

## NOTICE

### **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

will be held at

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District office  
3669 Sagunto St., Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California  
**at 6:30 p.m., THURSDAY, January 25, 2024**

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Director Steve Jordan will be attending the meeting via teleconference from the following location:  
El Dorado Country Club, 46000 Fairway Drive, Indian Wells, CA 92210.  
Members of the public may join Director Jordan at that location.

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### AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 6, 2023
4. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-agenda matter within the Board's jurisdiction. The total time for all public participation shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Board at this meeting on any public item.)  
*Staff recommends any potential new agenda items based on issues raised be held for discussion under the Agenda Item "Requests from the Board of Directors for items to be included on the next Agenda".*
5. Appointment of Board Representatives to CMA GSA JPA Board
6. Appointment of Board Representatives to WMA GSA JPA Board
7. Appointment to Fill Division 1 Director Vacancy pursuant to Government Code Section 1780(d)
  - a. Review and consider information from and regarding applicants and selection of appointee to fill the vacancy in the position of Division 1 Director
  - b. Consideration of adoption of Resolution No. 726 Making an Appointment to Fill the Vacancy in the Office of Director of Division 1
  - c. Oath of Office of Person Appointed to Fill Division 1 Director Vacancy
8. Appointment to Fill Division 1 Trustee Vacancy for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1) pursuant to Government Code Section 75166.2
  - a. Review and discuss recommendations, if any, from ID No. 1 pertaining to the selection of a candidate to fill the position of Trustee for Division 1 of ID No. 1
  - b. Consideration of candidates and selection of individual to fill the vacancy for Division 1 of the Board of Trustees of ID No. 1
  - c. Consideration of Resolution No. 727 Appointing Trustee for Division 1 of ID No.1

9. Update from Groundwater Sustainability Agency Governance Ad-Hoc Committee
10. Reports, acts by Board members, questions of staff, status reports, announcements, observations, and other matters, and/or communications not requiring action
11. Requests from the Board of Directors for items to be included on the next Agenda.
12. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2024, at 6:30 pm at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

*In compliance with the California Water Code, regular meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday in March, June, September, and December at various locations within the District. Special meetings may be held at any location within the District.*

13. Closed Session

The Board will hold a closed session to discuss the following items:

- a. Public Employee Performance Evaluation/Appointment/Employment. (Gov't Code § 54957(b)(1).) Title: General Manager; Assistant General Manager
- b. 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
- c. 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.
- d. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2)): Significant exposure to litigation (Two Matters).
- e. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(4)): Possible initiation of litigation (Two Matters).

14. Reconvene into Open Session / Closed Session Report

15. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted on the District website ([SYRWCD.com](http://SYRWCD.com)) and outside of the District office (3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California). The notice was delivered in accordance with Government Code Sections 54950-54963. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the District at (805) 693-1156 or come to the District office at 3669 Sagunto St., Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

### SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DECEMBER 6, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Cynthia Allen, Mark Altshuler, Steve Jordan, and Larry Lahr

Director Absent: Brett Marymee

Others Present, in-person: Joe Barget, Assistant General Manager Bill Buelow, and Board Secretary Amber Thompson

Others Present, remote participation: Laura Copple (Bartlett, Pringle, and Wolf, LLP) and Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge LLP)

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Ms. Thompson called roll. Four Directors were present providing a quorum.

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**President Allen made a MOTION to add a new item to the agenda as Item No. 10.a. "Board Vacancy" and move Item 10 "Officer Elections" to be Item 10.b. Director Altshuler seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by voice vote with Director Marymee being absent.**

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Joe Barget announced that during the December 5, 2023 Vandenberg Village Community Services District (VVCSD) Board of Directors meeting, the VVCSD Board appointed Cynthia Allen to the position of General Manager of VVCSD, effective December 31, 2023.

Ms. Thompson reported that no public comments were received prior to the meeting.

#### 4. RECEIVE AND FILE FY 2022-23 FINANCIAL AUDIT, PRESENTATION BY BARTLETT, PRINGLE & WOLF, LLP

Ms. Laura Copple, Audit Manager of Bartlett, Pringle and Wolf, LLP, presented highlights and main points from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Independent Auditor's Report and Report on Internal Controls for the year ended June 30, 2023. Discussion followed. There were no public comments.

Director Lahr made a **MOTION** to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Independent Auditor's Report and Report on Internal Controls. Director Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by voice vote with Director Marymee being absent.

Ms. Copple left the meeting.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2023, AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2023**

President Allen submitted the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2023, and the Special Meeting of October 19, 2023, for Board approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Jordan made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2023, and the Special Meeting of October 19, 2023, as presented. Director Lahr seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion passed 4-0-1, by voice vote with Director Marymee being absent.

**6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

a. Quarterly Investment Reports – 1<sup>ST</sup> quarter of FY 2023-2024

Ms. Thompson presented the Certification for Fiscal Year 2023-24, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Investment Report. There was no discussion, public comment, or action.

b. Quarterly Comparison Balance Sheet

Ms. Thompson presented the Balance Sheet - Quarterly Comparison of June 30, 2023 and September 30, 2023 Balance Sheets. There was no discussion, public comment, or action.

c. Balance Sheet & Profit/Loss Statement, FY 2023-24 Period 4, October 2023

Ms. Thompson presented the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report as of October 31, 2023. Discussion followed. There was no public comment or action.

d. Approval of Warrant Lists for August, September, and October 2023

Ms. Thompson presented the Warrant Lists for August, September, and October 2023. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Lahr made a **MOTION** to approve the August, September, and October 2023 warrant lists which include check #s 1176-1205 plus ACH transactions totaling \$3276,548.53. Director Altshuler seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Marymee being absent.

