

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
JANUARY 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, January 16, 2024, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street and via teleconference.

Trustees Present:           Jeff Clay  
                                  Brad Joos  
                                  Nick Urton  
                                  Michael Burchardi (via teleconference)

Trustees Absent:           None

Others Present:           Paeter Garcia           Mary Robel  
                                  Karen King             Dan Drugan  
                                  Gary Kvistad           Jeff Dinkin

**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. Robel conducted roll call and reported that four 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. Robel presented the affidavit of posting 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 54953, as well as District Resolution No. 340.

President Clay announced that former Trustee Kevin Walsh passed away on January 11, 2024 and in recognition of Mr. Walsh's service to the District and the community he dedicated the Board meeting in his honor. Various Trustees and staff gave tribute to Mr. Walsh.

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

There were no requests from the Board.

**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 DECEMBER 19, 2023:**

The Regular Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2023 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2023. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 roll call vote, to approve the December 19, 2023 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 December.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Clay, and carried by a 4-0-0 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. Robel announced that the Financial Statements were provided to the Board via email earlier today and were included in the handout materials and posted on the District’s website in the Board packet materials section for any member of the public wishing to follow along or receive a copy.

Ms. Robel reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the month of December. 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 December. Ms. Robel reported that the District revenues for the month of December exceeded the expenses by \$559,905.21 and the year-to-date net income was \$2,202,409.65.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

Ms. Robel announced that the Warrant List was provided to the Board via email earlier today and included in the handout materials and posted on the District’s website in the Board packet materials section for any member of the public wishing to follow along or receive a copy.

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 25614 through 25669 in the amount of \$484,240.51.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 roll call vote, to approve the Warrant List for December 20, 2023 through January 16, 2024.

2. Personnel Policy Manual

a) Resolution No. 841: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Amending the District’s Personnel Policy Manual

The Board packet included a January 10, 2024 Memorandum from Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth and a copy of Resolution No. 841.

Mr. Garcia introduced Mr. Jeff Dinkin of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, the District’s employment legal counsel, to present this item.

Mr. Dinkin explained that he conducted an annual review of the District’s Personnel Policy Manual, and based upon his assessment of existing policies, changes in the law, and discussion with management, five revisions to the Personnel Policy Manual are

being proposed to the Board. He reviewed the suggested revisions to Section 1.9(c)(8) – Merit Increases, Section 1.9(c)(11) – Existing Employees, Section 3.4 – Sick Leave, and Section 3.6 – Pregnancy Related Disability, and the addition of Section 3.11 – Reproductive Loss Leave.

No public comment was provided.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, to adopt Resolution No. 841, a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement No.1 Amending the District’s Personnel Policy Manual.

The Motion carried and Resolution No. 841 was adopted by the following 4-0-0 roll call vote:

<b>AYES, Trustees:</b>	Mike Burchardi Jeff Clay Brad Joos Nick Urton
<b>NOES, Trustees:</b>	None
<b>ABSTAIN, Trustees:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT, Trustees:</b>	None

3. Personnel Recruitment Update

Mr. Garcia reported that staff has been working with Regional Governmental Services (RGS) on recruitment for the District’s vacant positions. He stated that the Regulatory Specialist position was retitled to Water Resources Specialist I/II to allow for a broader applicant base. Mr. Garcia stated that the Water Resources Specialist I/II recruitment closes on January 17, 2024. To date RGS has indicated that several applications have been received for the position. He stated that once the application period closes a minimum qualification screening process will occur, followed by final candidate interviews, which are slated to occur by the end of February. Mr. Garcia announced that the application period for the Administrative & Financial Manager position was opened on January 11<sup>th</sup> and will close in early February.

4. Board of Trustees Vacancy for Division 1

a) Procedural Update; Consideration of Applications; Possible Recommendation for Appointment

Mr. Garcia reported that he was contacted by Trustee Jeff Holzer on December 26, 2023, wherein Mr. Holzer provided notice of his resignation from the Board of Trustees effective immediately. Mr. Garcia stated that Trustee Holzer had approximately one year left in his term of office and that his position will need to be filled until the next election occurs for the Division 1 seat.

