

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT APRIL 24, 2024

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present (in person): Mark Altshuler, Robert Dunlap, Larry Lahr, and Brett Marymee
Directors Present (teleconference): Steve Jordan

Others Present (in-person): Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Alex Pappas, and Tyler Voyd
Others Present (teleconference): Amber Thompson, and Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge)

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Lahr called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Ms. Thompson called roll. All Directors were present providing a quorum.

Director Jordan attended the meeting via teleconference from 46250 East El Dorado, Indian Wells, CA 92210. The teleconference location was properly noticed. No members of the public joined Director Jordan at that location.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Lahr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

4. **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 20, 2024**

President Lahr submitted the minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 20, 2024, for Board approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Marymee made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 20, 2024, as presented. Director Dunlap seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Altshuler, Dunlap, Jordan, Lahr, Marymee
NOES, Directors: None
ABSENT, Directors: None

5. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 46TH ANNUAL ENGINEERING AND SURVEY REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR THE PREVIOUS WATER YEAR (2022-2023), CURRENT WATER YEAR (2023-2024), AND ENSUING WATER YEAR (2024-2025)**

a. Public Hearing

President Lahr opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Paeter Garcia, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1, noted that Improvement District No. 1 previously submitted a written comment on the Annual Report. Ms. Thompson announced that said comment was received by email on April 23, 2024, and would be made a part of the record. No other public comments were made.

Mr. Buelow provided a review of the Annual Report. Discussion followed. Mr. Curtis Lawler, Stetson Engineers, advised that the Report meets statutory requirements regarding hydrogeologic conditions and future groundwater production.

Ms. Thompson announced that she received the 46th Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, A Summary of Findings for the Previous Water Year (2022-2023), Current Water Year (2023-2024), and Ensuing Water Year (2024-2025), dated March 11, 2024 (Report) in writing on March 11, 2024, and that she posted it on the District's website for public access. The public hearing was properly noticed on April 3, 2024 in the Lompoc Record and April 4, 2024 in the Santa Ynez Valley News. Proofs of publication were included in the board packet. The Report has been available for more than the required 30-day review period including the availability to the public on the District's website and at the District office.

President Lahr closed the Public Hearing.

b. Receive Board Comments

Comments were received from various members of the Board of Directors.

c. Consider Approval and Acceptance of Annual Report Including the Findings and Determinations Therein and Any Appropriate Revisions

Director Marymee made a **MOTION** to approve and accept the 46th Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, A Summary of Findings for the Previous Water Year (2022-2023), Current Water Year (2023-2024), and Ensuing Water Year (2024-2025) including the Findings and Determinations therein. Director Altshuler seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Altshuler, Dunlap, Jordan, Lahr, Marymee

NOES, Directors: None

ABSENT, Directors: None

6. PRELIMINARY DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 ANNUAL BUDGET

Director Marymee requested Mr. Buelow present a full review of his memo accompanying the Preliminary Draft Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Budget. Mr. Buelow presented his staff memo and the Preliminary Draft Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Budget. Discussion followed.

The Board discussed the GSA Loan Shares in the budget. President Lahr asked if the GSA Loan Shares will be paid back with interest. The board requested the GSA Loan Share Agreement, once completed, be brought back for review and consideration.

The Board requested a graph of forecast of the reserves accounts.

7. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE, AND DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY TAKE BOARD ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

a. Discuss and Possibly Make Appointments of Board Representatives to:

Directors discussed SYRWCD representation to the three GSA governing bodies. There was no public comment.

i. Central Management Area GSA JPA Board

Director Marymee made a **MOTION** to appoint Director Lahr as Representative to the Central Management Area GSA JPA Board and Director Dunlap as the Alternate. Director Jordan seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Altshuler, Dunlap, Jordan, Lahr, Marymee
NOES, Directors: None
ABSENT, Directors: None

ii. Western Management Area GSA JPA Board

Director Lahr made a **MOTION** to appoint Director Joradan as Representative to the Western Management Area GSA JPA Board and Director Dunlap as the Alternate. Director Marymee seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Altshuler, Dunlap, Jordan, Lahr, Marymee
NOES, Directors: None
ABSENT, Directors: None

iii. Eastern Management Area GSA Committee

No changes were made to representation to the Eastern Management Area GSA Committee.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT

There was no attorney report.

9. REPORTS, ACTS BY BOARD MEMBERS, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, OBSERVATIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS, AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

Director Marymee reported that he attended the recent Santa Barbara County CSDA meeting. He recommended that the District participate in future recognition awards.

Director Jordan announced that although he has continued to promote the integration of administration for the three GSAs to reduce overall costs to each GSA, that has not happened, and he anticipates that costs will increase to the farmers as a result.

10. REQUESTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There were no requests.

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024, AT BUELLTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 140 WEST HIGHWAY 246, BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA

President Lahr announced that the next scheduled regular meeting of the Board meeting will be June 19, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

12. CLOSED SESSION

The Board took a break from 7:35 to 7:40 p.m. The Board convened into Closed Session from 7:40 p.m. to 8:43 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- a. Public Appointment/Employment/Performance Evaluation (Excluding Salary/Compensation) (Gov't Code § 54957(b)(1).) Title: General Manager
- b. Public Employment (Gov't Code § 54957(b)(1).) Title: SGM Program Manager; SGM Clerk; Water Resources Analyst/Biologist
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)): Wolff vs SYRWCD, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, Case No. 20CV01552 and Case No. 22CV02062
- d. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)) relating to proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding Permits 11308 and 11310 issued on Applications 11331 and 11332 of the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Cachuma Project, and complaints filed by the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance regarding the operation of the Cachuma Project and SWRCB Order WR 89-18; proposed changes to the place and purpose of use of waters obtained through aforementioned permits for the Cachuma

Project; and Reclamation's Petition for Reconsideration or Rehearing re Order WR 2019-0148; and proceedings related to SWRCB Permit No. 15878 (Application A022423) held by the City of Solvang including the City of Solvang's Petitions for Change and Extension of Time.

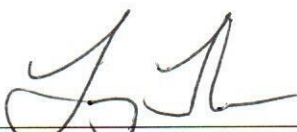
- e. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2)): Significant exposure to litigation (Two Matters).
- f. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(4)): Possible initiation of litigation (Two Matters).

13. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT

President Lahr advised there is nothing to report from Closed Session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Lahr adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.



Larry Lahr, President



Amber M. Thompson, Secretary