**7. GROUNDWATER PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Buelow reported that approximately \$284,500 in Groundwater Charges for the

production period of January 1 through June 30, 2023, has been received to date. He explained that receipts are lower than anticipated due to less pumping during the wet winter and spring. He reported that the July 1 through December 31, 2023 production statements are currently being prepared for mailing and staff continue to follow up on delinquent reports. There was no discussion, public comment, or action.

## 8. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) UPDATE

### a. Cost Share Agreement Among EMA GSA Agencies

Mr. Buelow reviewed the Interim Cost Sharing Agreement, Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin – Eastern Management Area (Agreement). He explained that this Agreement states that the member agencies of the Eastern Management Area (EMA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) each agrees to contribute funds to pay for one-quarter of certain EMA GSA costs and when the EMA GSA becomes funding independent then the EMA GSA will reimburse the member agencies for the contributions. He reported that the governing bodies of the City of Solvang and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 have approved the Agreement with the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors scheduled to consider the Agreement during a meeting in January 2024. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Mr. Barget left the meeting.

Director Jordan made a **MOTION** to approve the Interim Cost Sharing Agreement, Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin – Eastern Management Area and directs the Assistant General Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. Director Lahr seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Marymee being absent.

### b. DWR Grant Agreement

Mr. Buelow reported that staff and legal counsel reviewed draft DWR Grant Agreement and on December 1, 2023, returned it with a few minor changes and comments to DWR and are waiting for a response. He reported that the GSA split of the total grant funds will not be an equal one-third split as it will be based on the funds for project that were specifically requested and approved for.

Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani reported that the GSAs need to secure liability insurance as soon as possible. He recommended that as Grantee, before distributing any grant funds to the GSAs, the District should have a sub-agreements in place signed by GSA governing bodies specifying that the GSAs will also abide by the Grant Agreement terms and indemnify the District.

Mr. Buelow announced that an event with DWR representatives presenting a big ceremony check for the GSP implementation grant funds is being planned. More information will be distributed soon.

### c. Update on Basin Governance

Mr. Buelow announced that all member agencies of the Central Management Area

(CMA) GSA and the Western Management Area (WMA) GSA signed off on the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreements (JPAs) for both the CMA GSA and WMA GSA. The JPA documents will be registered with the State of California Secretary of State. In addition, DWR will be informed that the Memorandum of Agreements for the CMA and WMA are replaced by these JPAs.

Discussion followed. Director Jordan asked if an agreement should be made between the District and the JPAs for information sharing. He also asked if there should be a contract between the District and the JPAs designating the District as GSA Coordinator and to provide administrative services to the GSA.

Mr. Buelow reported that the EMA GSA is slowly making progress on future governance details.

Director Jordan provided an update from the SGMA Future Governance Ad-Hoc Committee.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment or action.

d. Update on GSPs submitted to DWR in 2022

Mr. Buelow reported that this agenda item was a request from Director Marymee. He reported that no determinations from DWR have been received on the three GSPs. The deadline to receive the determination from DWR is January 18, 2024.

9. **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 725 “CHANGING TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETINGS**

President Allen presented Resolution No. 725 CHANGING TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETINGS. Ms. Thompson explained the District’s needs for changing the scheduled day for regular meetings from the first Wednesday to the third Wednesday of the months specified in Water Code Section 74223. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Lahr made a **MOTION** to adopt Resolution No. 725 CHANGING TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETINGS, as presented. Director Altshuler seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by the following roll call vote:

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

10. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

a. Board Vacancy

Ms. Thompson reported that on December 6, 2024, she received a Letter of Resignation, effective December 31, 2023, from President Cynthia Allen, due to her new position as General Manager of Vandenberg Village Community Services (VVCSD). The spheres of influence of the District and VVCSD overlap and create an

incompatibility of offices. Ms. Thompson read the resignation letter to the Board. The other Directors congratulated President Allen on her promotion with VVCS D.

President Allen asked the other Directors how they would like to fill the vacancy in Division 1: through appointment by the Board or to call for an election. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Lahr made a **MOTION** to fill the vacancy of Division 1 by appointment and directed staff to take all necessary and appropriate steps for the appointment to be made before the deadline. Director Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Marymee being absent.

b. Officer Elections

President Allen opened Officer Elections and asked for nominations. Discussion followed. The Board, by unanimous consensus, decided to only take nominations for the office of President, effective December 31, 2023, and make no change to the office of Vice-President, since the current Vice-President, Director Marymee, was absent.

President Allen made a **MOTION** to nominate Director Lahr as President, effective December 31, 2023. Director Jordan seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Marymee being absent.

11. **CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS OF BOARD REPRESENTATIVES TO:**

a. Central Management Area GSA Committee

Mr. Buelow announced the current District representatives to the Central Management Area (CMA) GSA. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

Director Jordan made a **MOTION** to appoint Director Lahr as the representative and Director Jordan as the alternate representative to the CMA GSA, effective December 31, 2023. Director Altshuler seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Marymee being absent.

b. Eastern Management Area GSA Committee

Mr. Buelow announced the current District representatives to the Eastern Management Area GSA. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action. The current District representatives to the EMA GSA Committee remain unchanged.

c. Western Management Area GSA Committee

Mr. Buelow announced the current District representatives to the Western Management Area (WMA) GSA. Discussion followed. There was no public comment.

President Allen made a **MOTION** to appoint Director Jordan as representative and Director Altshuler as the alternate representative to the WMA GSA, effective December 31, 2023. Director Lahr seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Marymee being absent.

**12. 2024 LAFCO NOMINATIONS**

- a. Regular Special District Member
- b. Alternate Special District Member

President Allen presented the LAFCO Call for Nominations and Nomination Forms for both Regular and Alternate Special District Members. Discussion followed. The Board, by consensus, decided not to nominate anyone for either position. The request for nominations failed due to lack of action.

