

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1
OCTOBER 15, 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, October 15, 2024, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street.

Trustees Present: Jeff Clay
 Brad Joos
 Mark Moniot
 Nick Urton

Trustees Absent: Mike Burchardi

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

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 a roll call and reported that four Trustees were present, and that Trustee Burchardi was 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.

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 SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

The Regular Meeting minutes from September 17, 2024 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2024. There were no changes or additions requested.

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

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Moniot, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Burchardi 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 Financials 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 September. 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 this fiscal year. Ms. Cota stated that the revenue exceeded the expenses by \$605,804.01 and the year-to-date net income was \$1,500,281.13.

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 26137 through 26191 in the amount of \$465,952.28.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Clay, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Burchardi absent, to approve the Warrant List for September 18, 2024 through October 15, 2024.

B. OPERATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Dan Drugan provided a report on current operational activities. He reported that in accordance with the revised Lead and Copper Rule, the District has completed inspections of all meter boxes, service lines, and customer lines within the District's direct retail service area (not including the City of Solvang), and that the inventory data was submitted to the Division of Drinking Water in early October. Mr. Drugan stated that the field staff is preparing for the October 28th shutdown of the CCWA delivery pipeline for annual maintenance, at which time the District will transition Zones 1 and 2 back to local groundwater and river supplies. Mr. Drugan provided the Board with several photos of the District's work to install a new 8-inch Neptune meter for one of our two interconnections to the City of Solvang. He explained that the installation of this meter now completes the District-wide Meter Replacement Program that commenced in FY 2019/2020. Mr. Garcia referred to a Clay-valve that exists at the Solvang meter location and indicated that he would be working with City representatives to dedicate the valve to the City of Solvang. Mr. Garcia noted that PG&E had announced the possibility of Public Safety Power

Shutoffs toward the end of the week due to high winds, and that District staff would be meeting to discuss an operational plan in case power is lost to any of the District's facilities.

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 September 26, 2024 Special meeting of the Board of Directors for the EMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency; an October 7, 2024 State Water Resources Control Board Press Release regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA); excerpts from the October 2024 California Groundwater Conditions Semi-Annual Update; and a State Water Board Notice regarding New SGMA Reporting Requirements for Groundwater Extractions in the Tule Subbasin.

Mr. Garcia provided an overview of several topics discussed at the September 26, 2024 special meeting of the EMA JPA, including review and approval of contract services agreements for legal representation, rate consultant services, and executive director services. He noted that an update was provided on the nomination and appointment process for an Agricultural Director and Alternate Director on the JPA Board. Mr. Garcia discussed the cost contributions being provided by each member agency of the JPA and explained that the District was invoiced for \$50,000 which will be paid by the District, subject to reimbursement from the EMA GSA at a future date which is currently set for December 2026. Mr. Garcia stated that the next meeting of the EMA JPA is scheduled for October 24, 2024. He also referred to the Board packet materials which included a DWR Groundwater Conditions Update. Mr. Garcia stated that the State Water Resources Control Board has announced new SGMA reporting requirements for groundwater extractions in the Tule Subbasin, which the State Board has placed in probation.

B. HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL

1. Regulatory Update on Chromium 6 MCL

The Board packet included the State Water Resources Control Board Hexavalent Chromium MCL Summary of Rulemaking; a Division of Drinking Water Notice regarding the New Hexavalent Chromium MCL Effective October 1, 2024; and a State Water Board Fact Sheet regarding Monitoring for Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking Water.

Mr. Garcia stated that the new drinking water MCL of 10 parts per billion for Hexavalent Chromium is now official and effective as of October 1, 2024. He reported that staff as re-engaged with Hazen & Sawyer to re-evaluate design and treatment alternatives for the District. Mr. Garcia briefly discussed the compliance period, monitoring requirements, treatment options, and potential legal challenges to the new regulation. He stated that the District has a three-year compliance deadline of October 1, 2027.

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 an October 8, 2024 Legal Alert from Best Best & Krieger entitled "The Shifting Landscape of Water Rate Setting." Mr. Garcia provided an overview of the Legal Alert.

The Board packet included the Family Farm Alliance (FFA) Monthly Briefing for the month of October 2024, and an October 2, 2024 Press Release regarding the pending retirement of FFA Executive Director Dan Keppen.

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 November 19, 2024.

14. CLOSED SESSION:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:35 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)(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 4:59 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 Moniot, seconded by Trustee Urton, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Burchardi absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m.

THE OCTOBER 15, 2024 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE REGULAR NOVEMBER 19, 2024 MEETING.