

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
JANUARY 21, 2025 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 21, 2025, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

Trustees Present: Jeff Clay
 Mike Burchardi
 Brad Joos
 Mark Moniot

Trustees Absent: Nick Urton

Others Present: Paeter Garcia Racel Cota Karen King
 Dan Drugan Gary Kvistad Kylie Kelleher

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m., he stated that this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Cota conducted a roll call and reported that four Trustees were present, with Trustee Urton 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 December 17, 2024 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular meeting minutes of December 17, 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 Urton absent, to approve the December 17, 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 December.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Moniot, and carried by a unanimous 4-0-0 voice vote with Trustee Urton 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. 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 December. She stated that the Statement of Revenues and Expenses year-to-date includes figures that were halfway through the fiscal year end 2024-25, and budget is on-track. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month. Ms. Cota stated that revenue exceeded expenses by \$585,725.72 and the year-to-date December 2024 net income was \$3,027,152.95.

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 26317 through 26375 in the amount of \$512,001.05.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Moniot, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a unanimous 4-0-0 voice vote with Trustee Urton absent, to approve the Warrant List for December 18, 2024 through January 21, 2025.

2. Personnel Policy Manual

a) Resolution No. 850: 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 Board packet included a December 30, 2024 Memorandum from Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth and a copy of Resolution No. 850.

Mr. Garcia explained that Mr. Jeff Dinkin, the District’s employment legal counsel, 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(5) – Equal Employment Opportunity, Section 4(17) – Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation Prevention

Policy, Section 4(24) – Voice Mail, E-Mail, Cell Phone and Technology Policy, Section 3(17) – Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking and Other Crimes, and Section 4(5) – Improper Employee Conduct.

No public comment was provided.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Clay, to adopt Resolution No. 850, 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. Resolution No. 850 passed by the following roll call vote:

Ayes, Trustees: Mark Moniot
Mike Burchardi
Brad Joos
Jeff Clay

Noes, Trustees: None
Abstain, Trustees: None
Absent, Trustees: Nick Urton

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 backup generator 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 CalTrans 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 by 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 he and Trustee Joos attended the December 19, 2024 meeting of the Eastern Management Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EMA GSA). A copy of the meeting notice and agenda was included in the board packet. The next meeting of the EMA GSA is currently scheduled to be held on January 23, 2025.

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 briefly discussed the Family Farm Alliance monthly newsletter.

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 February 18, 2025.

14. **CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:18pm.

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 4:48p.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 Moniot, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Urton absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 4:48 p.m.

THE JANUARY 21, 2025 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 18, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.