

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
DECEMBER 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, December 17, 2024, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

Trustees Present: Jeff Clay
 Mike Burchardi
 Brad Joos
 Nick Urton

Trustees Absent: Mark Moniot

Others Present: Paeter Garcia Racel Cota Karen King
 Dan Drugan Jessica Diaz Kylie Kelleher
 Randy Murphy

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cota conducted a roll call and reported that all Trustees were present, with Trustee Moniot absent.

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 NOVEMBER 19, 2024:

The Regular Meeting minutes from November 19, 2024 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular meeting minutes of November 19, 2024. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a unanimous 4-0-0 voice vote with Trustee Moniot absent, to approve the November 19, 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 November.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a unanimous 4-0-0 voice vote with Trustee Moniot absent, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

8. **MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**

A. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

1. Board of Trustees Designations

a) Certified Appointments In Lieu of Election

The board packet included a November 12, 2024 letter from the Santa Barbara County Clerk, Recorder and Assessor Elections Division regarding the November 5, 2024 Election Results.

Mr. Garcia reported that on November 12, 2024, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors appointed in-lieu of an election Mark Moniot, Trustee Division 1 and Michael Burchardi, Trustee Division 4 as qualified candidates to the District's Board of Trustees. Mr. Garcia announced that the four-year terms run from December 6, 2024 through December 1, 2028.

b) Selection of Officers of the Board – President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary

Mr. Garcia reported that each December the District's Board selects the positions of President, Vice President, and Treasurer and Secretary to the Board of Trustees. He explained that the process for selecting officers is based on nominations and votes by the Board members.

President Clay reviewed the current positions and called for nominations from the Board. Trustee Burchardi suggested that the positions remain unchanged. The Board concurred with Trustee Burchardi, and the nominations were closed.

It was **Moved** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to select Trustee Clay as President, Trustee Burchardi as Vice President, and Racel Cota as Treasurer and Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

c) Appointment of Representatives to Participating Agencies and Organizations – Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), and Eastern Management Area, Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA).

President Clay reviewed the current Board representatives to participating agencies and organizations. Discussion ensued regarding the current agency and organization appointments. Trustee Urton indicated his interest as the Alternate for CCWA and Trustee Clay stated his interest as the Director. President Clay stated his interest in remaining the Director for ACWA while Mr. Garcia stated his willingness to continue as the Alternate. Trustee Joos stated his interest as the Director of the EMA GSA with Trustee Burchardi as the Alternate.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Urton, seconded by President Clay, and carried by a 4-0-0 roll call vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to appoint Trustee Clay and Trustee Urton as Director and Alternate, respectively, to the Central Coast Water Authority Board of Directors, to appoint Trustee Clay and Paeter Garcia as Representative and Alternate, respectively, to the Association of California Water Agencies, and to appoint Trustee Joos and Trustee Burchardi as Director and Alternate, respectively, to the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency..

d) Appointment of Board Committees

President Clay reviewed the current Board representative for the Ad Hoc Committees. He identified each Ad Hoc Committee, which included Trustee Urton and Trustee Joos - City of Solvang; Trustee Burchardi and Trustee Joos - Water Rates; Trustee Burchardi and Trustee Joos - Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB); Trustee Burchardi and Trustee Urton - Cachuma Contract; and Trustee Burchardi and Clay - Los Olivos Community Services District (Los Olivos CSD).

Discussion ensued regarding each of the Ad Hoc Committees, and potential new appointments to the Solvang and Los Olivos CSD Committees. Trustee Moniot was discussed as a candidate for the Los Olivos CSD Ad Hoc Committee based on his residency in Los Olivos and ongoing interest in Los Olivos CSD issues.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a 4-0-0 roll call vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to appoint Trustee Urton and Trustee Joos to the City of Solvang Ad Hoc Committee; Trustee Burchardi and Trustee Joos to the Water Rates Ad Hoc Committee; Trustee Burchardi and Trustee Joos to the COMB Ad Hoc Committee; Trustee Burchardi and Trustee Urton to the Cachuma Contract Ad Hoc Committee; and Trustee Burchardi and Trustee Moniot to the Los Olivos CSD Ad Hoc Committee.

