

## NOTICE

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

will be held on April 20, 2026, at 10:00 am  
at Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California

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Director Steve Jordan will be attending the meeting via teleconference from the following location:  
46250 East El Dorado, Indian Wells, CA 92210. Members of the public may join Director Jordan at that location.

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### **AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Additions, if any, to the Agenda
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. Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 17, 2026
6. **PUBLIC HEARING** on the 48<sup>th</sup> 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 (2024-2025), Current Water Year (2025-2026), and Ensuing Water Year (2026-2027)
  - a. Public Hearing  
*Any member of the public may address the Board relating to the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Report. The time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes.*
  - b. Receive Board Comments
  - c. Consider Approval and Acceptance of Annual Report Including the Findings and Determinations Therein and Any Appropriate Revisions
7. Attorney Report
8. Reports, acts by Board members, questions of staff, status reports, announcements, observations, and other matters, and/or communications not requiring action.
9. Requests from the Board of Directors for items to be included on the next Agenda.
10. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

*In compliance with the California Water Code and SYRWCD Board Resolution No. 741, regular meetings are scheduled for the third Monday in March, June, September, and December at various locations within the District. Special meetings may be held at any location within the District.*

11. Closed Session

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

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)): In the matter of Petition for Change of City of Solvang for Water Right Permit No. 15878 (Application A022423), which authorizes diversion of water from the Santa Ynez River (underflow) in Santa Barbara County, pending before the State Water Resources Control Board Office of Administrative Hearings.
- b. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2)): Significant exposure to litigation (Three Matters).
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(4)): Possible initiation of litigation (Five Matters).

12. Reconvene into Open Session / Closed Session Report

13. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted on the District website ([SYRWCD.com](http://SYRWCD.com)) and at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California. 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. 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  
MARCH 17, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Philip Carpenter, Robert Dunlap, Larry Lahr, and Brett Marymee

Director Absent: Steve Jordan

Others Present (in-person): Bill Buelow, Paeter Garcia, Alex Pappas, and Amber Thompson

Others Present (teleconference): Steve Torigiani and Brett Stroud (Young Wooldridge)

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

President Lahr called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Ms. Thompson called roll. Four Directors were present providing a quorum.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Lahr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ADDITIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

Mr. Buelow announced that Agenda Item No. 5 and No. 6 needed to be tabled.

The Board considered a request to move Agenda Item No. 18, Closed Session, and 19, Reconvene into Open Session / Closed Session Report, earlier in the meeting. The Board agreed to address Item Nos. 18 and 19 after Item No. 6.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**5. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM PAUL WHIPPLE OF EMPOWER REGARDING A PROPOSED RETIREMENT PLANS AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING CHANGE TO RETIREMENT PLANS**

Agenda Item No. 5 was tabled.

**6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO.742, CHANGING PROVIDER FOR RETIREMENT PLANS**

Agenda Item No. 6 was tabled.

**Agenda Item No. 18, CLOSED SESSION, and Item No. 19, RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT, were addressed after Item No. 6.** The Board convened into Closed Session from 5:35 p.m. to 6:43 p.m. Legal Counsel Brett Stroud left the meeting at the end of Closed Session, and the Board reconvened into open session continuing with Item No. 7.

**7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 741, CHANGING TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETINGS**

In response to the Board direction received at the last meeting, Mr. Buelow introduced Resolution No. 741, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CHANGING TIME AND PLACE OF REGUALR MEETINGS, to change the time of regular meetings to the THIRD MONDAY in March, June, September, and December, at 10:00 am, beginning June 15, 2026. There was no discussion or no public comment.

Director Marymee made a MOTION to adopt Resolution No. 741 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT CHANGING TIME AND PLACE OF REGUALR MEETINGS, as written. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 by the following roll-call vote:

AYES, Directors: Carpenter, Dunlap, Lahr, and Marymee  
NOES, Directors: None  
ABSENT, Directors: Jordan

**8. ANNUAL REPORT (WATER CODE, § 75560, ET. SEQ.)**

a. Report of Receipt of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions in the District (Annual Report) for review (Gov. Code § 75570)

Ms. Thompson reported, as Board Secretary, she received the written 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions in the District (“Annual Report”) on March 10, 2026. The report was posted to the District website for public access and is available at the District office.

b. Authorize Publication of Notice of Receipt of Annual Report and Public Hearing Theron and Schedule Special Meeting for such Public Hearing (Gov. Code § 6061; Water Code §§ 75571-75573)

The Board discussed possible dates to schedule a Special Meeting for a Public Hearing for the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Report in April. Ms. Thompson reported on availability of the Buellton City Council Chambers.

