SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1 APRIL 19, 2022 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 19**, **2022** in-person at 1070 Faraday Street and via teleconference.

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

1. <u>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:</u>

President Clay called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., he stated this was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Martone conducted roll call and reported that four Trustees were present, and Trustee Holzer was absent.

2. <u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:</u>

President Clay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. <u>REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS</u> FOR POSTING OF THE NOTICE AND AGENDA:

Ms. Martone presented the affidavit of posting of 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. The affidavit was filed as evidence of the posting of the Agenda items contained therein.

4. <u>CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 818:</u> A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings Under the Ralph M. Brown Act in Accordance with AB 361

Mr. Garcia presented Resolution No. 818 and explained that the pursuant to amendments to the Brown Act (Assembly Bill 361), public agencies are authorized to conduct remote meetings via video/teleconference during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided certain conditions exist and findings are made. He stated that in order for the Board to continue to meet under the provisions of AB 361, either remotely or under a hybrid approach of remote and in-person attendance, the Board is required to review and reconsider its determinations at least every 30 days. Mr. Garcia reported that because the State of California remains in a declared state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, approval of Resolution No. 818 would allow the Board to hold meetings under the provisions of AB 361.

No public comment was provided.

It was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Parker, seconded by Trustee Burchardi, to adopt Resolution No. 818, a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement No.1 Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings Under the Ralph M. Brown Act in Accordance with AB 361.

The Resolution was adopted and carried by the following 4-0-0 roll call vote:

AYES, Trustees:	Michael Burchardi Jeff Clay Brad Joos Lori Parker
NOES, Trustees:	None
ABSTAIN, Trustees:	None
ABSENT , Trustees:	Jeff Holzer

5. <u>ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA:</u> There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda.

6. <u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u>:

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.

7. <u>CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE:</u>

A. General Manager's Report

Mr. Garcia reported there have been no new or updated directives or guidance from the federal, state, or local health officials regarding COVID-19 restrictions. He stated that maintaining a healthy work environment and healthy workforce remains a high priority for the District.

8. <u>CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2022:</u> The Regular Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2022 were presented for consideration.

President Clay asked if there were any changes or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2022 as presented. No changes or additions were requested.

It was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Parker, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to approve the March 15, 2022 Minutes as presented.

9. <u>CONSENT AGENDA:</u>

The Consent Agenda Report was provided in the Board packet.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Consent Agenda materials for the month of April.

It was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Parker, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to approve the Consent Agenda.

10. <u>MANAGER REPORTS - STATUS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING</u> <u>SUBJECTS:</u>

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 emailed to the Board members earlier that afternoon 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 April. 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 the District revenues exceeded the expenses by \$64,921.17 and the year-to-date net income is \$2,082,251.40.

b) Approval of Accounts Payable

Ms. Martone announced that the Warrant List was emailed to the Board members this afternoon 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 24405 through 24470 in the amount of \$479,515.46.

It was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Burchardi, seconded by Trustee Joos, and carried by a 4-0-0 voice vote, with Trustee Holzer absent, to approve the Warrant List for March 16, 2022 through April 19, 2022.

11. <u>REPORT, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:</u>

A. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

1. Eastern Management Area Update

The Board packet included a March 24, 2022 Notice and Agenda for the Special Meeting of the Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

Mr. Garcia reported on the topics discussed at the March 24, 2022 meeting of the EMA GSA. He stated that the First Annual Report for the EMA was presented to the EMA GSA and was approved and adopted. He stated that the Annual Report was submitted to the Department of Water Resources by the due date of April 1, 2022. Mr. Garcia indicated that discussions continue related to future governance, projects and management actions, and funding. He reported that the next regular meeting of the GSA EMA will be held on May 26, 2022.

B. CALIFORNIA DROUGHT CONDITIONS

1. Update Regarding Statewide Drought Conditions

The Board packet included the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Current Reservoir Conditions; ACWA and DWR information relating to State Water Project Table A Allocation; Governor of California's Executive Order N-7-22; recent news articles relating to State Water Allocation; and a March 2022 Cloudseeding Report prepared by North American Weather Consultants, Inc.

Mr. Garcia reviewed the Board packet materials, including current and historical conditions of the major reservoirs in California as published by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). He reported that DWR issued a notice to the State Water Project Contractors announcing that the 2022 State Water Project Table A Allocation has been decreased from 15% to 5%. Mr. Garcia also discussed the March 28, 2022 news release regarding Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 that declares a drought emergency and calls on local water suppliers to activate drought contingency plans and orders the State Water Resources Water Board to consider a temporary ban on watering of decorative grass around commercial, industrial and institutional buildings. He explained that the Executive Order imposes unprecedented conditions on how counties and cities process applications for groundwater wells in high and medium priority basins,

including the need to obtain a specific verification from the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

C. CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY 2022 SUPPLEMENTAL WATER PURCHASE PROGRAM

1. Update Regarding District Involvement in CCWA's 2022 Supplemental Water Purchase Program on Behalf of the City of Solvang

Mr. Garcia reported that he has continued to coordinate with the City of Solvang to pursue supplemental water for the City through CCWA's Supplemental Water Purchase Program. He reported that given the recent reduction in the State Water Project allocation to 5% and continuing dry conditions, there is not a lot of water available to purchase at this time.

D. HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL

1. Update Regarding State Water Resources Control Board Proposed Hexavalent Chromium MCL of 10 Parts Per Billion

Mr. Garcia stated that on March 22, 2022 the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released a draft drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium (Chromium-6), proposing a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of ten parts per billion (ppb). He referred to the Board packet materials which discussed the history of the State Board's previous adoption of a 10 ppb standard in 2014, which was invalidated by a trial court decision in 2017 on the basis that the SWRCB did not adequately consider the economic feasibility of complying with the MCL. Mr. Garcia stated that the SWRCB held public workshops on April 5th and 7th regarding the proposed Chromium 6 MCL. He indicated that written comments on the draft MCL are due by April 29, 2022. Mr. Garcia stated a new MCL is expected to go into effect sometime in early 2024, if adopted by the SWRCB. He reported that the draft MCL proposes to give water systems, depending on their size, a compliance period that ranges from two to four years. Mr. Garcia stated the water agencies throughout the state that would be affected by the MCL are developing cost estimates to comply with a 10 ppb standard, and those estimates show that compliance costs would be much higher than what the SWRCB has indicated. He reported that detailed comment letters are being prepared by ACWA and the California Municipal Utilities Association, the Coachella Valley Water District, and others.

E. 2022 WATER RATES STUDY

1. Update Regarding District's 2022 5-Year Water Rates Study

Mr. Garcia reported that management has been working with Bartle Wells & Associates, the District's water rate consultant, to begin the process of developing a new 5-year Water Rate Study. He stated that a teleconference was held on March 31, 2022 among management, the water rate consultant, and the District's Water Rates Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Trustees Joos and Burchardi. Mr. Garcia summarized the meeting topics that were discussed. He stated that management and the Ad Hoc Committee will continue working with the rate consultant and provide further information to the Board as it becomes available.

12. CLAIM AGAINST DISTRICT BY SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE SECTION 905

1. Consideration and Action on Claim Against the District

Mr. Garcia recommended that the Board continue this item until after closed session. Consensus of the Board was to continue the item until after the closed session discussion.

13. <u>Reports by the Board Members or Staff, Questions of Staff, Status Reports,</u> <u>Announcements, Committee Reports, and Other Matters and/or Communications</u> <u>Not Requiring Board Action:</u>

The Board packet included an April 13, 2022 Los Olivos Community Services District Agenda, April 8, 2021 Santa Barbara County LAFCO Transmittal of Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 LAFCO Budget, April 2022 Aquapulse Notice of increased costs for sodium hypochlorite and fuel surcharge, and the April 2022 Family Farm Alliance Monthly Briefing.

- **14.** <u>CORRESPONDENCE: GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FILING OF VARIOUS ITEMS:</u> The Correspondence List was received by the Board.
- **15.** <u>**REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:**</u> There were no requests from the Board.

16. <u>Next Meeting of the Board of Trustees:</u>

President Clay stated the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for May 17, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

17. <u>CLOSED SESSION:</u>

The Board adjourned to closed session at 4:54 p.m.

A. <u>CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION</u>

[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

18. <u>**Reconvene Into Open Session:**</u>

[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 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Garcia announced that the Board met in closed session concerning Agenda Items 17.A.1 and 17.A.2 and that there was no reportable action from closed session.

12. CLAIM AGAINST DISTRICT BY SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PURSUANT TO GOVT. CODE SECTION 905

1. Consideration and Action on Claim Against the District

District legal counsel Gary Kvistad summarized the Government Code section 905 claim dated March 30, 2022 against the District by the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Following his summary of the claim, Mr. Kvistad recommended that the District Reject the claim, and tender the claim to the Central Coast Water Authority. It was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Clay, seconded by Trustee Parker, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustees Holzer and Burchardi absent, to reject the Government Code section 905 claim dated March 30, 2022 against the District by the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

It was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Clay, seconded by Trustee Parker, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustees Holzer and Burchardi absent, to tender the Government Code section 905 claim dated March 30, 2022 against the District by the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to the Central Coast Water Authority.

19. <u>ADJOURNMENT:</u>

Being no further business, it was <u>MOVED</u> by Trustee Joos, seconded by Trustee Clay, and carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote, with Trustees Holzer and Burchardi absent, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:50 p.m.

THE APRIL 19, 2022 MINUTES WERE APPROVED AT THE MAY 17, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.