

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
AUGUST 20, 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, August 20, 2024, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

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

Trustees Absent:           None

Others Present:           Paeter Garcia           Racel Cota           Karen King  
                                  Dan Drugan           Gary Kvistad

**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. 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.

**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 JULY 16, 2024:**

The Regular Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2024 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2024. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the July 16, 2024 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 July.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Moniot, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, 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. 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 July. She explained that the District's fiscal year 2024/2025 began on July 1<sup>st</sup> and that the financials reflect the first month of activity for the new fiscal year. 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 July. Ms. Cota stated that District revenues exceeded expenses by \$484,730.46.

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 26032 through 26085 in the amount of \$697,326.26.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for July 17, 2024 through August 20, 2024.

**B. OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Dan Drugan provided a summary of several operational activities. He reported that at the end of July the District transitioned from state water to groundwater supplies for Zone 3 to get ahead of nitrification due to extremely hot temperatures. Mr. Drugan informed the Board of the District's ongoing research of mixer options for the Zone 3 reservoir. He explained the purpose of mixers and informed the Board that the District currently utilizes two types of mixers (Solarbee in Zone 2 and Gridbee in Zone 1) and is investigating whether to purchase a mixing device for the Zone 3 reservoir. Mr. Drugan explained the revision to the Lead and Copper regulation which now requires all water agencies to develop and maintain an inventory of all service lines. He stated the inventory must describe both water system-owned and customer-owned segments of the service line and noted that the District's field crew has performed inspections of each meter box, service line, and customer line within the District boundaries. Mr. Drugan indicated that the inventory is complete, and the findings will be submitted to the State in October. He stated this was a big effort to complete and expressed his appreciation and compliments to the field crew for their participation with this project. Mr. Drugan also mentioned that all of the District's

engineering, record, and project drawings have been digitized by an outside vendor and are now stored in our records management software. He stated that staff will be reviewing, indexing, and eventually incorporating these digitized documents into our GIS program (digital mapping system).

**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 notice of the August 29, 2024 EMA Special Committee Meeting.

Mr. Garcia reported that the Joint Powers Agency Agreement for the EMA was finalized and effective as of July 16, 2024. He reported that all four agencies have approved and executed the agreement. Mr. Garcia stated that the first official meeting of the JPA is scheduled for August 29, 2024. He explained that the EMA GSA Committee authorized staff from the respective EMA agencies to issue Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for an Executive Director, Legal Counsel, and Rate Consultant. He stated that proposals have been received for each of the RFQs and that staff will be discussing these positions at the first JPA meeting. Mr. Garcia stated that the Agricultural Director and Alternate Director will be selected through a public application and appointment process as part of the upcoming EMA meetings. Mr. Garcia reviewed several of the topics the EMA Board is scheduled to discuss at the August 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**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:**

Trustee Burchardi provided a summary of topics discussed at the August 14, 2024 Los Olivos Community Services District meeting. He stated that the CSD is hosting a community wastewater workshop at 6:30 p.m. on August 21, 2024 at the Grange Hall in Los Olivos.

The Board packet included a July 2024 letter of appreciation to the District from Cal Fire Incident Management Team 5 – for assistance with the Lake Fire.

The Board packet included the Family Farm Alliance Monthly briefing for the month of August 2024 and an August 5, 2024 news article titled “State Forecasts Lower Deliveries of Imported Water Over Next 20 Years.”

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

The Correspondence List was received by the Board. Trustee Urton asked about the process of Public Record Act (PRA) requests. Mr. Garcia explained how the District periodically receives and responds to PRA requests based on statutory requirements. Trustee Joos inquired about the four Can and Will Serve letters and asked if that was a normal number of requests in a month. Mr. Garcia explained that the number of new water service applications received and processed by the District can vary in any given month and over the course of the year.

**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 the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for September 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

**14. CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:54 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)(4) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Potential Initiation of Litigation By the Agency – One Matter]

**15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

**A. Report (if any) on Closed Session Agenda Items 14.A – 14.B**

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 4:37 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 14.A.1, 14.A.2, 14.A.3, and 14.B. He reported 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 4:37 p.m.

**THE AUGUST 20, 2024 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.**