Mr. Garcia explained that the resignation prompts certain procedural steps that must be followed to fill the vacancy. He stated that ID No.1 sent written notification of the vacancy on December 26, 2023 to both the Santa Barbara County Elections Office and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), which is the appointing agency for the ID No.1 Board of Trustees. Mr. Garcia reported that the Public Notice of Trustee Vacancy was posted on December 26, 2023 in accordance with statutory requirements, with an application deadline of 5:00 p.m. on January 12, 2024. He

reported that one application was received from Mr. Mark Moniot. Mr. Garcia explained that because the application period closed after the January Board packet was posted, the application for the vacant position was emailed to the Trustees prior to today's meeting, posted on the District's website, and provided as handout material at today's meeting. Mr. Garcia stated that he has confirmed the qualifying information set forth in Mr. Moniot's application; and has determined through direct conversation with Mr. Moniot that no actual or perceived conflicts appear to exist that would prevent him from being appointed as a Trustee. He explained that the SYRWCD also has a vacancy on their Board and that they are planning to schedule a special meeting in late January or early February to appoint their new Board Member. He noted that if the ID No.1 Board chose to approve Mr. Moniot's application this evening and recommend his appointment as the Division 1 Trustee, staff could notify SYRWCD of ID No.1's recommendation so that the appointment could be included for action as part of their upcoming special meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Moniot's application, community involvement, and references. Based on the discussion, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 roll call vote, to approve the application submitted by Mr. Moniot and recommend to the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District that Mr. Mark Moniot be appointed to fill the vacant Division 1 Trustee position for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1.

**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 December 14, 2023 Notice and Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainable Agency, a January 4, 2024 Staff Memorandum to the WMA, CMA, and EMA GSA Committees, and a January 5, 2024 letter regarding the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

Mr. Garcia reported on the December 14, 2023 meeting of the EMA GSA. He reviewed the topics discussed at the meeting, including a review of requests for written verifications for new well proposals, an update on the SGMA governance and the draft Joint Powers Agreement for the EMA, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report for the EMA. Mr. Garcia reported that \$5.4 million dollars has been awarded by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin which will be allocated among the three Management Areas of the Basin. He stated that a check delivery ceremony will be held on February 8, 2024 in Buellton, and that a press release will be posted soon regarding the details of the ceremony.

Mr. Garcia also reported that on January 5, 2024 a joint meeting of the GSAs for the WMA, CMA, and EMA was held to review and approve a supplemental Action Plan for the Basin to address comments received from State Water Resources Control Board staff regarding wells located in the River alluvium. He explained that the Action Plan outlines a commitment by the three GSAs to ensure that all well production and well owners in the Santa Ynez River Alluvium Area are registered and reporting to the appropriate regulatory agencies in accordance with SGMA. Mr. Garcia indicated that DWR is expected to issue its determination on the sufficiency of the GSPs very soon as the two-year review period is almost complete.

**B. CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY**

1. Proposed Santa Ynez II Pipeline Project

The Board packet included a January 4, 2024 Central Coast Water Authority Memorandum and related materials regarding the potential Santa Ynez II Long-Term Project.

Mr. Garcia reported that the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) is considering a new long-term plan to replace and realign the pipeline from the Santa Ynez Pumping Plant to Lake Cachuma which is used to deliver State Water Project (SWP) supplies from CCWA to entities on the South Coast. He reported that CCWA staff has been monitoring the condition of the pipeline and has not observed any significant issues; however, due to the pipeline exceeding its estimated service life, a long-term replacement/realignment plan is being considered. Mr. Garcia explained that as part of the recent CCWA Operations Committee meeting, his initial comments on the matter were that various important factors would need to be considered and accommodated as part of any project, such as the history of the CCWA pipeline, the Exchange Agreement, the 2002 Settlement Agreement, and water rights releases under State Board Order 2019-0148. The Board discussed several issues related to the Project as described by CCWA. Mr. Garcia stated that further information would be provided as it becomes available.

**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:**

The Board packet included news articles entitled “California Snowpack Lowest in Decade Despite Hope with December Storms” and “Snow Drought Seen Despite Storms,” a diagram from the Department of Water Resources regarding Current Reservoir Conditions, and the January 2024 Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing.

Trustee Urton provided compliments to the front office staff for contacting customers with higher than usual water use which could signal a possible leak, and thanked staff for their proactive efforts to assist customers.

Mr. Garcia reported that Mr. Jim Morrill, a key member of the District’s field operations staff, has announced his retirement effective May 31, 2024 after nearly 25 years of employment with the District.

Mr. Garcia reported that the Los Olivos Community Service District continues to discuss treatment alternatives, including the possibility of partnering with the City of Solvang.

**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 February 20, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

**14. CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 5:09 p.m.

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION**

[Subdivision (d)(1) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – 2 Cases]

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
2. 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)(2) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code – Significant Exposure to Litigation Against the Agency – One Matter]

**15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

[Sections 54957.1 and 54957.7 of the Government Code]

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 5:43 p.m. Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session in accordance with Agenda Items 14.A.1, 14.A.2, and 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 Urton, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 3-0-0 vote, with Trustee Burchardi absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:44 p.m.

**THE JANUARY 16, 2024 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024 REGULAR MEETING.**