

ADJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT APRIL 28, 2023

Properly noticed in accordance with Gov. Code, § 54956 an adjourned special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California. At 12:00 p.m., there being a lack of quorum in attendance, the Board Secretary, Amber Thompson adjourned the meeting to Friday, April 28, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California and posted a written Notice of Adjournment on the outside wall of the Council Chambers building, in accordance with Gov. Code, § 54955. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Properly noticed in accordance with Gov. Code, § 54955, an adjourned special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Friday, April 28, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Cynthia Allen, Steve Jordan, and Brett Marymee

Directors Absent: Mark Altshuler and Art Hibbits

Others Present, in-person: General Manager Kevin Walsh and Board Secretary Amber Thompson

Others Present, remote participation: Miles McCammon (Stetson Engineers), Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge), and Art Hibbits.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Ms. Thompson called roll. Three Directors were present providing a quorum with Directors Altshuler and Hibbits absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Ms. Thompson announced she did not receive any public comment on a non-agenda item prior to the meeting. One public comment was received by email on April 26, 2023 regarding Agenda Item No. 5 and was provided to the Directors.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 15, 2023

President Allen submitted the minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 15, 2023 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 15, 2023, as presented. Director Jordan seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-2, with Directors Altshuler and Hibbits absent.

5. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 45TH 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 (2021-2022), CURRENT WATER YEAR (2022-2023), AND ENSUING WATER YEAR (2023-2024)

a. Open Public Hearing

President Allen opened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Ms. Thompson announced she received the Draft 45th Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, A Summary of Findings of the Previous Water Year (2021-2022), Current Water Year (2022-2023), and Ensuing Water Year (2023-2024) (“Report”) on March 10, 2023, and posted it to the District website (SYRWCD.com). Today’s hearing was properly noticed on March 29, 2023 in the Santa Barbara News-Press. The Report has been available for public review for more than the 30-day required review period with access on the District website and at the District office.

No public comments were received during the public hearing. One public comment was received by email to Mr. Kevin Walsh, General Manager on April 26, 2023, at 5:29 p.m. from Mr. Paeter Garcia, General Manager, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1. The written public comment was distributed to the Directors.

b. Close Public Hearing

There being no further public comments, President Allen closed the public hearing at 6:35 p.m.

c. Receive Board Comments

Mr. Kevin Walsh advised the Directors that on April 26, 2023 at 5:29 p.m., the District received email comments from Mr. Paeter Garcia, General Manager of ID No. 1. Those comments do not address the technical data in this Report. Instead, they restate ID No. 1’s position that SGMA somehow “supplants” the District’s authority and mandate under the Water Conservation District Law with respect to groundwater management. The District disagrees with that position. The remaining comments in the email are vague and conclusory. The only change District staff recommended based on the public comment email and on ID No. 1’s prior comments was as follows: on page 15 of the Report, replace the words “the entire staffing burden” with the words “a significant staff burden.”

Director comments were received. Mr. Miles McCammon, Stetson Engineers, provided a review of the Annual Report. Discussion followed.

d. Consider Action to Accept and File Annual Report Including the Findings and Determinations Therein and Any Appropriate Revisions

Director Allen made a **MOTION** to accept and file the 45th Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, make the Findings and Determinations stated on pages 10 and 11, and include the revision on page 15 to replace “the entire staffing burden” with “a significant staff burden.” Director Marymee seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-2 with Directors Altshuler and Hibbits absent by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Allen, Jordan, Marymee
NOES, Directors: None
ABSENT, Directors: Altshuler, Hibbits

6. PRELIMINARY DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 ANNUAL BUDGET

President Allen made a **MOTION** to table Agenda Items No. 6 through 16 until a future meeting. Director Marymee requested that Agenda Items No. 7 and 8 be addressed during this meeting. Board Secretary Amber Thompson recommended addressing Agenda Item No. 14 as well. The motion failed for lack of second.

President Allen made a **MOTION** to table Agenda Items No. 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16 until a future meeting. Director Marymee seconded, and the motion passed 3-0-2 vote with Directors Altshuler and Hibbits absent.

This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

7. DISCUSSION OF CLIMATE AND WATER SUPPLY IN REGARD TO ATMOSPHERIC RIVERS – REQUEST BY DIRECTOR MARYMEE

As a response to a prior request for information by Director Marymee, Mr. Walsh presented his Memorandum dated April 26, 2023 regarding Atmospheric River impact to climate and water supply and the relevant articles that were cited. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

8. DISCUSSION OF CACHUMA PROJECT MODIFIED WINTER STORM OPERATIONS – REQUEST BY DIRECTOR JORDAN

As a response to a prior request for information by Director Jordan, Mr. Walsh presented his Memorandum dated April 26, 2023 regarding Winter Storm Operations for the Cachuma Project. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

9. CONSIDER FORMING AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE REGARDING SGMA GSAS GOVERNANCE

This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

10. LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM DIRECTOR HIBBITS; DETERMINE WHETHER TO FILL VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT PURSUANT TO WATER CODE § 74204 AND GOV'T CODE § 1780

This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

11. ATTORNEY REPORT

This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

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

This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

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

This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

14. NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023, AT BUELLTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 140 WEST HIGHWAY 246, BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Board meeting will be June 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California. Discussion followed.

15. CLOSED SESSION

This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

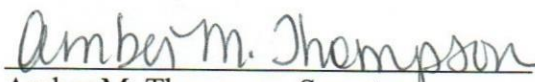
16. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no Closed Session. This agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.


Cynthia Allen, President


Amber M. Thompson, Secretary