

# **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

## **SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**April 12, 2022**

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. As a result of the existing State of Emergency in California due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa Barbara County Public Health recommendations to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and recommending social distancing, and as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, this meeting occurred in-person at the Vandenberg Village Community Services District, 3745 Constellation Road, Lompoc, CA with remote participation via video and teleconference.

Directors Present, in-person: Cynthia Allen, Art Hibbits, and Steve Jordan

Directors Present, remote participation: Mark Altshuler and Brett Marymee

Others Present, in-person: Groundwater Program Manager Bill Buelow

Others Present, remote participation: Carol Redhead, Board Secretary Amber Thompson, General Manager Kevin Walsh, and Legal Counsel Steve Torigiani.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Ms. Thompson called roll. All Directors were present providing a quorum.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. CONSIDER REAFFIRMING RESOLUTION 703, ENTITLED “RESOLUTION INITIALLY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB361”**

As the California Governor’s State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic is still in effect and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department issued recommendations to protect public health by limiting public gatherings and recommending social distancing, and as authorized by State Assembly Bill 361, Director Hibbits **MOVED** to reaffirm Resolution No. 703, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT INITIALLY AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB361. Director Marymee seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment. Ms. Thompson announced she did not receive any public comments prior to the meeting.

**V. DISCUSS EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22**

Mr. Steve Torigiani explained Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 issued March 28, 2022. He pointed out that paragraphs 9(a) and 9(b) state additional requirements put in place to get an approval of a groundwater well permit. 9(a) refers to the County while 9(b) refers to role of the GSAs in the permit process. Discussion followed.

Director Hibbits expressed concern with the unintended consequences of this Executive Order and the effect on the agricultural community who rely on wells as a primary source for water. Further discussion continued. Director Hibbits suggested that Mr. Buelow, with the help of legal counsel, draft a reasonable set of procedures to present to the GSA Committees in an effort to speed along the process and avoid any major backlog in the County issuing well permits for District constituents.

Discussion continued in regard to establishing an Ad-Hoc Committee to draft some reasonable procedures to be taken to the GSA Committees. Director Jordan and Director Hibbits volunteered to be the Ad-Hoc Committee and work with Mr. Buelow and legal counsel over the next couple weeks to develop a document that can be presented to the GSA Committees. There was unanimous consensus.

The Board requested that Mr. Buelow inquire as to how the County of Santa Barbara and other GSAs in the County are responding to Executive Order N-7-22. The Board requested that staff verify that any proposed GSA actions be consistent with the GSPs.

**VI. REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED AS A SPECIAL MEETING FOR APRIL 27, 2022, AT 6:30 PM.**

The Board requested a well permit application and procedures developed by the Ad-Hoc committee be presented at the next meeting.

The next Board meeting will be a Special meeting, including a Public Hearing on the 44th Annual Engineering and Survey Report on Water Supply Conditions of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, FY 2021-2022, planned for April 27, 2022 at 6:30 pm, at Vandenberg Village Community Services District Conference Room with remote participation also provided.

**VII. CLOSED SESSION**

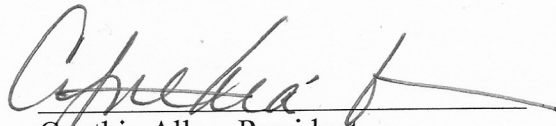
At 7:20 pm, the Board convened into Closed Session until 8:08 pm.

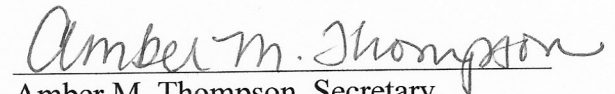
**VIII. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

  
Cynthia Allen, President

  
Amber M. Thompson, Secretary