**13. ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Torigiani reported that he recently attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Annual Conference. He gathered information about liability insurance available for GSAs, at the request of District staff on behalf of the GSAs and forwarded the contact information to District staff.

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

Ms. Thompson distributed the 2024 Calendar of Meetings for SYRWCD Board of Directors and the governing boards of the three GSAs.

Ms. Thompson announced that the District received letters of congratulations from the Special Districts Risk Management Authority, on having no paid Property/Liability claims and no paid Workers Compensation claims for the program year 2022-23. She also announced that she recently attended the CSDA Board Secretary Conference in Monterey, CA and learned a lot of useful board secretary information. She reported that she plans to take courses and pursue the Essential Leadership Skill Certificate from the Special Districts Leadership Foundation (SDLF) and will apply for a SDLF scholarship to help cover costs of the courses.

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

There were no requests.

**16. NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024, AT 6:30 PM AT THE BUELLTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 140 WEST HIGHWAY 246, BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA**

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Board meeting will be March 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

**17. CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:31 p.m., President Allen closed the Open Session and the Board convened into Closed Session from 6:31 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. to discuss the following items:



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

**18. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Allen reconvened into Open Session at 9:20 p.m. and advised there was no action taken to report from Closed Session.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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Larry Lahr, President

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Amber M. Thompson, Secretary

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2024  
TO: President Larry Lahr      Mark Altshuler  
Brett Marymee                  Steve Jordan                  Steve Torigiani  
FROM: Amber Thompson, Secretary to the Board  
SUBJECT: Discussion and consider appointment of a Director to fill existing vacancy for Division 1

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**Recommendation**

Board of Directors review and discuss the attached applications and appoint a candidate to fill the vacant Board position for Division 1.

**Discussion**

California Government Code Section 1780 governs the process to fill a vacancy in any elective office on the governing board of a special district. Section 1780 allows the remaining members of the board to fill the vacancy either by appointment or by having a formal election. Section 1780(d)(1) allows the remaining members of the district board to make an appointment within 60 days after the effective date of the vacancy and requires the district to post a notice of vacancy in three or more conspicuous places in the district at least 15 days before the district board makes the appointment.

- The current term of Division 1 Director began December 2, 2022.
- The effective date of the vacancy for Division 1 Director was December 31, 2023.
- Notices of Vacancy were posted outside of the District office, City of Lompoc City Hall, and the City of Lompoc Public Library from December 28, 2023 through January 17, 2024, or longer.

Section 1780 states that if the vacancy occurs in the first half of a term of office and at least 130 days prior to the next general district election, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office until the next general district election and thereafter until the person who is elected at that election has been qualified.

- The term of the appointment will end December 2024.
- Division 1 Director will be up for election during the November 2024 General Election with a two-year term, ending December 2026, and again during the November 2026 General Election with a four-year term, ending December 2030.

**Alternatives Considered by the Board**

- Fill the vacancy through a formal election.
- Do not appoint anyone within 60 days of June 30, 2023, in which case the County Board of Supervisors may appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

**Background**

At the December 6, 2023 Regular Meeting, the Board received Director Allen's letter of resignation, effective December 31, 2023, discussed options, and decided to seek candidates to consider for appointment to fill the vacancy in the office of Director for Division 1 and directed staff to take all necessary steps and complete the required notifications.

- **Action: Choose candidate to appoint**
- **Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 726. Roll Call vote.**
- **Board Secretary to administer Oath of Office**

Attachments: Candidate applications received for Director Division 1; Resolution No. 726

NOTICE OF VACANCY IN ELECTIVE OFFICE  
(Government Code §1780, Water Code Section 74204)

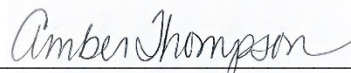
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there is a vacancy in the elective office of Director on the governing Board of Directors of the SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, Division 1. The vacancy occurred because of the resignation of CYNTHIA ALLEN, effective December 31, 2023.

The remaining members of the District's Board of Directors (Board) intend to fill this vacancy by appointment pursuant to Government Code section 1780, subd. (d). The person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office until the next District election in November of 2024, and thereafter until the person who is elected at that election to fill the vacancy has been qualified. The person elected to fill the vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired balance of the four-year term of office (i.e., until the following District election in November of 2026). The boundaries of Division 1 are described below and shown on the next page.

**DIVISION 1** is described generally as follows: Beginning at a point on the western boundary of the current Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (District), said point also being the mouth of the Santa Ynez River at the Pacific Ocean; thence easterly along the Santa Ynez River to the intersection with H St, said H St is also known as State Highway 1; thence southerly along H St/State Highway 1 to the intersection with Central Ave; thence easterly along Central Ave to the intersection with D St; thence southerly along D St to the intersection with North Ave; thence easterly along North Ave to the intersection with C St; thence southerly along said C St to the intersection with Pine Ave; thence westerly along Pine Ave to the intersection with F St; thence southerly along F St to the intersection with College Ave; thence westerly along College Ave to the intersection with R St; thence southerly along R St to the intersection with Laurel Ave; thence westerly along Laurel Ave to the intersection with V St; thence southerly along V St to the intersection with Ocean Ave; thence westerly along Ocean Ave to the intersection with De Wolff Ave and La Salle Canyon Rd; thence following La Salle Canyon Rd first southerly, then westerly and then southerly along La Salle Canyon Rd to a point on the southern boundary of the District, said point also being the intersection with the boundary of the Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB); thence generally westerly following along said southern boundary of the District to a point, said point being the intersection with the mean tide of the Pacific Ocean; thence generally northly along mean tide of the Pacific Ocean, also being the western boundary of the District to the mouth of the Santa Ynez River, and the point of beginning.

