

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1
MARCH 16, 2021 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, March 16, 2021 via video/teleconference only** due to the COVID-19 Emergency and Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders.

Trustees Present: Jeff Clay Jeff Holzer
 Brad Joos Lori Parker
 Michael Burchardi

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Paeter Garcia Mary Martone Karen King
 Eric Tambini Gary Kvistad

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m., he stated this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Martone conducted roll call and reported that all members of the Board were present.

President Clay gave tribute to Trustee Harlan Burchardi, stating that today marked the one-year anniversary of his passing. President Clay asked for a moment of silence in honor and recognition of Trustee Burchardi’s 50+ years of dedicated service as a District Trustee. President Clay spoke in memory of Trustee Burchardi and provided an opportunity for other Trustees to share their thoughts and comments. Trustees expressed their appreciation, anecdotes, and memories honoring Trustee H. Burchardi.

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. Martone presented the affidavit of posting of the Agenda, along with a true copy of the Agenda for this meeting. She reported that the Agenda was posted in accordance with the California Government Code commencing at Section 54950 and pursuant to District Resolution No. 340. The affidavit was filed as evidence of the posting of the Agenda items contained therein.

Ms. Martone added that as a result of the COVID-19 emergency and Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and requiring social distancing, the Board meeting would occur solely via video/teleconference as authorized by and in furtherance of Executive Order Nos. N-29-20 and N-33-20 and applicable amendments to the California Brown Act as set forth in those Executive Orders.

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA:

Mr. Garcia stated there were no additions or corrections to the Agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Clay welcomed any members of the public participating via video or telephonically and offered time for members of the public to speak and address the Board on matters not on the Agenda. There were no comments received from the public. Mr. Garcia stated that the Notice and Agenda for this Regular Meeting requested members of the public to submit advance written

comments to the District via electronic mail by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021. Mr. Garcia reported that no written comments were submitted to the District for the meeting.

6. **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE:**

A. General Manager's Report

Mr. Garcia reported on the current activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the District's actions. He summarized the Santa Barbara County Health Department Health Officer Order No. 2021-10.1 dated February 20, 2021 which extends the required face covering Order through March 21, 2021. Mr. Garcia reported that the District was notified by the County Office of Emergency Management and the Association of California Water Agencies that water industry workers had been moved into the qualifying tier of emergency services personnel who are eligible to sign up and make appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Garcia reported that this information was shared via email with all District employees and Trustees. He stated that management staff continues to receive, review, and implement updates related to COVID-19 from federal, state, regional and local agencies.

7. **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

The Regular Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2021 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2021. No changes or additions were requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Holzer, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 5-0-0 roll call vote to approve the February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Consent Agenda Report was provided in the Board packet.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of March.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a 5-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Consent Agenda.

9. **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. Martone announced that the Board was provided the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of February via email. She also explained that the reports were posted on the District's website where the Board packet materials are located for any members of the public wishing to follow along or receive a copy.

Ms. Martone reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of February. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month. Ms. Martone reported that revenues exceeded expenses by \$40,223.48 for the month of February and the year-to-date net income was \$1,499,287.90, which will be earmarked and utilized for the District's annual State Water Project and COMB Series 2004A Bond payments which are due in June 2021.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

Ms. Martone reported that the Board was provided the Warrant List for February 17, 2021 through March 16, 2021 via email, and that it was posted on the District's website where the Board packet materials are located for any members of the public wishing to follow along or receive a copy.

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 23667 through 23733 in the amount of \$818,116.45.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Parker, and carried by a 5-0-0 roll call vote to approve the Warrant List for February 17, 2021 through March 16, 2021.

10. REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. CACHUMA PROJECT

1. Water Service Contract No. I75r-1802R and I75r-1802RA – Santa Barbara County Water Agency Request for Long Term Contract

Mr. Garcia reported that he had been in contact with the Manager of the Santa Barbara County Water Agency who indicated that the Water Agency has no new updates or information from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) at this time regarding the new long-term contract negotiation process. Mr. Garcia reported that Water Agency representatives have indicated that they will continue to reach out to USBR in hopes of jump-starting the process. Mr. Garcia stated that he will continue to follow-up with the Water Agency and others regarding contract negotiations.

B. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area Update

The Board packet included a February 25, 2021 Notice and Agenda for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Eastern Management Area (EMA) in the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin, and a February 25, 2021 PowerPoint presentation regarding the EMA Water Budget Summary prepared by GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Mr. Garcia referred to the materials in the Board packet and reported that he and Trustee Joos attended the February 25, 2021 EMA GSA meeting via video and teleconference. Mr. Garcia reported that GSI Water Solutions provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Draft Water Budget Summary for the EMA portion of the Basin. Mr. Garcia explained the purpose of the Water Budget and indicated that the information is very important to the process of estimating the outflows and inflows to the Basin under historic, current, and future conditions, all of which are needed to determine "sustainable yield" of the EMA under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. He also summarized other topics discussed at the GSA meeting, including a report from the EMA Citizens Advisory Group on the Draft EMA Hydrologic Conceptual Model, and an update on the Aerial Electro Magnetic Survey of the EMA. Trustee Joos commented on the Draft Water Budget process and thanked the consultants, the EMA GSA Committee, and Committee President for their input and questions regarding the process and figures that were noted in the presentation. He reported that the consultants will look at the information and confirm whether or not any changes or updates are needed. Mr. Garcia stated that the next meeting of the EMA GSA is scheduled for March 25, 2021 via video and teleconference.

C. CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

1. Update Regarding Proposed Amendments to the SWP Contract

The Board packet included various materials related to proposed Amendments 20 and 21 to the State Water Project (SWP) Contract, including a February 17, 2021 CCWA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda; February 17, 2021 and February 18, 2021 CCWA letters to the Santa Barbara County Public Works Director and County Board of Supervisors, respectively; February 17, 2021 letter from the County Executive Office to CCWA; February 25, 2021 letter from the Goleta Water District to the County Board of Supervisors; February 28, 2021 article published in the Santa Barbara Independent; March 1, 2021 Public Comment letter from Roger Moore (CWIN) to the County Board of Supervisors; March 2, 2021 County Public Works Director Staff Report; and a March 2, 2021 Memorandum from CCWA to the CCWA Operating Committee.

Mr. Garcia reported on the activities that took place since the last Board meeting related to the proposed amendments to the SWP Contract. He explained that the proposed amendments were agendaized on the March 2, 2021 County Board of Supervisors regular meeting agenda and reported that the Board of Supervisors took action to approve Amendment No. 20 and tabled action on Amendment No. 21 to allow County staff to continue a dialog with CCWA.

Mr. Garcia reported that the next CCWA Board meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2021. He indicated that Mr. Ray Stokes, Executive Director of CCWA, will provide an update on the level of staff-to-staff negotiations between the County and CCWA that have transpired since the March 2nd Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Gary Kvistad, District Legal Counsel, provided input regarding timing issues related to Amendment No. 21. He stated that if the County Board of Supervisors does not approve Amendment No. 21 by the end of April, CCWA could be permanently foreclosed from the benefits of the Amendment. Mr. Garcia stated that he would provide an update at the April meeting.

11. UPDATE FROM ALTERNATIVE POWER/SOLAR AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Garcia stated there has been no new activity related to the Alternative Power/Solar Ad Hoc Committee. He reported that District staff has contacted the two companies that have performed site visits to the District, and both companies have indicated they are still preparing their technical review.

12. REPORTS BY THE BOARD MEMBERS OR STAFF, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, OBSERVATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

The Board packet included a March 9, 2021 email from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency regarding a report on the 2021 Water Rates in Santa Barbara County. The packet also included the March 2021 Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing.

13. CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS

The Correspondence list was received by the Board.

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

There were no requests from the Board.

15. NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

President Clay stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Garcia announced that the Open Session public participation video and phone lines would be closed for the next sixty (60) minutes to allow the Board to convene into Closed Session. He explained that the public participation video and phone lines would be reopened sixty (60) minutes later for the remaining Agenda items. Mr. Garcia thanked everyone for participating in the video/teleconference and stated that the Open Session meeting would reconvene at 5:40 p.m. to report any action taken during Closed Session.

16. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 4:40 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 - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

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

17. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The public participation video and phone lines were re-opened at approximately 5:40 p.m. The Board reconvened to Open Session and Ms. Martone conducted roll call and reported that all Trustees were present when the meeting reconvened to Open Session.

Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in Closed Session concerning Agenda Items 16.A.1 and 16.B. He stated that there was no reportable action from Closed Session.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 5-0-0 roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:45 p.m.

THE MARCH 16, 2021 REGULAR MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE APRIL 20, 2021 MEETING.