Director Marymee made a MOTION to authorize publication of Notice of Receipt of Annual Report and Public Hearing for the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Report thereon and directed staff to schedule a Special Meeting for such Public Hearing to be held on Monday, April 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m. at Buellton City Council Chambers. Director Carpenter seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Jordan being absent.

**9. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2025
- b. Financial Reports for FY 2025-2026, Period 6 and Period 7
- c. Warrant Lists for November 2025, December 2025, and January 2026
- d. Quarterly Investment Report
- e. Consider Statement of Investment Policy (Gov. Code § 53646(a))

Director Marymee pulled Agenda Item No. 9.b. for discussion.

Director Carpenter made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding Agenda Item No. 9b. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 by voice vote with Director Jordan being absent.

Discussion followed on Agenda Item No. 9.b.

Director Marymee made a **MOTION** to approve Financial Reports for FY 2025-2026, Period 6 and Period 7, as presented. Director Dunlap seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 by voice vote with Director Jordan being absent.

**10. DISCUSS FY 2026-2027 PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET**

Mr. Buelow presented a Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Preliminary Draft Budget. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

**11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT, STATUS AND DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

- a. Surface Water Program

Mr. Pappas provided an update on the Surface Water Program and presented the Santa Barbara County Rainfall and Reservoir Report. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

- b. Groundwater Program

Mr. Buelow reported that reports and payments of Groundwater Production and Groundwater Charges, respectively, are on target. He provided an update on the online database, reporting, and payment system being developed by Stetson Engineers. Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

c. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act:

i. WMA, CMA, and EMA

Mr. Buelow reported on the Joint GSAs Boards meeting held on March 13, 2026 and the Basin Annual Report that was approved during that meeting and is expected to be submitted to DWR ahead of the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. He provided updates on the WMA GSA's attempt to add an Agricultural Director to the Board of Directors; CMA GSA's membership in the Small GSA Coalition; and the EMA GSA's choosing MLJ's online reporting and database system.

Discussion followed. Director Marymee requested staff forward the GSAs' Basin Water Year 2025 Annual Report as well as the Stetson Engineers presentation slides to all Directors. There was no public comment or action.

ii. Proposition 68 Grant Reimbursements, Projects, and Management Actions

Mr. Buelow reviewed the Prop. 68 Grant funded projects. He reported that efforts on 3 deep monitoring wells, one per GSA, and three shallow piezometers are mostly in the permit phase with the EMA staff working on the access agreement for the EMA well.

Discussion followed. There was no public comment and no action.

**12. CONSIDER CSDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS, SEAT C**

Mr. Buelow introduced the CSDA 2027-2029 Term Board of Directors Nomination Form and CSDA's call for nominations. Discussion followed. The Board unanimously decided not to make a nomination.

**13. ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Torigiani announced that he was reappointed to the ACWA State Legislative Committee. He reported on legislation, including a pending bill which would make changes to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (IRLP).

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

Director Carpenter announced that he attended the recent Santa Barbara County Chapter CSDA meeting and provided a report.

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

There were no requests.

**16. THE NEXT SPECIAL MEETING IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026, AT 10:00 AM, AT BUELLTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 140 WEST HIGHWAY 246, BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA**

As directed during Agenda Item No. 8b, staff will schedule a Special Meeting a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, April 20, 2026, 10:00 a.m. at Buellton City Council Chambers.

**17. NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026, 10:00 AM, AT BUELLTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 140 WEST HIGHWAY 246, BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA**

Per Resolution No. 741, passed earlier in the meeting, the next regular meeting of the Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

**18. CLOSED SESSION**

Agenda Item No. 18, CLOSED SESSION, was addressed after Item No. 6. The Board convened into Closed Session from 5:35 p.m. to 6:43 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)): In the matter of Petition for Change of City of Solvang for Water Right Permit No. 15878 (Application A022423), which authorizes diversion of water from the Santa Ynez River (underflow) in Santa Barbara County, pending before the State Water Resources Control Board Office of Administrative Hearings.
- d. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2)): Significant exposure to litigation (Three Matters).
- e. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(4)): Possible initiation of litigation (Five Matters).

**19. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

As described above, Agenda Item No. 19 was addressed after Agenda Item No. 6 and before Agenda Item No. 7. The Board ended Closed Session at 6:43 p.m., took a short break, reconvened into Open Session at 6:49 p.m., and President Lahr stated there was no reportable action taken in Closed Session.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

President Lahr adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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Larry Lahr, President

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Amber M. Thompson, Secretary

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

CCP § 2015.5

**Lompoc Record**  
**3200 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455**  
**(805) 925-2691**

State of New Jersey, County of Camden, ss:

I, Laquansay Nickson Watkins, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath depose and say that I am an agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Printer of Lompoc Record, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Santa Maria, County of Santa Barbara, State of California and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the superior court of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California adjudication #47065.

