment and objection letter to SYRWCD in advance of the charges being adopted, where ID No.1 set forth ongoing objections to SYRWCD's charges, particularly those for Zone E, on the basis that said charges do not comport with legal standards required by Article XIII C, Section 1(e) of the California Constitution, commonly known as Proposition 26. Mr. Garcia referred to the Board packet materials which included the comment and objection letter submitted by ID No.1, along with ID No.1 Payment Under Protest and Claim for Refund letters submitted to SYRWCD. He explained that ID No.1's Payment Under Protest and Claim for Refund are procedural steps in the event that ID No.1 may pursue a legal challenge against the SYRWCD charges. Mr. Bill Buelow provided public comment on behalf of SYRWCD and requested to arrange a meeting among representatives of SYRWCD and ID No.1.

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 various materials, including a flyer for the 6th Annual Santa Ynez Days Parade and Rodeo, a Maven's Notebook article regarding California Aqueduct Repairs, and the July 2025 Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing. Mr. Garcia reported that ID No.1 again hosted an informational booth for the Santa Ynez Days event, which was hosted for the entire day by Trustees Joos and Burchardi.

Trustee Burchardi reported that he attended the Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCSD) meeting on July 9th and that LOCSD is continuing to evaluate wastewater collection and treatment options, and reconsidering an option to connect to the City of Solvang.

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 items requested to be included on the next Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

15. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for **August 19, 2025.**

16. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:50 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)(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 5:40 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 16.A through 16.B, and 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 Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m.

The July 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes were approved at the August 19, 2025 Board Meeting.