

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1  
APRIL 18, 2023 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, April 18, 2023, in-person at 1070 Faraday Street and via teleconference.

Trustees Present:	Jeff Clay Brad Joos	Michael Burchardi
Trustees Absent:	Nick Urton	Jeff Holzer
Others Present:	Paeter Garcia Karen King Gary Kvistad	Mary Martone Eric Tambini

**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. Martone conducted roll call and reported that three Trustees were present, and Trustees Holzer and Urton were 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. Martone 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.

**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 participating remotely 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 SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2023:**

The Special Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2023 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Special Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023. There were no changes or additions requested.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustees Holzer and Urton absent, to approve the March 28, 2023 Special 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 March.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustees Holzer and 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. Martone announced that the Financial Statements were provided to the Board in the handout materials and posted on the District’s website in the Board packet materials 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 March. She highlighted various line-items related to revenue and expense transactions that occurred during the month and also referenced the Fiscal-Year-to-Date Statement of Revenues and Expenses that provides a budget to actual snapshot from July to March. Ms. Martone reported that District expenses exceeded revenues by \$59,078.47 for the month of March and the year-to-date net income was \$2,177,098.72, a portion of which will be earmarked and utilized for the District’s annual State Water Project payment due in June 2023.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

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

The Board reviewed the Warrant List which covered warrants 25046 and 25104 through 25147 in the amount of \$317,696.25.

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustees Holzer and Urton absent, to approve the Warrant List for March 29, 2023 through April 18, 2023.

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

**A. STATEWIDE STORM EVENTS AND RELATED PROJECT CONDITIONS**

1. Cachuma Project Update

The Board packet included the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Lake Cachuma Daily Operations Report for the months of March and April, and correspondence regarding the Cachuma Project Water Year 2022/2023 Mid-Year Allocation Request.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Lake Cachuma Daily Operations Reports and current Cachuma reservoir conditions for the months of March and April. He referred to the Board packet materials and stated that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has officially announced that the Cachuma Project Member Units will receive a 100% allocation for the federal water year 2022/2023, which equates to 2,651 acre-feet for ID No.1. Mr. Garcia reported that the reservoir remains at full capacity and spill operations will be administered to manage remaining inflows into the Lake.

## 2. State Water Project Update

The Board packet included the Department of Water Resources Current and Historical Reservoir Conditions, a March 24, 2023 Department of Water Resources Notice to State Water Project Contractors regarding an Increase of the 2023 State Water Project Allocation to 75%, and a Current News Article relating to the California Record Snowpack.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the board packet materials and reported that DWR has increased the 2023 State Water Project Table A allocation from 35% to 75%. He indicated that recent snowpack reports show snow levels of 200-250% above normal in some areas which could translate into flooding risks for parts of California. Mr. Garcia reported that Governor Newsom has rescinded many portions of the Executive Orders issued during the drought emergency conditions related to mandatory water conservation.

## B. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

### 1. Eastern Management Area (EMA) Update

The Board packet included an Agenda for the March 23, 2023 meeting of the EMA GSA, a Notice for the April 27, 2023 meeting of the GSA, a letter from the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau dated April 5, 2023, and a March 13, 2023 email from Circle Vision, LLC President, Mr. Doug Circle, regarding governance of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin.

Mr. Garcia stated that the EMA GSA met on March 23, 2023 and he summarized the topics discussed at the meeting. Mr. Garcia explained that the last several GSA meetings have focused on the draft policy options for administering well verification requests, which has delayed negotiations for the terms of a new Joint Powers Authority (JPA). He stated that the EMA GSA is currently organized under a 2017 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which has a weighted voting structure where the County Water Agency and the SYRWCD have more voting power than ID No.1 and the City of Solvang, and where landowners in the EMA do not have a seat on the GSA. Mr. Garcia explained that the 2017 MOA expressly states that the parties agree to renegotiate a more comprehensive governance structure and that various issues would be renegotiated, including the voting structure. Mr. Garcia referred to two letters included in the Board packet from the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau and Circle Vision, LLC (speaking for the Santa Ynez Water Group) regarding requests for agriculture/landowner representation on the GSA governing boards for each Management Area of the Basin, with all GSAs utilizing an equal voting structure. Mr. Garcia noted that ID No.1 has consistently requested and advocated for an equal form of voting for the EMA GSA, where each Director will have one vote and not wield more power than other Directors. He stated that the two agencies which currently have the weighted votes have expressed a desire to leave the voting structure unchanged and are reluctant to transition to a "one Director, one vote" system of decision making.

On another topic, Mr. Garcia referred to a comment letter recently submitted to DWR by the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the EMA Groundwater Sustainability Plan. He indicated that the comment letter is being reviewed by the member agencies of the GSA and will likely require a response to DWR. Mr. Garcia reported that the next meeting of the EMA GSA is scheduled for April 27, 2023.

**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 the April 2023 Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing.

Trustee Burchardi reported that the District has an opportunity to be involved with an upcoming community event known as "Airport Day" to be held at the Santa Ynez Airport on May 20, 2023. Mr. Garcia agreed that the District would be interested in participating in the event, as it did last year, and would coordinate with Trustee Burchardi.

Trustee Burchardi stated that he had attended the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Los Olivos Community Services District.

**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 May 16, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

**14. CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:20 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 public participation phone line was re-opened, and the Board reconvened to open session at approximately 5:20 p.m.

Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session concerning Agenda Items 14.A.1, 14.A.2, and 14.B and that there was no reportable action from the closed session.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Being no further business, it was **MOVED** by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustees Holzer and Urton absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:21 p.m.

**THE APRIL 18, 2023 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE REGULAR MAY 16, 2023 BOARD MEETING.**