Applicants for this position are requested to deliver or mail a completed Candidate's Statement of Qualifications (available at [SYRWCD.com](http://SYRWCD.com) or the District office) to the District by **either U.S. Mail** to Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, P.O. Box 719, Santa Ynez, CA 93460, **email** [athompson@syrwcd.com](mailto:athompson@syrwcd.com), **or hand-delivery** at the District office, 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite #101, Santa Ynez, CA **to arrive no later than 5:00 p.m., January 17, 2024.**

For additional information, please contact Amber Thompson, District Secretary, 805-693-1156, ext. 405 or [athompson@syrwcd.com](mailto:athompson@syrwcd.com).

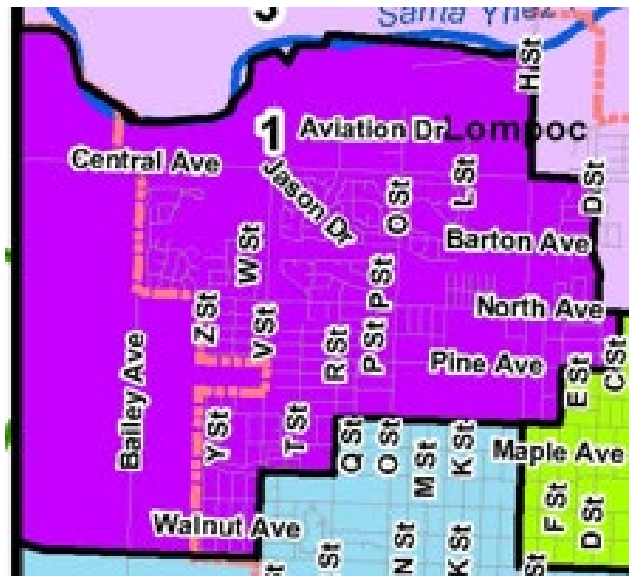
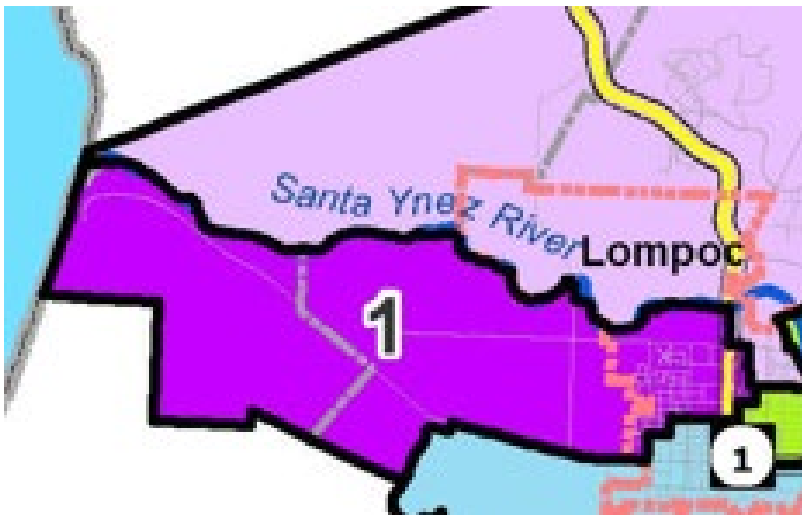
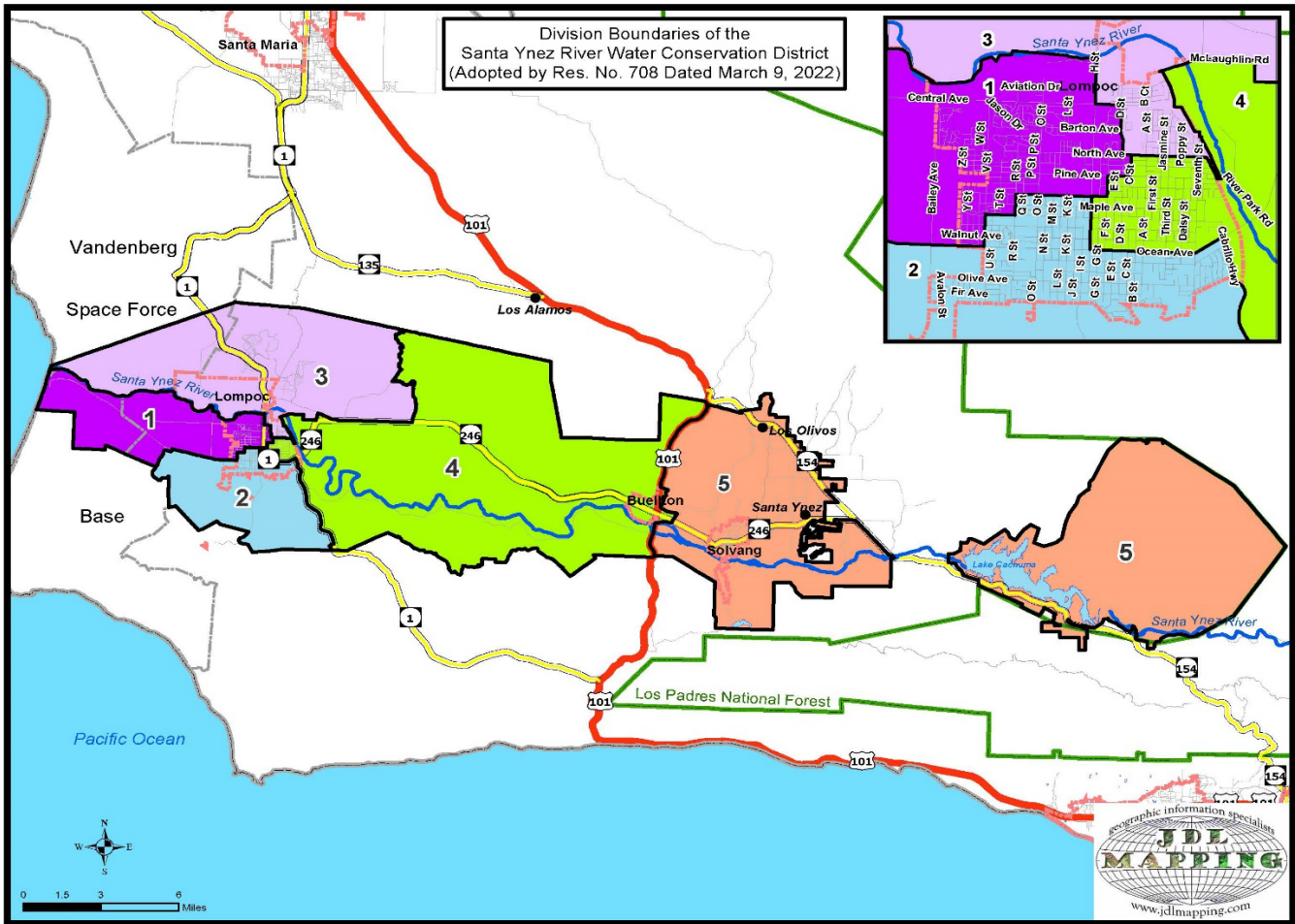


