

June 25, 2025
Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Doug Williams, Vice President Mark Wright and Directors Sonny Flores, John Freeman and Joe Tonascia. Also present were General Manager Dana Jacobson, District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem, Assistant General Manager Brett Miller, Operations and Maintenance Manager Michael Craig, Senior Engineer David Macdonald, Water Programmer III Anne Stull and Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro. Jeff Cattaneo participated via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

President Williams called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
President Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Roll Call**
Mrs. Mauro called roll. Members present were: President Williams, Vice President Wright and Directors Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.
- c. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board; rebuttal will be limited to 3 minutes; no new business agenda items will be heard after 8:00 p.m.**
- d. Approval of Agenda**
President Williams reported an addition to the agenda. Following Closed Session #12, #13 should be Open Session, to report out any action from the Closed Session, making Adjournment #14. Noting the change, a motion was made by Director Tonascia and seconded by Director Flores; the Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman & Tonascia.
- e. Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda**
There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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| 1. | Approval of Minutes for: | Regular Meeting | May 28, 2025 |
| | | Special Meeting | June 2, 2025 |
| 2. | Allowance of Claims | | |
| 3. | Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the June Board Meeting | | |
| 4. | On Call Contracts – Status Updates | | |
| 5. | Consider Resolution Adopting the 2025-2026 Salary Schedule to comply with California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CALPERS) statutory and regulatory requirements for compensation earnable and publicly available pay schedules | | |

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Vice President Wright, the Consent Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman & Tonascia.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Public Hearing to Consider Approval of Ordinance Establishing Capacity Fees within the District's Zone 6 Service Area ("Capacity Fee Ordinance")

a. Presentation on Capacity Fees within the District's Zone 6 Service Area

Mr. Miller gave an overview of this item and stated this will be considered the "second reading" of this ordinance. He reviewed the materials included in the packet for this item and stated every July, the amount can be increased by the CPI.

Questions from the Directors

Director Freeman asked, if passed, when would this go into effect? Mr. Miller stated 61 days after passage.

Director Tonascia asked why it is based on the CPI. Mr. Miller stated the amount is tied to inflation. Director Tonascia further asked if it applies to the installation of a fire hydrant? Mr. Frink, of Kronick, Moscovitz, Tiedemann and Girard, stated this fee is strictly for capacity for new water service connection that receives treated water. Fire suppression is not included, but it could be added later if the Board chose to.

Discussion ensued about whether new residential or commercial ADU would be included. Mr. Frink stated it could be if a new service was required. Mr. Cattaneo added it would depend on the agency (City of Hollister, Sunnyslope County Water District or City of San Juan Bautista), if they have language regarding ADU's in their ordinances and typically they do.

Director Flores asked about agricultural water. Mr. Frink stated no, not under this ordinance.

b. Open Public Hearing

President Williams opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments made either in person or via Zoom.

c. Close Public Hearing or continue to a later date

President Williams, with no public comments, closed the Public Hearing.

d. Conduct Second Reading of Capacity Fee Ordinance and Approve Capacity Fee Ordinance

Mr. Frink stated, in lieu of reading the ordinance in its entirety, the Board could pass waiving the reading of the ordinance. Mr. Frink read the full title of Ordinance 66, the Capacity Fee Ordinance, into the record. He further recommended the board make a motion to waive the full reading. With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Director Flores, the Board of Directors approved waiving the reading of the Capacity Fee Ordinance by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman & Tonascia.

With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Director Freeman, the Board of Directors approved Ordinance #66, *An Ordinance of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District (Establishing Capacity Fees within the District's Zone 6 Service Area; Adding Chapter 4.53 to the District Code)* by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman & Tonascia.

e. Direct District Staff to File a Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Capacity Fee Ordinance

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Director Tonascia, the Board of Directors approved directing District staff to file a Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Capacity Fee Ordinance by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman & Tonascia.

7. Board Discussion on the District's Public Outreach Strategy

Mr. Jacobson reported he is looking for feedback from the Board and what level of effort they would like from staff, on Public Outreach.

Director Tonascia stated most of our outreach seems to be from the Water Resources Association (WRA) and he indicated staff should reach out to our partners and see what level of outreach they would find most helpful to all.

Director Freeman stated from his past experience, companies would ask customers how they did following a service call and if any more was needed. He agrees with Director Tonascia, that most citizens might not realize what exactly SBCWD does. Director Tonascia added more articles are needed, perhaps 1 per month, and more information through social media would be helpful. Discussion ensued about WRA and their reporting on the turf removal program and the toilet rebates, although the toilet rebate program may have reached the saturation point now.

