

September 24, 2025
Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, September 24, 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 and John Freeman; Director Joe Tonascia was absent. 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 Conservation Program Manager Lundi Barroso-Osorio, Office Specialist I Shannon Darnall and Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro.

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 and Freeman; Director Tonascia was absent.
- 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**
With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Director Flores, the Agenda was approved by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores and Freeman and there was 1 absence, Tonascia.
- e. **Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda**
Mr. Jacobson introduced Lundi Barroso-Osorio as the District's new Water Conservation Program Manager.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Approval of Minutes for:** August 27, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. **Allowance of Claims**
3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the September Board Meeting**
4. **On Call Contracts – Status Updates**

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Vice President Wright, the Consent Agenda was approved by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores and Freeman and there was 1 absence, Tonascia.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. **Receive Information and Discuss potential for Golden Mussel Infestation in San Luis Reservoir and San Felipe Division facilities**

Mr. Jacobson introduced this item for the Board and stated a PowerPoint Presentation would be given by Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Using a PowerPoint Presentation, Atlasi Daneshvar on the golden mussel infestation in San Luis Reservoir. Following the presentation, discussion ensued about the treatment at the Pacheco Pumping Plant and whether measures were being considered for treatment of the conduit. Information was given on treatment underway at the plant, but Valley Water staff is waiting on data from the Department of Water Resources on treatment of the conduit.

6. **Consider Approval of the San Benito Urban Area Water Supply and Treatment Agreement and Authorize the Board President to execute agreement**

Mr. Jacobson reviewed this item for the Board. In the board packet, Mr. Jacobson stated they received the red-lined version, so the changes could be reviewed. He stated most changes had to do with noticing issues and clarification that any invoices paid late, would incur a 10% late charge. The one change, since the District's committee meeting, was a concern raised by Sunnyslope County Water District regarding the administration fee. The previous agreement didn't have a cap but now it will be limited to the current organization chart of SBCWD. Mr. Jacobson stated Sunnyslope approved the agreement on September 23, 2025 with a 4/1 vote, the City of Hollister will consider it on October 20th and the City of San Juan Bautista will consider it on October 21st.

With no questions from the Board or the public, a motion was made by Director Flores and seconded by Director Freeman, the Board of Directors approved of the San Benito Urban Area Water Supply and Treatment Agreement and Authorized the Board President to execute agreement by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores and Freeman and there was 1 absence, Tonascia.

7. **Board Discussion on the Agreement for Advancement of Funds and Reimbursement for Costs of a New Turnout Facilities at West Hills Water Treatment Plant**

Mr. Jacobson reviewed this item for the Board and stated this was informational only. In 2021, the District and the COSJB agreed to an MOU that would provide water from the West Hills WTP to SJB. The District now has the design estimate from HDR for the turnout facility and staff is proposing using Overaa's current contract and using a change order for this facility. The design estimate is \$644,000 and SJB will have to approve the specifications and approve the reimbursement agreement. Once they have approved it, then the District will approve it. Discussion ensued about the cost and what the District is able to do to help with the costs. Mr. Jacobson stated he anticipates bringing this to the Board at the October meeting for approval.

8. **Consider Approval of a Contract with Todd Groundwater for the North San Benito Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation and Amendment in the amount Not to Exceed \$404,230 and Authorize the General Manager to execute contract**

Mr. Jacobson reviewed this item for the Board. The Sustainability Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) will need to be revisited as it will continue to be an on-going process. Todd Groundwater has submitted a proposal for the next steps, which is the periodic evaluation of the GSP as well as an Amendment. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Jacobson reviewed the milestones of SGMA, and the next steps. He also stated there appears to be a surplus from the GMF collected and that can be put toward the contract with Todd Groundwater. He also gave the reasons there was a surplus and how the future budget will be determined as well as how the assessment may change from a flat fee to a pumping fee. He further reported if the work is done correctly, the amendment shouldn't have to be done again and the 5 year review costs should also lessen. Discussion ensued about whether these were new tasks, which was confirmed, and how did these costs compare to the initial costs. Mr. Miller confirmed the original cost was approximately \$2 million, but the District offset some of this with grant funding.

With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Director Freeman, the Board of Directors approved a Contract with Todd Groundwater for the North San Benito Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Periodic Evaluation and Amendment in the amount Not to Exceed \$404,230 and Authorized the General Manager to execute the contract by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores and Freeman and there was 1 absence, Tonascia.

9. **Consider Authorizing the Board President to Execute the Agreement for Temporary Transfer of Water with Blue Sky Farms and associated Escrow Documents and Execute the Water Transfer Agreement Between San Benito County Water District and Westlands Water District**

Mr. Jacobson reviewed this item for the Board. At the August board meeting, he let the Board know the District had a surplus of water and his intention was to transfer water once the District had used all that it could by filling San Justo Reservoir, storing in San Luis Reservoir and percolating. He further stated the District intended to recoup some revenue through this transfer. Because Blue Sky Farms will need to utilize Westlands Water District's CVP contract, there are agreements for both Blue Sky Farms and Westlands Water District. The transfer amount per acre foot will be \$181 but the net amount, after fees will be \$133/acre foot or approximately \$680,000.

