

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
SEPTEMBER 15, 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, September 15, 2026, 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	Jessica Diaz
	Dan Drugan	Kylie Kelleher	Jeff Dinkin
	Jared Speier		

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 18, 2026

The Regular Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2026 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2026. 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 18, 2026 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. Various topics were discussed among the Board and staff.

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 August. She explained that the financials reflect the second 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 year-to-date ending August 31, 2026. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses for the month of August by \$505,540.98 and the year-to-date net income was \$1,090,778.37.

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 27445 through 27498 in the amount of \$553,424.10.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the Warrant List for August 19, 2026 through September 15, 2026.

B. OPERATIONS

1. General Update

Mr. Drugan reported that staff continue to monitor the water quality of supplies received from CCWA. As temperatures increased over the past month, staff maintained appropriate reservoir turnover to minimize water age and maintain water quality. He also reported that staff responded to a small leak on Madera Street, which required the installation of a new long-side water service connection and related paving work. Staff continue to focus on routine system maintenance activities, including fire hydrant maintenance, meter box inspections, and valve exercising. Staff also recently completed installation of a covered shelter for the backup generator at the Mesa Verde Pump Station. Mr. Drugan reported that the District is currently advertising the Zone 2 Reservoir electrical service project for public bids.

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 September 3, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA). Mr. Garcia discussed various topics including the success of the three public workshops that were held in July and August 2026 in support of the EMA GSA's Groundwater Well Registration program.

10. **RESOLUTION NO. 862 – RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1 EXPRESSING GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION TO JEFFREY A. DINKIN FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE DISTRICT**

Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. Jeff Dinkin, retiring Employment Legal Counsel of the District, and announced that Mr. Jared Speier, who will be assisting the District once Mr. Dinkin retires, was also in attendance. Mr. Garcia noted that Mr. Dinkin has served as the District's Employment Legal Counsel for 34 years and will be sorely missed. President Clay read the full text of District Resolution No. 862 into the record, noting among many other accolades that Mr. Dinkin has played an instrumental role in defending and protecting the District's legal rights and interests, and that his sound decision-making, legal acumen, and commitment to public service have greatly benefited the District, its ratepayers and constituents, and the public at large. Following the reading of Resolution No. 862, members of the District's Board of Trustees expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation for Mr. Dinkin's exemplary and long-standing service to the District and extended their best and heartfelt wishes to Mr. Dinkin for continued success, happiness, and fulfillment in his well-earned retirement.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, to adopt Resolution No. 862, a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement No.1 Expressing Gratitude and Appreciation to Jeffrey A. Dinkin for his Extraordinary Service and Dedication to the District, and the Resolution was approved by the following 5-0-0 roll call vote:

AYES, Trustees:	Brad Joos Mark Moniot Nick Urton Michael Burchardi Jeff Clay
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NOES, Trustees:	None
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ABSTAIN, Trustees:	None
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ABSENT, Trustees:	None
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11. **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 and Trustee Burchardi noted that they attended the Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCSA) Meeting on September 9, 2026 and reported that the LOCSA approved hiring an assessment engineer and the possibility of hosting additional workshops with the public.

12. CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS

The Correspondence List was received by the Board.

13. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

There were no requests from the Board.

14. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for October 20, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

15. CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:33 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]

C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: TITLE - GENERAL MANAGER

[Section 54957 of the Government Code]

D. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR: Jeff Dinkin – Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth; Unrepresented Employee – General Manager [Section 54957.6 of the Government Code]

16. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

A. Report on Closed Session Agenda Items 15.A – 15.B.

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session concerning Agenda Items 15.A through 15.B and that there was no reportable action.

B. Report on Closed Session Agenda Items 15.C and 15.D.

Consideration 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 explained that the Board also discussed a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and compensation adjustment for the General Manager. Mr. Dinkin acting as the Board representative, reported the following actions from closed session:

The Board determined to approve a 3.9% cost-of-living adjustment increase effective July 1, 2026, which is the same COLA increase that all other District employees received pursuant to the Final Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 that was approved by the Board in June 2026.

Consideration of General Manager Compensation Adjustment. The Board determined to grant the General Manager a 3.0% compensation merit increase effective the pay period beginning July 1, 2026.

Mr. Dinkin reported that Mr. Garcia will receive retroactive pay related to the approved cost-of-living adjustment and merit increases for the July 2026 and August 2026 pay periods.

It was **MOVED** by President Clay, seconded by Trustee Urton, to approve a 6.9% compensation adjustment consisting of a 3.9% cost-of-living adjustment and a 3.0% compensation merit adjustment for the General Manager's salary effective the pay period beginning July 1, 2026, including retroactive pay for the July 2026 and August 2026 pay periods, and the Motion passed by following the 5-0-0 roll call vote:

AYES, Trustees:	Brad Joos Mark Moniot Nick Urton Michael Burchardi Jeff Clay
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NOES, Trustees:	None
ABSTAIN, Trustees:	None
ABSENT, Trustees:	None

17. ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by President Clay, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:32 p.m.

The September 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved at the October 20, 2026 Board Meeting.