

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
FEBRUARY 18, 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, February 18, 2025, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

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

Trustees Absent: None

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

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 a roll call and reported that five 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 stated that Agenda Item 8-A1c would be moved to the March 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

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 JANUARY 21, 2025

The Regular Meeting minutes from January 21, 2025 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular meeting minutes of January 21, 2025. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote to approve the January 21, 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 January.

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 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 December. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month and for the first seven months of fiscal year 2024-25. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by \$478,236.99 and the year-to-date January 2025 net income was \$3,475,932.04.

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 26367 through 26425 in the amount of \$285,707.45.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Urton, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote to approve the Warrant List for January 22, 2025 through February 18, 2025.

2. Personnel Recruitment Update

Mr. Garcia informed the Board of the current open requisition for an Operations Technician II/III with the District. The position is posted on a few recruitment websites until February 19, 2025 at 5:00pm.

3. Draft Resolution No. XXX – A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Amending Its Policy Regarding Suspension of Water Service for Nonpayment and Amending Section 1401-A of the District’s Rules and Regulations to Incorporate the Policy

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Draft Resolution and proposed revisions to the District’s current policy regarding suspension of water service for nonpayment. He indicated that the policy is set forth and implemented under the District’s Rules and Regulations, such that proposed changes to the policy must be presented to the Board at least 20-days prior to adoption. Mr. Garcia noted that staff intends to bring a Final Resolution along with final

proposed changes to the policy as an action item for the March 18, 2025 Board meeting. Board discussion ensued regarding the District's policy and related issues.

B. OPERATIONS

1. General Update

Mr. Drugan reported that the Refugio 3 Booster Pump Replacement Project is moving forward and that the District has issued a Request for Bids which closes on March 13, 2025. The bid request is being published for two consecutive weeks on February 20, 2025 and February 27, 2025.

Mr. Drugan also reported on two meetings that the District has held recently. The first was a meeting with the Santa Barbara County Fire Department Planning and Engineering team to discuss permitting regulations for new housing builds and additions within the District.

The second meeting was a forum that the District hosted to review and discuss the new Cross Connection Control Plan requirements issued by the State. The meeting was well attended in person and virtually by various city and water agency personnel. Ms. Laureen Tan, Principal Engineer with the State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water, and Mr. Mario Iglesias, retired General Manager of Nipomo Community Services District, joined the meeting with informative presentations.

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

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

Mr. Garcia reported that he and Trustee Joos attended the January 23, 2025 meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA). A copy of the meeting notice and agenda was included in the board packet. The next meeting of the EMA GSA is currently scheduled to be held on February 19, 2025.

B. SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION CHARGES

The Board packet included ID No.1's Payment Under Protest Letter to the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District regarding-Groundwater Production Charges for the Period July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Mr. Garcia explained the District's reason for protesting the Groundwater Production Charges and reviewed a letter sent from ID No.1 to the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District that details ID No.1's position on the matter.

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 briefly discussed the Family Farm Alliance monthly newsletter as well as a few other news articles included in the Board packet regarding current state water issues.

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 Board meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for March 18, 2025.

14. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:20pm.

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]

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 5:07p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 14.A through 14.B. He reported that there was no reportable action regarding any of the closed session Agenda Item

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:07 p.m.

THE FEBRUARY 18, 2025 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE MARCH 18, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.