2. 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 November. 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 first quarter of the fiscal year. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by \$339,628.97 and the year-to-date November 2024 net income was \$2,482,362.56.

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 26258 through 26316 in the amount of \$544,358.80.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a unanimous 4-0-0 voice vote with Trustee Moniot absent, to approve the Warrant List for November 20, 2024 through December 17, 2024.

3. Amendment to Rules & Regulations and Capital Facilities Charges

- a) Resolution No. 848: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement No.1 Approving the Automatic Annual Adjustments to the Capital Facilities Charges and Meter Installation Fees Contained in Appendix "C" and Appendix "D" of the District's Rules and Regulations

The Board packet included a December 17, 2024 Staff Report and Resolution No. 848 with related appendices.

Mr. Garcia explained that Resolution No. 848 amends Appendix "C" and Appendix "D" of the District's Rules and Regulations relating to the District's Capital Facilities Charges and related costs under Section 603 and 709 of the District's Rules and Regulations. He stated that Resolution No. 848 was presented in draft form to the Board of Trustees at the November Meeting. Mr. Garcia reviewed the calculations used to establish the 2025 Capital Facilities Charges, how the 2025 charges compare to the 2024 charges, and recommended approval of Resolution No. 848 for the automatic annual adjustment to the District's Capital Facilities Charges and meter installation fees effective January 1, 2025 pursuant to Sections 603 and 709 of the District Rules and Regulations.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Urton to approve and adopt Resolution No. 848. The Motion carried and Resolution No. 848 was adopted by the following 4-0-0 roll call vote, with Trustee Moniot absent:

Ayes, Trustees: Brad Joos
Mike Burchardi
Nick Urton
Jeff Clay

Noes, Trustees: None
Abstain, Trustees: None
Absent, Trustees: Mark Moniot

4. District Land and Air Space

- b) Resolution No. 849: A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Concerning Inventory of District Land and Air Space

The Board packet included Draft Resolution No. 840 and supporting documentation.

Mr. Garcia stated that pursuant to Section 50569 of the California Government Code, the District must inventory its land and air space on an annual basis to determine if any surplus land exists. He stated that based on the inventory, no District lands are deemed surplus to the District's current and foreseeable needs and recommended approval of Resolution No. 849 as presented.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Urton to approve and adopt Resolution No. 849. The Motion carried and Resolution No. 849 was adopted by the following 4-0-0 roll call vote, with Trustee Moniot absent:

Ayes, Trustees: Brad Joos
Mike Burchardi
Nick Urton
Jeff Clay

Noes, Trustees: None
Abstain, Trustees: None
Absent, Trustees: Mark Moniot

5. Madera Street Yard Fence Replacement

a) Consideration and Award of Bid

The board packet included bid results for the installation of the Madera Yard replacement fence.

Mr. Drugan explained that the District released the Request for Bids (RFB) on October 29, 2024 with responses due to the District by November 15, 2024. The District received two responses to the RFB which were opened on November 15, 2024. Harris Steel Fence Co. proposed a cost of \$273,000 and Woodward Fence Inc. proposed a cost of \$80,290. Both responses were reviewed and evaluated by District staff and both contractors were determined to be qualified bidders. The cost proposal of \$80,290 submitted by Woodward Fence Inc., a locally based company that regularly performs work in the Santa Ynez Valley, was reported as fitting within the budgeted amount of \$84,000 for this work.

Mr. Drugan stated that the recommendation of the District is to award the Madera Yard Fence Replacement Project to Woodward Fence Inc. and authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Woodward Fence Inc. in the amount of \$80,290 to complete the work.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by President Clay, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote with Trustee Moniot absent, to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid of \$80,290 from Woodward Fence Inc. for the Madera Yard Fence Replacement Project and to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Woodward Fence Inc. to complete the work for the stated bid amount.

