

January 12, 2026
Special Meeting
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Mark Wright, Vice President Joe Tonascia and Directors Sonny Flores, John Freeman and Doug Williams. Also present were General Manager Dana Jacobson, District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem, Assistant General Manager Brett Miller, Senior Engineer David Macdonald, Office Specialist II Shannon Darnall, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro and Consultant Jeff Cattaneo.

CALL TO ORDER

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

a. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

President Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Roll Call

Mrs. Mauro called roll. Members present were: President Wright, Vice President Tonascia and Directors Flores, Freeman and Williams.

c. Approval of the Agenda

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

d. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Allowance of Claims

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

AGENDA ITEMS:

2. Public Hearing regarding 2025 Annual Groundwater Report

a. Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing, Annual Groundwater Report

Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication for the public hearing.

b. Presentation of Report

Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the 2025 Groundwater Report, which showed the basin is healthy and not in overdraft. Based on this report, staff is recommending the Board adopt the findings from the 2025 report.

c. Questions of Directors

President Wright asked about storing water in the recycled water ponds. Mr. Cattaneo stated water can be percolated but not stored in those ponds.

- d. **Open Public Hearing**
President Wright opened the public hearing.
 - e. **Close Public Hearing or continue to later date**
With no public comments, President Wright closed the public hearing.
 - f. **Consider adoption of recommendations in 2025 Annual Groundwater Report**
With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Freeman, the Board of Directors Adopted the Recommendations in the 2025 Annual Groundwater Report by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.
3. **Public Hearing regarding 2026-2027 Groundwater Charges Recommended by 2025 Annual Groundwater Report**
- a. **Presentation of 2026-2027 Groundwater Charges Recommended by 2025 Annual Groundwater Report**
Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the 2026-2027 Groundwater Charges as determined by the rate study prepared by Raftelis and recommended in the 2025 Annual Groundwater Report. This charge is \$14.30 per acre foot for municipal and industrial users as well as agricultural users.
 - b. **Questions by Directors**
Vice President Tonascia questioned a number in the rate study which is different from the amount Mr. Cattaneo referred to. Russell Frink, who participated via Zoom, checked the website and found the correct number was represented there and was confident that would suffice.
 - c. **Open Public Hearing**
President Wright opened the public hearing.
 - d. **Close Public Hearing or continue to later date**
With no public comments, President Wright closed the public hearing.
 - e. **Consider adoption of Resolution 2026-02 Establishing Groundwater Charges in Zone 6 for March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027**
With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Director Flores, the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2026-02, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Establishing Groundwater Charges in Zone 6 for March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027* by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the January 21, 2026 Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

/s/Mark Wright
Mark Wright, President

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