# SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
# IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
# JULY 21, 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, July 21, 2026, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

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| Trustees Present: | Michael Burchardi<br>Jeff Clay<br>Brad Joos<br>Mark Moniot<br>Nick Urton | | |
| Trustees Absent: | None | | |
| Others Present: | Paeter Garcia<br>Dan Drugan | Racel Cota<br>Kylie Kelleher | Steve Anderson<br>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:**
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 JUNE 16, 2026**
The Regular Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2026 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2026. 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 16, 2026 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

7. **<u>CONSENT AGENDA:</u>**
The Consent Agenda Report was provided in the Board Packet.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of June. Various topics were discussed among the Board and staff.

It was **<u>MOVED</u>** 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. **<u>MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:</u>**

**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 June. She reported that the year-end 2025/2026 financial statements are preliminary and unaudited as invoices from vendors and consultants will continue to be submitted for purchases and services incurred in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026. She informed the Board that the auditors from Bartlett, Pringle, and Wolf, LLP will be performing the financial statement audit during the last week of August. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month of June 2026 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 stated that revenue exceeded expenses by $373,225.26 and the year-to-date June 2026 net income was $4,248,222.17, subject to pending expenses.

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 27319 through 27386 in the amount of $649,876.35.

It was **<u>MOVED</u>** by Trustee Urton, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote to approve the Warrant List for June 17, 2026 through July 21, 2026.

2. Resolution No. 861: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Calling a District Election and Requesting the County Board of Supervisors to Consolidate the District Election with the Statewide General Election

Mr. Garcia explained that the District received a request from the Santa Barbara County Elections Office for the District, in connection with the 2026 elections process, to adopt and submit a specific Resolution calling a District election and requesting the County Board of Supervisors to consolidate the District election with the statewide general election.

He indicated that Resolution No. 861 reflects various provisions of the California Elections Code and comports with the County's request for this type of Resolution.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, to adopt Resolution No. 861, and the Resolution was approved by the following 5-0-0 roll call vote:

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| **AYES**, Trustees: | Brad Joos<br>Mark Moniot<br>Mike Burchardi<br>Jeff Clay<br>Nick Urton |
| **NOES,** Trustees: | None |
| **ABSTAIN,** Trustees: | None |
| **ABSENT,** Trustees: | None |

3. 2026 Biennial Notice for District Conflict of Interest Code

   Mr. Garcia discussed materials in the Board packet relating to the 2026 Biennial Notice for the District's Conflict of Interest Code. He informed the Board that the District will be submitting the 2026 Biennial Notice with no changes to the Santa Barbara County Clerk's Office.

4. Draft Ordinance 2026-01: An Ordinance of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Establishing Regulations and Fines Relating to Water Theft

   Mr. Garcia reported that at the May 19, 2026 and June 16, 2026 Board meetings, the Board reviewed a Draft District Ordinance Establishing Regulations and Fines Related to Water Theft pursuant to recently adopted State law, including California Government Code Sections 53069.45 and 53069.46, California Civil Codes 1882.1, 1882.2, and 1882.3, and California Penal Code Section 498. He provided an overview regarding the purpose and key provisions of the Draft Ordinance which would establish and authorize the District to impose administrative fines and to pursue other civil and/or criminal remedies for cases involving water theft and/or unauthorized use of District facilities. Mr. Garcia explained that the Ordinance would become effective immediately upon adoption and noted that District customers have been made aware of the proposed Ordinance via messaging on the District's water bills and posting on the District's website. He stated that no public comments have been submitted at this time. Following Board discussion, Mr. Garcia recommended noticing the Draft Ordinance for possible adoption at the August 18, 2026 Board meeting.

**B. OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Drugan reported that District staff has observed an increase in system water demands over the past month as warmer temperatures have increased water use. He noted that staff continue to coordinate closely with CCWA to monitor both water demands and water quality. Mr. Drugan explained that the District is continuing to work with its groundwater consultant regarding a potential new groundwater well for replacement capacity in response to the State's new MCL regulation for Chromium 6. He also noted that the District is nearing completion of security fencing and gate improvements along Madera Street.

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 July 23, 2026 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. He reported that the EMA will be conducting a Public Workshop regarding well registration on July 30, 2026.

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 Moniot reported that he attended the Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCSD) meeting on July 8, 2026, wherein project alternatives are still being proposed and discussed among the LOCSD Board and local stakeholders.

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 August 18, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

14. **CLOSED SESSION**
The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:43 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 and Application 22423 of 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 5:14 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 Moniot, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Burchardi absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:14 p.m.

**THE JULY 21, 2026 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 18, 2026 BOARD MEETING**.