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AMBER M. THOMPSON  
Secretary of the Board of Directors

Pursuant to Government Code §1780, this notice will be posted for at least 15 days in 3 or more conspicuous locations in the district from 12/28/2023 to 01/17/2024

NOTICE OF VACANCY IN ELECTIVE OFFICE  
(Government Code §1780, Water Code Section 74204)

Maps of Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Division 1



Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District  
Division 1 Director  
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications

Justin M. Ruhge  
525 Brookside Dr.  
805-7379536  
[jaruhge@hotmail.com](mailto:jaruhge@hotmail.com)

Are you a voter in Division 1? YES

See attached Resume

Why do you want to serve?

The attached resume shows the many organizations on which I have volunteered to serve. The management of the Santa Ynez ground water basin is an important part of our local infrastructure needed for agriculture. My years of technical and management experience may be valuable in this position for Director in the Division 1.

What board or committee experience do you have?

Extensive experience in government as well as technical, per my enclosed Resume.

What special skills, talents experience do you have?

Extensive volunteer projects over many years, per my enclosed Resume.

What is your overall vision of this position?

I have reviewed the current reports on Division 1 provided by the Secretary. I will get up to speed and work with the other Districts to manage the available water for the requested uses by agriculture.

*Justin M. Ruhge*

1-10-2024

RECEIVED JAN 12 2024

Justin M. Ruhge

Degrees, BA in Physics, and MS in Engineering from UCLA,

Over 40 years, Mr. Ruhge worked for seven military aerospace companies including Bell Aerospace Textron, American Standard, Hughes Aircraft, and General Motors. He worked for the Naval Bureau of Ordnance at Michelson Laboratory at the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS), China Lake, CA in 1956 (now the Naval Weapons Center). While at China Lake he acquired two patents for the U.S. Navy as a result of developing various electro-optical systems.

Mr. Ruhge was on the team that developed the first laser guided bomb system used in the Vietnam War called Pave Knife. He was in charge of the First Night Vision system used to rescue pilots in Vietnam. This program had a Nixon Presidential Priority. He was Project Engineer at Hughes Aircraft for the M1 Abrahams Tank gun fire control night vision system. He was in charge of the early work on military low light television for night landings at Bell Aerospace. He designed and delivered many night vision systems for US and foreign governments. At Hughes Aircraft, he was program manager on the Israeli Merkava night vision gun fire control system.

Mr. Ruhge headed up the task group at Delco Electronics Systems, a Div. of General Motors, in Goleta that developed the Forward Looking Infrared (FIR) sight for the Marine Light Armored Vehicle(LAV). Mr. Ruhge led the team that developed the computer processor for the McDonald Douglas Apache Gunship Helicopter.

Besides his experience with electro-optical systems, Mr. Ruhge was a new business manager on military computers and navigation systems at Delco Electronics Systems, Div. of General Motors, in Goleta.

He was elected to the Sigma Xi Research Society in 1964. Several technical papers were published by Mr. Ruhge at The Naval Weapons Center, China Lake.

Besides major roles as program manager Mr. Ruhge also served as a section head and department manager during his career. Mr. Ruhge traveled extensively in the US and internationally on business and vacations.

Mr. Ruhge published numerous articles and letters in local and national newspapers and magazines over a period of 40 years.

Mr. Ruhge also published 17 books on local, county and state history. A local history column was published weekly in the Goleta Sun and a history program on a local radio station sponsored by the Goleta Chamber of Commerce was aired each week. Some of Mr. Ruhge's books are in the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Library and Pentagon Library.

Civic positions included:

Board of the oversight committee for the Lompoc Hospital Bond-4 years. Board of the oversight committee Lompoc School Bond-2 years. President of the Lompoc Valley Republican Club for 2006-10; Member of the County Republican Party Board; Member of the 1999-2000 County Grand Jury; Member of the Board of the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association-14 years, two years as president; Appointed to the Lompoc Economic Development Committee (EDC); Mr. Ruhge took an active part in the Goleta cityhood campaigns and was chairman in 1993. Board of Goletan's Organized for Orderly Development, one year as president supporting Cityhood-three campaigns; The Board of the Goleta Valley Historical Society, 9 years, 3 years as Historian, founder and editor of the

Historical Notes; Advisory Committee of the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Appointed Founding Trustee in 2001; Community advisory committee for Mobile Clearview Project; Publicity committee for the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce Lemon Festival; Board of the Goleta Old Town Organization; County Historical structures Committee; The boards of three homeowners associations; Candidate for the Goleta Valley Water Board in 1979 and 1986; Santa Barbara County cannon committee; and a member of many other civic, political and professional organizations.

**Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD)  
Board of Directors, Division 1 Director  
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment of Resume, letters of recommendation, or additional information is optional.

<b>Are you a registered voter with in the boundaries of SYRWCD, Division 1?</b> <b>(Response Required)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
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**Why do you want to serve on the SYRWCD Board of Directors? (Response Required)**

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**What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member?**  
**(Response Required)**

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**What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?  
(Response Required)**

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**What is your overall vision for SYRWCD? (Response Required)**

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**I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), Director of Division 1. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SYRWCD's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for appointment to the Board of Directors.**

Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Amber Thompson

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**From:** ROBERT DUNLAP <rdrmotersports@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 5:35 PM  
**To:** Amber Thompson  
**Subject:** Statement of Qualifications

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

[Allow sender](#) | [Block sender](#)

Robert Dunlap  
1136 West Barton Ave  
1136 West Barton Ave  
805 705 7586  
rdrmotersports@msn.com

Are you a registered voter with in the boundaries of SYRWCD,Division 1 (Yes)

Why do you want to serve? ( I want to protect the rights of the Lompoc area and keep informed on State water right changes that may impact the Valley negatively.)

What Board or committee experience do you have ( I was appointed to the Lompoc Utility Commission for a couple of years and have been apart of many non-profit agencies )

What special skills do you have (Worked in the water industry for 34 years, )

What is your vision ( What to have things be administered fairly and as economical as possible )

Thank you,  
Robert Dunlap  
1/17/24

Jan 24, 2024

To: SYRWCD Directors

Re: Director Vacancy

I would like to recommend Robert Dunlap for the open position on the Board representing part of the Lompoc Valley. I believe I know what kind of person would work well on the Board as I served previously for 8 years as the Buellton representative.

I have known Mr. Dunlap for many years now. His experience working for COMB until retirement gives him a unique understanding on how the Santa Ynez River operates. His years on the Lompoc Utility Commission gives him valuable insight on how a Board functions. He has great interaction as well with the farming community in the Lompoc Valley.

Beyond this, Mr. Dunlap is a man of great integrity, strong work ethic and a listening ear. He has an ability to work with people as he has good people skills.

I highly recommend Robert Dunlap to fill the vacant position on your Board.

Thank you,  
Jay Fisher  
fisherflowers@gmail.com

**RESOLUTION NO. 726**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
APPOINTING \_\_\_\_\_ TO FILL THE VACANCY  
IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF DIVISION 1**

**WHEREAS**, by reason of the resignation of CYNTHIA ALLEN, effective December 31, 2023, a vacancy has been created in the office of Director of Division 1 of this District, and the District timely notified the county elections official of said vacancy as required by Government Code Section 1780(b); and

**WHEREAS**, Government Code Section 1780 (referenced and incorporated by Water Code §74202) authorizes this Board to appoint a person to fill the vacancy and serve until the next general district election scheduled one hundred thirty (130) or more days after the effective date of the vacancy; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board previously elected to fill said vacancy by appointment pursuant to Section 1780(d); and

**WHEREAS**, a Notice of Vacancy, including notice of the District's election to fill said vacancy by appointment, was duly posted as required by Government Code Section 1780 at three (3) conspicuous places within the District not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the adoption of this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the power and privilege of filling said vacancy by appointment now rests with the remaining members of the Board of Directors by virtue of said Section 1780; and

**WHEREAS**, \_\_\_\_\_ is knowledgeable about the affairs of the District and has been determined by this Board of Directors as an appropriate person to fill said vacancy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by this Board of Directors as follows:

1. That \_\_\_\_\_ be and hereby is appointed to the office of Director of Division 1 of this District, formerly held by CYNTHIA ALLEN, to hold said office until the next general district election and thereafter until the person who is elected at that election has been qualified.
2. That the Secretary of the District prepare and transmit to the Secretary of State and the Santa Barbara County Clerk an amended Statement of Fact as required by Government Code Section 53051(b) and notify said county elections official of said appointment no later than 15 days after the appointment.
3. That the District's staff and attorneys are authorized to do all things necessary to carry out the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_.

The foregoing resolution being on motion of Director \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Director \_\_\_\_\_, was authorized by the following vote:

**AYES**, and in favor thereof, Directors:

**NOES**, Directors:

**ABSENT/ABSTAINING**, Directors:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of said district as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors at a special meeting duly held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_

Larry Lahr, President

\_\_\_\_\_

Amber M. Thompson, Secretary

DRAFT



December 27, 2023

**Sent Via First Class and Electronic Mail:**  
([callen@syrwcd.com](mailto:callen@syrwcd.com); [kwalsh@syrwcd.com](mailto:kwalsh@syrwcd.com))

**HONORARY  
TRUSTEE:**  
Harlan J. Burchardi  
1969-2020

**TRUSTEES:**

**DIVISION 1**  
Jeff Holzer

**DIVISION 2**  
Jeff Clay

**DIVISION 3**  
Nick Urton

**DIVISION 4**  
Michael Burchardi

**TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE**  
Brad Joos

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Paeter E. Garcia

Cynthia Allen  
President, Board of Directors  
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District  
P.O. Box 719  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Re: Notice of Vacancy on Board of Trustees – Division 1  
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District,  
Improvement District No.1

Dear President Allen:

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 (ID No.1) sends this notification regarding a vacancy that has occurred on the Board of Trustees for ID No.1. The Office of Trustee for Division 1 of ID No.1 became vacant effective December 26, 2023 upon the resignation of Trustee Jeff Holzer.

We look forward to coordinating with the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District regarding an appointment to fill the vacancy on the ID No.1 Board of Trustees.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please feel free to contact me at (805) 688-6015 or via email at [pgarcia@syrwd.org](mailto:pgarcia@syrwd.org).

