

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
SEPTEMBER 17, 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, September 17, 2024, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street and via teleconference.

Trustees Present: Mike Burchardi (via teleconference)
 Jeff Clay
 Brad Joos
 Mark Moniot
 Nick Urton

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Paeter Garcia Racel Cota Karen King
 Dan Drugan Gary Kvistad Amber Thompson
 Michael Matosich

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.

Mr. Garcia welcomed and introduced Mr. Michael Matosich, Senior Corporate Engagement Associate for the Nature Conservancy, and stated that Mr. Matosich is a member of the 2024 Water Leaders Class for the Water Education Foundation. Mr. Garcia explained that he and Michael have been paired to work together on this year's research project on SGMA issues that is being undertaken by the Water Leaders Class. The Board welcomed Mr. Matosich.

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2024:

The Regular Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2024 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2024. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by 5-0-0 roll call vote, to approve the August 20, 2024 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.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 roll call 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 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 month of August. Ms. Cota stated that the revenue exceeded the expenses by \$581,505.12 and the year-to-date net income was \$839,510.85. She also announced that the annual audit field work conducted by Bartlett, Pringle, Wolf, LLP was performed in the first week of September, and that the Board would be provided with the draft audit in November or December.

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 26085 through 26136 in the amount of \$535,739.53.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 roll call vote, to approve the Warrant List for August 21, 2024 through September 17, 2024.

B. OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Dan Drugan provided a report on current operations activities. He stated that the field crew has performed inspections of all meter box, service lines, and customer lines within the District boundaries per the requirements of a revised Lead and Copper regulation. He stated that the revision requires all water agencies to develop and maintain a materials inventory of all water service lines within their service area, and to report that data to the State in October. Mr. Drugan expressed his appreciation to the District field staff for their efforts in completing the inspections and service line inventory. Mr. Drugan reported that the newly adopted Chromium 6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) will take effect on October 1, 2024, and

that staff has resumed regulatory compliance preparations, including the engagement of water treatment consultants to review treatment options/technologies, and construction alternatives. He also stated that staff has completed the design specifications for the Refugio 3 booster pump station (pump and vault replacement), and that a request for bids will be issued within the next month. Mr. Drugan explained that the staff is currently working on a standardized Cross Connection Handbook, which is a new state requirement.

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 notice of the August 29, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), an article in the Santa Maria Times titled "Santa Ynez Water Group Now Accepting Applications for Director Positions," and a Notice of the Joint Special Meeting of the Board of Directors for the Central Management Area, Eastern Management Area, and Western Management Area of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

Mr. Garcia provided a review of the topics discussed at the first official meeting of the EMA JPA held on August 29, 2024. He reported that the agenda topics included the appointment of officers, a request for written verification, staff memos regarding responses to the Requests for Qualifications for Executive Director, Legal Services, and Rate Consultant, GSA Insurance, and an update on the draft subgrant agreement for the DWR Proposition 68 Grant. Mr. Garcia stated that there was a news release issued regarding the Santa Ynez Water Group accepting applications for the Agricultural Director and Alternate Director positions for the EMA JPA. He indicated that one of the published news articles listed the application deadline as September 30, 2024. Mr. Garcia also provided a review of the Joint Special meeting of the three GSAs that was held on September 6, 2024. He reviewed the topics discussed, which included an update on the Proposition 68 DWR Grant implementation, a process for conducting outreach and informational workshops with the public, and upcoming joint and individual meetings of the three GSAs in the Basin. Mr. Garcia stated that there have been numerous articles recently published regarding the ten-year anniversary of the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act. He also mentioned that the Governor of California recently rescinded the drought-related State of Emergency in 19 counties where conditions have improved, and maintaining the emergency declaration in the remaining 39 counties to address continued impacts to local water supplies and facilitate ongoing recovery. Mr. Garcia explained that for the 19 counties where the drought emergency has been lifted, the Governor's Order also rescinds the requirement for well permitting agencies to obtain a written verification from the applicable GSA prior to the issuance of new well permits for new or expanded groundwater production.

B. CACHUMA PROJECT

1. Value Planning Study Regarding Feasibility of Fish Passage Above Bradbury Dam

The Board packet included a State of California State Water Resources Control Board Order WR 2024-0007.

Mr. Garcia reported that the State Water Resources Control Board issued WR 2024-0007 in response to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Petition for Reconsideration of State Water Board Order WR 2019-0148. He explained that following the issuance of WR 2024-

00007, USBR has decided to undertake a Value Planning Study process to analyze the feasibility of providing steelhead passage around Bradbury Dam.

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 Burchardi provided a summary of topics discussed at the August 21, 2024 Los Olivos Community Services District Community Workshop and their September 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

The Board packet included the Family Farm Alliance monthly briefing for the month of September 2024, and a September 4, 2024 news article titled "Governor Newsom Adapts State's Drought Response to Changing Conditions, Continues Action to Support Recovery and Build Resilience."

Mr. Garcia reported that District employee, Mr. Ruben Camacho, recently passed the Backflow Tester Certification exam. He stated that this certification is above and beyond what the District requires for his position, and that successful completion of this level of testing and certification generally requires extensive study and substantive knowledge of backflow prevention technology and facilities. He expressed gratitude for Mr. Camacho's hard work and dedication to the District.

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 October 15, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

14. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:50 p.m.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code - 4 Cases]

1. Name of Case: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Product Liability Litigation, Master Docket No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG: City of Camden, et al. v. BASF Corporation, Civil Action No.: 2:24-cv-03174-RMG
2. Name of Case: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Product Liability Litigation, Master Docket No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG: City of Camden et. al. v. Tyco Fire Products LP, Civil Action No.: 2-24-cv-02321-RMG
3. 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

4. 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]

A. Report (if any) on Closed Session Agenda Items 14.A - 14.B

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 6:02 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 14.A through 14.B. He reported 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 Urton, and carried by a 5-0-0 roll call vote, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:02 p.m.

THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER 15, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.