

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
SEPTEMBER 16, 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, September 16, 2025, 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  
Kylie Kelleher Dan Drugan

**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 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 AUGUST 19, 2025**

The Regular Meeting Minutes from August 19, 2025 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 19, 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 August 19, 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 August and addressed several questions from the Board.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, 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) 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 also 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 August. 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 year-to-date ending August 31, 2025. Ms. Cota reported that the District revenue exceeded expenses for the month of August by \$373,877.83 and the year-to-date net income was \$671,866.11.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

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

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 26765 through 26822 in the amount of \$691,895.15.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for August 20, 2025 through September 16, 2025.

**B. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

1. Notices of Completion

Mr. Drugan presented three Notices of Completion to the Board for the following projects:

- a) Electrical Equipment Replacement and Upgrades – Phase 1
- b) Refugio 3 Booster Pump Replacement
- c) Madera Yard Fence Replacement

He explained that filing Notices of Completion with the County formally confirms that construction is complete and protects the District by shortening the period during which contractors or subcontractors may file liens.

## 2. General Update

Mr. Drugan presented a general operations update to the Board, reporting that the District's field staff recently responded to a leak on a 21-inch welded steel pipeline near the 6.0 CFS Well Field. The pipeline conveys water from the well field into the distribution system. The leak was determined to be minor and was successfully repaired with a welded steel patch. Mr. Drugan also reported that staff successfully completed a start-up test of the Refugio 3 Booster Pump Station.

## 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 August 28, 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. He reported that the next EMA GSA Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2025.

### B. CACHUMA PROJECT

1. Mr. Garcia provided a brief update to the Board regarding state and federal regulatory processes that apply to the Cachuma Project, including fishery-related studies required under State Board Order 2019-0148 and the pending Section 7 re-consultation under the federal Endangered Species Act. He noted that the District may see an uptick in these activities and related costs.

### C. 2024-2025 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT

1. The Board packet included a copy of the recent Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury Report entitled "Water Management in Santa Barbara County, Keep Up the Good Work" and a copy of the District's response to the Report. Mr. Garcia summarized the Report, which discusses regional diversification of water supplies in Santa Barbara County and recognizes how various water supply agencies and the County Water Agency are effectively coordinating with each other on important water supply issues. He noted that the District's response to the Grand Jury agrees with the findings of the Report.

## 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

The Board packet included the September 2025 Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing.

## 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

The Board and staff agreed that a District Resolution expressing appreciation for legal counsel Gary Kvistad would be agendized for a future Board meeting.

## 13. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for October 21, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

**14. CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:11 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]

**15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 4:47 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 4:47 p.m.

**THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER 21, 2025 BOARD MEETING.**