Sincerely,

Paeter E. Garcia  
General Manager

cc: Mary Robel, Assistant General Manager, ID No.1  
Kevin Walsh, General Manager, SYRWCD (via email)  
Steve Torigiani, Young Wooldridge, LLP (via email)

## Amber Thompson

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**From:** Mary Robel <mmartone@syrwd.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:48 AM  
**To:** Amber Thompson  
**Cc:** Paeter Garcia  
**Subject:** Appointment for ID No.1 Board - Division 1  
**Attachments:** Board Matters - Notice of Vacancy Letter to County Elections Office (December 27 2023).pdf; Board Matters - Notice of Vacancy Letter to Parent District President (December 27 2023).pdf; Board Matters - Moniot - Submitted Application for ID No.1 Board Vacancy - Division 1 (January 5 2024).pdf

This sender is trusted.

Hi Amber,

I hope you are doing well. As you and Paeter have discussed, the Office of Trustee for Division 1 of the ID No. 1 Board became vacant effective December 26, 2023 upon the resignation of Trustee Jeff Holzer. Our District sent formal written notices of the vacancy to the Santa Barbara County Elections Office and to the SYRWCD Board President. (Copies of those letters are attached hereto for reference.) We also posted public notice of the vacancy in accordance with applicable provisions of the Government Code. The application period for the Division 1 vacancy closed on January 12, 2024. ID No.1 received one application for the Trustee position. (A copy of the application submitted by Mark Moniot is attached hereto.) We confirmed that the applicant meets the requirements for holding the position of an ID No.1 Trustee in accordance with Water Code section 75166.2. At a regularly scheduled Board meeting conducted on January 16, 2024 the ID No.1 Board considered the Agenda Item regarding the vacancy for Division 1 and reviewed the application submitted by Mr. Moniot. By motion and roll call vote, the ID No.1 Board approved the application submitted by Mr. Moniot and made its formal recommendation for the SYRWCD Board of Directors to appoint Mark Moniot as the Division 1 Trustee for the ID No.1 Board of Trustees.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you and take care,

*Mary Robel*

Assistant General Manager  
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District,  
Improvement District No.1  
P.O. Box 157 (Mail)  
3622 Sagunto Street (Physical)  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460  
(805)688-6015 (P)  
(805)688-3078 (F)



**Public Notice for Board of Trustees Vacancy**  
**Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District,**  
**Improvement District No.1**

The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1 ("ID No.1" or "District") hereby provides public notice that a vacancy has arisen for Division 1 of the District's Board of Trustees. In accordance with Water Code section 75166.2, vacancies on the District's Board of Trustees are filled by appointment by the Board of Directors for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ("SYRWCD").

The ID No.1 Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing the policy and direction of the District. The Board consists of five representatives, four of whom are elected by division and one of whom is elected at-large. The individual appointed to fill the current vacancy will serve until a new Division 1 Trustee is elected and qualified through the next general election process scheduled for November 5, 2024. The appointed individual may run in that election process for Division 1.

Individuals interested in being considered for appointment to the Division 1 seat on the ID No.1 Board through November 2024 must submit a written application on the form available from ID No.1. Application forms can be obtained by contacting ID No.1 via telephone at (805) 688-6015, via email at [general@syrwd.org](mailto:general@syrwd.org), or by visiting ID No.1's website at [www.syrwd.org](http://www.syrwd.org). Completed application forms must be received by ID No.1 no later than January 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. For purposes of this appointment, Water Code section 75166.2 requires the Trustee for Division 1 to be a registered voter and holder of title to land in Division 1 of the District. A map of the ID No.1 Division boundaries is included with this notice. Applicants previously convicted of certain felony crimes may not be eligible to hold public office in California.

Public meetings of ID No.1 and the SYRWCD will be held sometime after January 12, 2024 to consider applications and make an appointment to fill the Division 1 vacancy for the ID No.1 Board of Trustees. The date(s) and time(s) of those meetings will be determined and noticed by ID No.1 and SYRWCD.

