

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
JULY 16, 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, July 16, 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           Jeff Dinkin  
                                  Lizeth Caro           Regina Goold           Jill Petersen  
                                  Debbie Curtis

**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. EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHTS:**

A. Mr. Garcia explained that the Employee Spotlight Agenda Item provides an opportunity for members of the District team to be introduced (and re-introduced) to the Board and the public. He welcomed Ms. Lizeth Caro, Ms. Jill Petersen, Ms. Regina Goold, and Ms. Debbie Curtis. Mr. Garcia provided an overview of their respective roles and responsibilities within the District, stating each employee's title and years of service. Mr. Garcia complimented and expressed his appreciation to the Administrative team. The Board members provided comments and expressed their gratitude to the Administrative team.

7. **CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:09 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]**

8. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The Board reconvened to open session at 3:33 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 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 3.9% COLA increase effective the first pay period beginning July 1, 2024, which is the same COLA increase that all other District employees received pursuant to the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 that was approved by the Board in June 2024.

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, 2024.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Clay, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote to approve an 8.9% compensation adjustment consisting of a 3.9% cost-of-living adjustment and a 5.0% compensation merit adjustment for the General Manager's salary effective the pay period beginning July 1, 2024.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2024**

The Regular Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 18, 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 June 18, 2024 Regular meeting minutes as presented.

10. **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 Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Moniot, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

11. **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 June and noted that the year-end numbers are preliminary numbers for the fiscal year 2023/2024 as invoices from vendors and consultants will continue to be submitted for purchases and services incurred in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. 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 stated that District revenues exceeded expenses by \$692,708.44 for the month of June and the year-to-date net income was \$2,880,079.46. Ms. Cota reported that the June monthly financial report represents the unaudited close of the Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

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 25973 through 26031 in the amount of \$551,618.27.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Moniot, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for June 19, 2024 through July 16, 2024.

2. District Workplace Violence Prevention Plan

Mr. Garcia informed the Board that California passed a new law requiring employers, including public agencies, to develop and implement a workplace violence prevention plan. He reported that staff has prepared the District’s Workplace Violence Prevention Plan for purposes of protecting employees and other personnel from aggressive and violent behavior at the workplace. Mr. Garcia provided a brief review of the required information and explained that staff and the Board will be provided with training and the plan will be available to the Board for review.

**B. OPERATIONS UPDATE**

The Board packet included a July 10, 2024 news article “Lake Fire Command Opening Second Base Camp as Resources Grow” and photos.

Mr. Garcia provided a report of the recent activities relating to the significant Lake Fire occurring in our surrounding areas. He reported that the fire began on July 5<sup>th</sup> and that, in coordination with Unified Fire Command officials, the District field crew placed six temporary meters on fire hydrants located along the District's boundaries to assist with the firefighting efforts. Mr. Garcia indicated that a contract for temporary water use had been signed with the US Forest Service. He discussed the location of the fire hydrants in the photos included in the Board packet.

Mr. Garcia also referred to other photos in the Board packet relating to a valve cluster replacement project at the corner of Faraday Street and Manzana Street. He reviewed the planning, installation, and contract work that was undertaken to complete the valve replacement project. Mr. Garcia expressed his appreciation to the field staff for their skill and hard work to complete this installation.

**12. 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 a Notice and Agenda for the June 27, 2024 Special Meeting of the EMA GSA; Proposed Exhibit "B" of the Subgrant Agreement for Implementation of the Grant Agreement between the Department of Water Resources and SYRWCD; EMA Requests for Qualifications; and a news article titled "A Costly Fight Over Water."

Mr. Garcia reviewed the topics discussed at the June 27, 2024 EMA GSA Special Meeting. He reported that the Joint Powers Agency Agreement for the EMA was finalized in May and that effective July 16, 2024 all parties of the JPA have approved and executed the Agreement. Mr. Garcia reported that staff from SGMA member agencies throughout the Basin met again to discuss the subgrant agreement which, among other things, establishes the allocation of DWR grant funds among the three GSAs and spells out respective responsibilities for how the grant is going to be administered. He reviewed the amount of grant funding and the proposed projects for each management area of the Basin (WMA, CMA, & EMA). Mr. Garcia reported that the EMA GSA Committee authorized staff from the EMA agencies to issue informal Request for Qualifications for an Executive Director, Legal Counsel, and Rate Consultant for the new JPA. He stated the next step in the process is for the JPA Board of Directors to take action to hire an Executive Director, Legal Counsel and Rate Consultant. Mr. Garcia expressed his appreciation to all parties for their collaboration and cooperation to finalize the JPA Agreement for the EMA. He reported that the article titled "A Costly Fight over Water" was included for informational purposes only.

**13. 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 Los Olivos Community Services District meeting held on July 10, 2024.

Mr. Garcia stated that the Board packet included information regarding the "Old Santa Ynez Days" event that took place on June 22, 2024. Mr. Garcia reported that similar to last year the District hosted a booth and participated in the community event to provide information to the public

regarding water supply issues and District operations. He indicated that the booth was well received and he thanked Trustee Joos, Dan Drugan, Joe Come, and others for their continued support and participation in the Old Santa Ynez Days and Airport Day events which help enhance the District's profile within the community.

The Board packet included the Family Farm Alliance Monthly briefing for the month of July 2024 and July 9, 2024 Hearing Testimony of Mauricio Guardado, General Manager of the United Water Conservation District, to the Federal Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife Fisheries.

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

The Correspondence List was received by the Board.

**15. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:**

There were no requests from the Board.

**16. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

President Clay stated the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for August 20, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

**17. CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:55 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]

**18. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

**A. Report (if any) on Closed Session Agenda Items 17.A - 17.B**

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 6:08 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 17.A.1, 17.A.2, 17.A.3, and 17.B. He reported that there was no reportable action for any of the closed session Agenda Items.

19. 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 6:09 p.m.

**THE JULY 16, 2024 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 20, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.**