That the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

**Publication Dates:**

- Apr 1, 2026

**Publication Fee:** \$138.39

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

*Laquansay Nickson Watkins*

Agent

SHARONN E THOMAS-POPE  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
My Commission Expires January 23, 2027

**VERIFICATION**

State of New Jersey  
County of Camden

Signed or attested before me on this: 04/02/2026

*Sharon E. Thomas-Pope*

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF ANNUAL GROUNDWATER ENGINEERING INVESTIGATION AND REPORT AND PUBLIC HEARING THEREON**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Water Code section 75570, et seq., including Water Code sections 75571 through 75573, inclusive, that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (District) will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (PST) at the special meeting of the District's Board of Directors (Board) to be held at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California, to consider the Forty-Eighth Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (Investigation and Report), prepared by Stetson Engineers, Inc., pursuant to Water Code Section 75560, et seq. At the meeting or at one or more subsequent meetings of the Board, the Board will consider making findings and determinations under Water Code Section 75574 based on information contained in the Investigation and Report. The Investigation and Report was received by the Secretary of the Board on March 10, 2026, which as required by Water Code section 75570 was before the day of the regular meeting of the Board in March of 2026. The Investigation and Report is available for examination at the District office, located at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California, and on the District's website, [SYRWCD.com](http://SYRWCD.com). You may call the District office at 805-693-1156 to examine the Investigation and Report. The public hearing and consideration of the Investigation and Report may be continued to one or more subsequent meetings of the District's Board of Directors.

Operators of water producing facilities within the District and all persons interested in the condition of the groundwater or surface water supplies within the District are invited to review the Investigation and Report and submit evidence and comments concerning the groundwater conditions and surface water supplies of the District. Persons wishing to present evidence or comments to the Board of Directors may do so in person at the public hearing and those not able to attend in person are encouraged to provide any evidence or comments they may have prior to the public hearing to the Board Secretary, Amber Thompson, [athompson@syrwcd.com](mailto:athompson@syrwcd.com) **no later than 5:00 p.m. April 19, 2026**. Personal appearances may also be made at the hearing supporting or protesting the Investigation and Report.

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
AMBER THOMPSON, SECRETARY TO THE BOARD  
Pub dates: Apr 1, 2026  
Legal 575438

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

**Santa Ynez Valley News**  
**3200 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455**  
**(805) 688-5522**

State of Florida, County of Broward, ss:

I, Anjana Bhadoriya, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath depose and say that I am an agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Santa Ynez Valley News, a Weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in City of Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County, State of California; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates.

**Publication Dates:**

- Apr 2, 2026

**Notice ID:** Gugbqb5LtRuQxLJh4GQU

**Notice Name:** Public Hearing 48th Annual Report

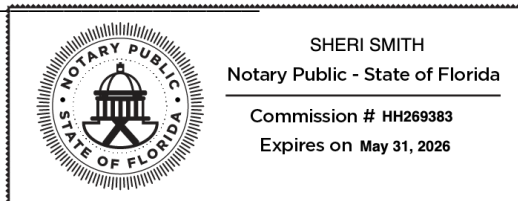
**Publication Fee:** \$138.39

*Anjana Bhadoriya*

Agent

**VERIFICATION**

State of Florida  
County of Broward



Signed or attested before me on this: 04/03/2026



Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

**SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF ANNUAL GROUNDWATER ENGINEERING  
INVESTIGATION AND REPORT AND PUBLIC HEARING THEREON**

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Operators of water producing facilities within the District and all persons interested in the condition of the groundwater or surface water supplies within the District are invited to review the Investigation and Report and submit evidence and comments concerning the groundwater conditions and surface water supplies of the District. Persons wishing to present evidence or comments to the Board of Directors may do so in person at the public hearing and those not able to attend in person are encouraged to provide any evidence or comments they may have prior to the public hearing to the Board Secretary, Amber Thompson, [athompson@syrwcd.com](mailto:athompson@syrwcd.com) **no later than 5:00 p.m. April 19, 2026**. Personal appearances may also be made at the hearing supporting or protesting the Investigation and Report.

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
AMBER THOMPSON, SECRETARY TO THE BOARD  
Pub dates: Apr 2, 2026  
Legal 575441

FORTY-EIGHTH 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 (2024-2025), Current Water Year (2025-2026),  
and Ensuing Water Year (2026-2027)*



March 10, 2026

Document is available for download at [www.SYRWCD.com](http://www.SYRWCD.com)