Director Flores stated staff should strive to get the word out about water conservation, that SBCWD supplies water to the two treatment plants, and he too agrees that monthly outreach is important; who we are and what we are doing.

Vice President Wright asked if we are on social media. Director Flores stated yes, Ms. Arellano is. Mr. Jacobson added yes, WRA is on social media, but the District is not.

President Williams added the importance of educating the public now that we are working on the ASR Project and the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project.

Mr. Cattaneo added the community at large doesn't understand what the District does and also, what the County would look like without it. Conveying this, either through WRA or hiring a public relations firm would be important.

Mr. Jacobson stated the consensus of the Board is to do more outreach and start with our in-house staff.

8. Staff Report on the San Benito Urban Area Water Supply and Treatment Agreement

Mr. Jacobson reported the board has received a copy of the draft agreement. This is a new agreement instead of an amendment as much has changed from the previous

agreement and there is now the addition of San Juan Bautista and the ADRoP Project. He further reported the District has held a Zone 6 Water Supply and Operations Committee Meeting to review it and then the draft was distributed to the other agencies' staff. There was a Governance Committee Meeting on June 23rd, where the concepts of the agreement were discussed. The staff of all 4 agencies will negotiate the details and Mr. Jacobson intends to have the agreement before the Board in either August or September for execution. So far, everyone has appeared to be reasonable about the new agreement.

9. **Committee/Agency Representative Reports:**

- a. **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Jacobson)**
Mr. Jacobson will cover this in his manager's report.
- b. **Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (Flores/Wright)**
As per Director Flores, he was unable to attend.
- c. **Water Resources Association (Flores/Freeman)**
As per Director Flores, general business and the budget were discussed.
- d. **Zone 6 Water Supply & Operations Committee (Tonascia/Wright)**
As per Director Wright, the new water supply and treatment agreement was reviewed.

10. **Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report**

Mr. Craig reported District staff turned the system around this past Tuesday. He also commended his field staff; they had a difficult repair near a street, and they did a great job. The issue at 9H/9L, was due to the developer ripping out the power poles and the District lost communication. He further reported staff is still working on updating the SCADA. He also showed photos of the recent repair.

11. **General Manager's Report:**

a. **Reach 1 Operations**

Mr. Jacobson reported that staff's goal is to improve communication with Santa Clara Valley Water District and notifications when there are outages. Director Williams mentioned PG&E usually notifies about rolling black outs; perhaps Valley Water could also?

b. **Zone 3 Operations**

Mr. Jacobson reported this has already been covered.

c. **Zone 6 Operations**

Mr. Jacobson reported staff is working with the developers for the Fairview Corners project. The District will just maintain our pipes, but are not impacted by the project.

d. **Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)**

Mr. Jacobson reported the project is going well. The contractor is on-site at the West Hills WTP and all is going well. Regarding the ASR wells, the drillers plan to be on-site in mid July. Pre-bid meetings were held today and last Wednesday for the

next phase of the project. Mr. Jacobson further reported a public outreach meeting on the project will be held at the Epicenter, on July 2nd at 5 p.m.

e. San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities

Mr. Jacobson reported there will be a board workshop on July 10th which will be on the subsidence issue. Also, he and Director Tonascia have a meeting next week with Federico Barajas, Executive Director of the Authority.

f. City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan

Mr. Jacobson reported District staff continues to work with San Juan Bautista's staff and it is going well. He is hopeful the Water Supply and Treatment Agreement and the Reimbursement Agreement will be completed and approved by San Juan Bautista, very soon.

g. B F Sisk Dam Raise Project

Mr. Jacobson reported he was given a tour of the facility on June 12th. The biggest concern at this point is still Highway 152, as it will need extensive mitigation.

h. Miscellaneous District items

Mr. Miller reported as of this morning, the District has migrated from the .com domain and moved to .ca.gov domain, so we are now compliant as a government agency.

12. **CLOSED SESSION:**
Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated litigation
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: One case

(The Board convened in Closed Session at 6:05 p.m.)

13. **OPEN SESSION:**
Report any action, if any, taken in Closed Session

(The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:32 p.m.)

President Williams stated there was no action taken in Closed Session.

14. **Adjournment**
With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.
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Minutes were approved at the July 30, 2025 Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Doug Williams
Doug Williams, President

/s/Barbara L. Mauro
Barbara L. Mauro, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