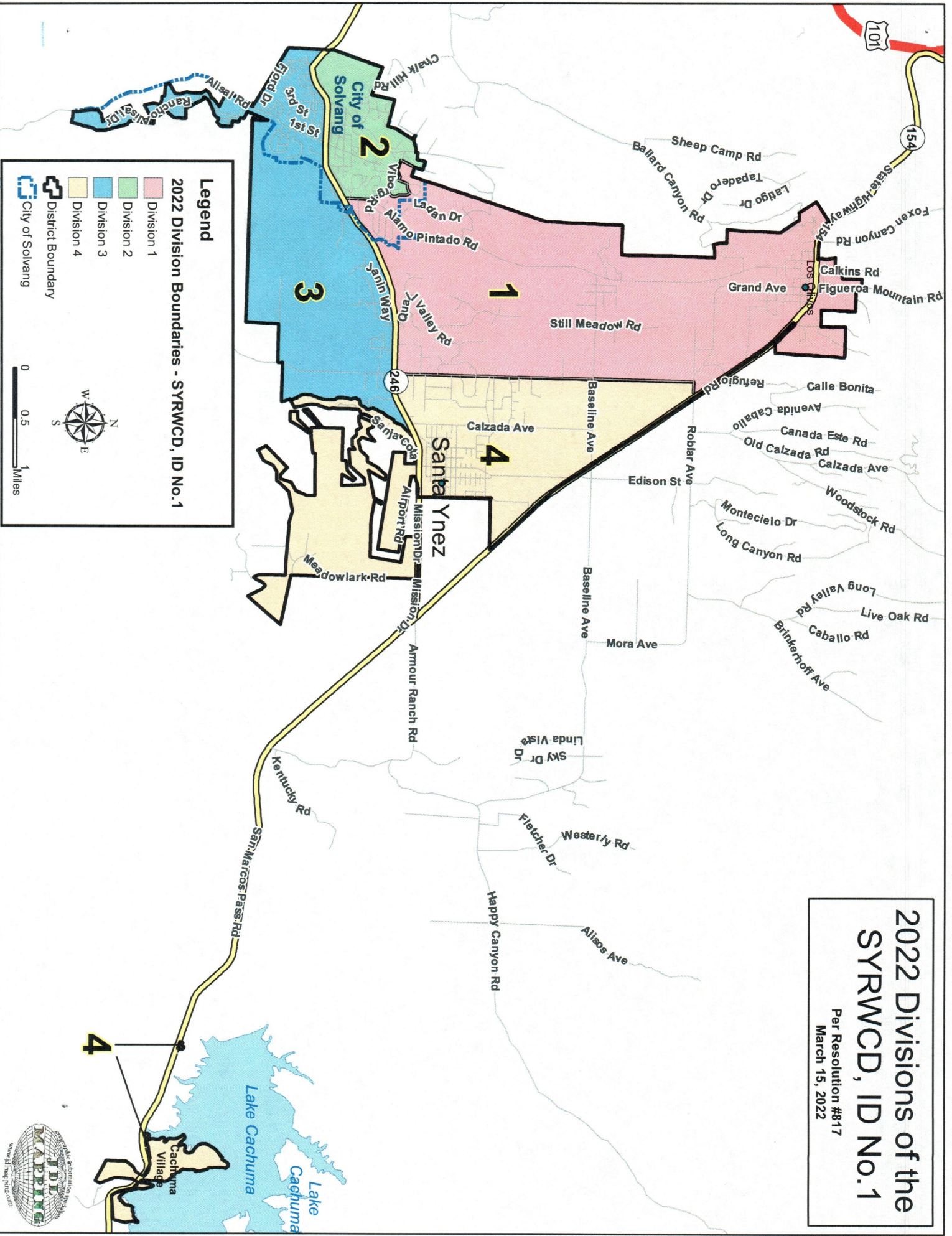
For more information, please contact: Paeter Garcia, General Manager, or Mary Robel, Secretary to the Board of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, by mail at P.O. Box 157, Santa Ynez, CA 93460, by phone at (805) 688-6015, or via email at [general@syrwd.org](mailto:general@syrwd.org).

Notice Posting Date: December 26, 2023



# 2022 Divisions of the SYRWCD, ID No.1

Per Resolution #817  
March 15, 2022



**Board of Trustees of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District  
Improvement District No.1**

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees for Division 1 of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No.1, please complete this application for and return it to: Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. Attention Mary Robel, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, by mail-at P.O. Box 157, Santa Ynez CA 93460, at our ID No.1 Office Dropbox at 3622 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez, or via email [general@syrwd.org](mailto:general@syrwd.org). **Applications must be received by ID No.1 no later than January 1 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** For questions regarding this form, please call (805) 688-6015.

Name: MARK MONIOT  
 Residence Address: 3150 LARKINS Rd LOS OLIVOS  
 Business or Mailing Address: P.O. Box 302 LOS OLIVOS (805)  
 Phone: (Home): — (Office): — (Cell) 689-6703  
 E-Mail: MMELEC1@VERIZON.NET

EDUCATION			
Institution	Major	Degree	Year
2 yrs Jr College	—	—	73-74

(Please use additional page if more space is needed)

WORK / VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE				
Organization	City	Position	From	To
Electrical Contractor	Los Olivos	owner (Retired)	1983	2023
V.P. Santa Ynez Youth Recreation			2000	Current
10 yrs Los Olivos	Board member		1987	1997

(Please use additional page if more space is needed)

**Statement of Qualifications:** (Please briefly describe your qualifications and why you are interested in serving on the ID No.1 Board of Trustees. Please use an additional page if more space is needed.)

Born and raised in the valley, Lived in Los Olivos 47 years, I have been on other boards than I listed and I have always been involved in the community, NOT only Los Olivos but the entire Santa Ynez valley

Are You a Registered Voter in Division 1 of ID No.1: Yes  No

Are You a Holder of Title to Land in Division 1 of ID No.1: Yes  No

S.Y.R.W.C.D. ID.#1

JAN 05 2024

RECEIVED

**Please Attach Separate Page Identifying a Minimum of Three (3) Professional or Personal References, Including Affiliations, Periods Known, and Daytime Telephone Numbers**

## References

Mike Burchardi	65 yrs	886-9844
Joe Comei	20 yrs	478-2604
Barney Hanly	60 yrs	896-2890
Greg Clark (Attorney)	40 yrs	688-6225

**RESOLUTION NO. 727**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
APPOINTING MARK MONIOT TO THE POSITION OF TRUSTEE OF DIVISION 1  
OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**WHEREAS**, a vacancy exists in the position of Trustee of Division 1 of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, California Water Code Section 75166.2 requires that any vacancy on the Improvement District No. 1 Board of Trustees be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of Improvement District No. 1 met to deliberate concerning the field of applicants and, in the interest of furthering local governance, was afforded the opportunity to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District met to receive and consider the recommendation, if any, of the Board of Trustees of Improvement District No. 1, and to consider the field of applicants, and to deliberate concerning the selection of an individual to fill the vacancy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Mark Moniot is hereby appointed to the position of Trustee of Division 1 of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 Board of Trustees.

The foregoing resolution being on motion of Director \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Director \_\_\_\_\_, was authorized by the following roll call vote:

**AYES**, and in favor thereof, Directors:

**NOES**, Directors:

**ABSENT/ABSTAINING**, Directors:

**CERTIFICATION**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution of said district as duly passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District at a special meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

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Larry Lahr, President

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Amber M. Thompson, Secretary

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