B. OPERATIONS

1. General Update

Mr. Drugan provided an update on the Motor Control Center (MCC) replacement work being conducted at the Meadowlark Pump Station. He indicated that all four pumps have been tested and are working with the new MCC instruments in place. Additionally, a new manual transfer switch was installed, which allows the pump station to be operated on generator backup power.

Mr. Drugan also reported on debriefing notes provided by County officials regarding the Buellton fire incident that occurred in October and knocked out communication for the Santa Ynez Valley. He reported that District staff is reviewing Satellite phone options and noted that Starlink is very popular.

2. Temporary Water Service – CalTrans Highway 154 Roundabout Project
Mr. Garcia discussed the roundabout construction project currently taking place at Highway 154 and Edison Street in Santa Ynez. He noted that the District is providing temporary construction water to Granite Construction for the project. Mr. Garcia explained that the temporary water service is being provided from a metered fire hydrant near the intersection of North Refugio Road and Roblar Avenue. He reported that Granite Construction requested to have the construction water delivered via temporary pipeline through a culvert under Highway 154, and that District management responded that an indemnification and release of liability agreement would be needed for that type of arrangement to be considered by the District. Mr. Garcia noted that Granite Construction decided not to pursue its request any further and that construction water continues to be provided at the above-mentioned hydrant location.

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

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

Mr. Garcia reported that the November 21, 2024 meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA) was cancelled and moved to December 19, 2024. A copy of the meeting cancellation notice was included in the board packet. He also noted that a special joint meeting of the three GSAs in the Basin was held on December 6, 2024 at the Buellton City Council Chambers. A copy of the joint GSA meeting agenda was included in the board packet.

B. STATE WATER PROJECT – WATER SUPPLY ISSUES OVERVIEW

1. Presentation by Chandra Chilmakuri, Ph.D., P.E., Assistant General Manager – State Water Contractors

With approval from President Clay, this agenda item was taken out of order and discussed after the Consent Agenda, Item No. 7.

Dr. Chandra Chilmakuri, Ph.D., P.E., Assistant General Manager of the State Water Contractors, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the State Water Project (SWP) with an emphasis on California Hydrology, the SWP System, Environmental Regulations, SWP Allocations, and a SWP Delivery Outlook.

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 informed the Board that Tom Nelson and Tom Fayram have been elected to the Board of Directors for the Los Olivos CSD. He reported that the CSD is continuing to consider a project alternative of running a wastewater pipeline from Los Olivos, down Alamo Pintado Road, to a connection near Sunny Fields Park and ultimately to the City of Solvang wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Burchardi noted that the District should stay informed about that proposal in case a pipeline project could provide an opportunity to re-align certain District infrastructure during an open construction window.

Mr. Garcia discussed the December ACWA Conference that he attended with President Clay and Mr. Drugan. He noted the educational and networking value of the ACWA Conferences and indicated that an additional board member (two total) may want to attend in the future if there is interest.

Mr. Garcia reported on two Special Recognition Awards that the District received from ACWA JPIA, which were announced at the ACWA Board of Directors meeting during the December Conference. One award was a President's Special Recognition Award for achieving a low ratio of paid claims and case reserves to deposit premiums in the Workers Compensation Program from July 2020 through June 2023. The second award was also a President's Special Recognition Award for achieving a low ratio of paid claims and case reserves for Deposit Programs.

Mr. Garcia informed the Board that Mr. Lee Patton of ACWA JPIA has announced his retirement. Mr. Patton is the Senior Risk Control Advisor for ACWA JPIA and has fulfilled a long and successful career with that organization.

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 Board meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for January 21, 2025 at 3:00pm.

14. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:05pm.

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)(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 6:15 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 regarding any of the closed session Agenda Items.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Urton, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Moniot absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:15 p.m.

THE DECEMBER 17, 2024 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 21, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.