

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
APRIL 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, April 21, 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 Steven Anderson
 Dan Drugan Kylie Kelleher

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:04 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 MARCH 17, 2026:

The Regular Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2026 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2026. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 5-0-0 voice vote, to approve the March 17, 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 March. 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 March. 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 nine months ending March 31, 2026. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by \$244,302.25 and the year-to-date March 2026 net income was \$3,380,014.06, subject to ongoing financial obligations of the District.

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 27149 through 27208 in the amount of \$463,015.83.

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 March 18, 2026 through April 21, 2026.

B. OPERATIONS

1. General Update

Mr. Drugan reported that staff have begun transitioning the distribution system from groundwater supplies to State Water Project supplies. He also reported that field staff recently removed three valves located at the intersection of Faraday Street and Manzana Street, and the intersection of Faraday Street and Tivola Street. In addition, the District is completing final preparations for installation of a variable frequency drive on one of the pumps at the Mesa Verde Pump Station. Annual maintenance was also completed on the District’s four mobile generators.

Mr. Garcia reported that District employee Saul Juarez recently passed his State Water Resources Control Board Distribution Grade 2 (D2) examination and that Kincaid

McGinnis, one of the District's new Operators-in-Training, recently obtained his Commercial Class A driver's license. Mr. Garcia congratulated these accomplishments and noted that both certifications provide valuable support to District operations

2. Madera Fence Replacement Project – Phase 2: Consideration and Possible Award

Mr. Drugan reported that the District re-advertised the Madera Fence Replacement Project – Phase 2. The District received four bids, three of which were determined to be responsive to the Request for Bids (RFB). Following review of the bids, staff determined that Allco Fence Industries was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Mr. Garcia discussed the Office Building/Shop Improvement total budget and recommended two budget transfers within the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) program budget to fully fund the Madera Fence Replacement - Phase 2 project. Following discussion, the Board approved the CIP budget transfers.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice to approve the budget transfer of \$50,000 from District Building (Account 90332) and \$37,000 from Infrastructure Security (Account 900379) to Office Building/Shop Improvements (Account 9000371) to increase the FY 2025/26 budget total for that account to \$177,000.

Mr. Garcia recommended acceptance of the bid from Allco Fence Industries and requested that the Board authorize him to sign the Notice of Award and contract documents.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid from Allco Fence Industries in the amount of \$176,791, and authorize the General Manager to execute applicable contract documents with Allco Fence Industries.

3. Meadowlark Shaded Parking Area: Consideration and Possible Award

Mr. Drugan reported that the District recently issued a RFB to construct a shaded parking area at the Meadowlark Pump Station. The District received two bids, both of which were determined to be responsive. Following review of the bids, staff determined that Protective Weather Structures was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Mr. Garcia recommended that the Board conditionally award the project, subject to the District obtaining any final land use approvals that may be needed. Following discussion, the Board authorized award of the Meadowlark Shaded Parking Area project to Protective Weather Structures, contingent upon obtaining any necessary land use approvals.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Clay, and carried by a 5-0-0 voice vote, to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid from Protective Weather Structures in the amount of \$87,748, and authorize the General Manager to execute applicable contract documents with Protective Weather Structures contingent upon obtaining any final land use approvals that may be needed.

4. Mesa Verde Road Improvements

Mr. Garcia provided an overview of ongoing discussions with neighboring landowners regarding paving maintenance for a portion of Mesa Verde Road, a private road that provides access to the District's Mesa Verde Pump Station. He explained that the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) is currently conducting a road maintenance project that will improve an eastern portion of the roadway from Refugio Road to CCWA's Santa Ynez Pump Station. Heading west from that point, several landowners along Mesa Verde Road are evaluating cost share arrangements to complete similar paving improvements, where one or more of the landowners would hire the same contractor that is doing the work for CCWA. Noting that the District regularly uses that portion of Mesa Verde Road to access its pump station, Mr. Garcia recommended that the District contribute a proportionate cost share for the additional paving work, wherein the District's estimated share may range between approximately \$7,000 to \$11,000 depending on the final number of participants. Board discussion ensued and the Board agreed with staff's recommended approach.

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 April 16, 2026 Citizen Advisory Group for the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Mr. Garcia summarized several topics that were discussed at the recent CAG meeting and noted that the next meeting date for the EMA GSA Board has not yet been announced.

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 indicated that, similar to the last several years, the District is planning to host an informational booth at the Annual Santa Ynez Airport Day on May 16, 2026, and also at Old Santa Ynez Days on June 20, 2026.

Mr. Garcia also provided a staffing update to the Board to inform them that the District's current Office Administrator, Debbie Curtis, will be retiring at the end of the month, and the decision has been made to promote Regina Goold, who has been with the District for 10 years, to fill the position. The District will soon open recruitment for a new Administrative Assistant to join the front office team.

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 May 19, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

14. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:05 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 issued on Application 22423 to 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 5:57 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 5:57 p.m.

THE APRIL 21, 2026 MEETING MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE MAY 19, 2026 BOARD MEETING.