With a motion by Vice President Wright and a second by Director Flores, the Board of Directors Authorized the Board President to Execute the Agreement for Temporary Transfer of Water with Blue Sky Farms and associated Escrow Documents and Execute the Water Transfer Agreement Between San Benito County Water District and Westlands Water District by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores and Freeman and there was 1 absence, Tonascia.

10. **Consider Authorizing the General Manager to Amend the Contract with WBCP Inc. for the recruitment of the District Engineer to include additional direct expenses (NTE \$6,900)**

Mr. Miller reviewed this item for the Board. The District has been unsuccessful in filling this position and the recruiter would like to do a relaunch, but there would be some direct expenses needed for this.

Director Flores asked if there would be any changes. Mr. Miller stated yes, some incentives would be included. Mr. Jacobson added the District would like to take another shot at this and further added, the recruiter isn't paid unless a successful recruitment is achieved.

With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Director Freeman, the Board of Directors Authorized the General Manager to Amend the Contract with WBCP Inc. for the recruitment of the District Engineer to include additional direct expenses (NTE \$6,900) by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores and Freeman and there was 1 absence, Tonascia.

11. **Consider Resolution Authorizing General Manager to Accept Interests in Real Property**

Mr. Liem reviewed this item for the Board. Recently, his office was attempting to record an easement for the ADROp Project and it was rejected, although he hasn't encountered this before. The District could either approve them individually as they come up or his recommendation is to pass a resolution that allows the general manager to accept interest in easements. He added that easements such as these are generally part of a general project the Board has already approved but if not, the Board would have an opportunity to review and approve it.

With a motion by Vice President Wright and a second by Director Freeman, the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2025-16, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Authorizing General Manager to Accept Interests in Real Property* by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores and Freeman and there was 1 absence, Tonascia.

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

a. **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Jacobson)**

As per Mr. Jacobson, he will cover this under his manager's report.

b. **Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee (Williams/Flores)**

As per Directors Williams and Flores, this has already been covered.

c. **Zone 6 Water Supply & Operations Committee (Tonascia/Wright)**

As per Director Wright, items were covered in agenda items, 6, 7 & 9.

13. **Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report**

Mr. Craig reviewed the complex repair the O & M staff had to do on Orchard Road. He explained the issue was due to an unusual outside diameter of the 30" pipe. He further reported staff will be working at Hernandez Reservoir for several weeks in October and work continues on the Paicines Canal. Also on their schedule, Mr. Craig reported the recycled water ponds need to be drained, allowed to dry and cleaned. October is generally a busy time of the year for the maintenance department.

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

a. **Reach 1 Operations**

As per Mr. Jacobson, he had nothing to report at this time.

b. Zone 3 Operations

As per Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Craig has covered this item.

c. Zone 6 Operations

As per Mr. Jacobson, there will be an outage sometime in October.

d. Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)

As per Mr. Jacobson, all projects are going well. The Incidental Take Permit has finally been issued for the West Hills WTP Expansion. Discussion ensued about mitigation that will be needed. He further stated the two well contracts are going well, and the water sampling done on-site has been favorable. Specialty Construction is mobilizing materials and preparing to begin construction. Mr. Jacobson stated the total cost of the project is now approximately \$50.8 million, which is on target.

e. San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Jacobson reviewed the proposed fix for the subsidence issue. He stated it is a two phase approach and the goal would be to use grant money only. He further stated the canal is in bad shape and needs repair as it is an unsafe state. He added the canal is an important component for the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project.

f. City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan

As per Mr. Jacobson, this has already been covered.

g. B F Sisk Dam Raise Project

As per Mr. Jacobson, due to staff issues at the Bureau there appears to be a scheduling issue. However, there are 2 bits of good news. First there is suitable mitigation from Contra Costa Water District and also, CalTRANS has changed how they will require the slope down for the highway, which will save approximately \$375 million. He added, now those involved are attempting to have CalTRANS put it in writing.

h. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance

As per Mr. Jacobson, he had nothing further to report at this time.

i. Miscellaneous District items

As per Mr. Jacobson, he had nothing to report at this time.

15. CLOSED SESSION:

Public Employee Performance Evaluation

Title: General Manager

Authority: California Government Code Section 54957

(The Board convened in Closed Session at 6:22 p.m.)

16. OPEN SESSION;

Report out any action, if any, taken in Closed Session

(The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:54 p.m.)

President Williams reported no action was taken in Closed Session.

17. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the October 29, 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