

December 17, 2025
Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, December 17, 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, Office Specialist II Shannon Darnall, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro and members of the Field Staff. 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.

Mrs. Mauro reminded the public that the timing for speakers will be enforced.

d. Approval of Agenda

Director Tonascia asked if the agenda needed to be amended. Mrs. Mauro stated no, as it was amended and reposted, in compliance with the Brown Act. With a motion by Director Tonascia and seconded by Vice President Wright, the agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

e. Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda

There were no public comments made.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Approval of Minutes for:** November 19, 2025 Regular Meeting
December 2, 2025 Special Meeting
2. **Allowance of Claims**
3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the December Board Meeting**
4. **On Call Contracts – Status Updates**
5. **Water Resources Association-Water Conservation Program Manager's Report**
November 2025

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Tonascia and seconded by Vice President Wright; the Consent Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report

Mr. Craig gave a year-end review of his department. For the year, there were 845 workorders, which was an increase over the previous year by 221. Of these workorders, 56% were corrective and 46% were preventative, which the goal is for more to be preventative in the future, following the District's 5-year plan. Beginning on December 8th, Mr. Craig reported staff began to fill San Justo Reservoir and both Hernandez and Paicines Reservoirs are at dead pool. Mr. Craig stated he invited his crew to attend tonight's meeting (Mike Razo, Travis Graves, Patrick Fancher, Ryan Schnorf, Anthony Lucas & Eddie Meneses). He stated he wanted to express his appreciation for all their hard work over this past year; the District operates smoothly with all of their help. Mr. Jacobson added he also appreciates all the maintenance staff does and it has certainly been an unusual year.

7. Consider Authorizing the Board President to Execute the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Exchange Contractors 2026-2038 Transfer Activity Agreement

Mr. Jacobson reviewed this item for the Board. He stated this agreement covers the 2026-2038 water years and provides a low-cost and low-risk water access and Westlands Water District has agreed to backstop the agreement, if the District doesn't need the water in any given year. There were no questions from Directors or the public.

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Vice President Wright, the Board authorized the Board President to execute the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Exchange Contractors 2026-2038 Transfer Activity Agreement by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

8. Consider Approval of an Expenditure Not to Exceed \$1,047,827, for the District's Share of Costs Associated with the Sunnyslope County Water District Small Water Agency Consolidation Project

Mr. Macdonald reviewed this item for the Board. He stated this item is for the District's cost share of up to \$1,047,827 for the installation of a pipeline adjacent to the existing pipeline, in association with Sunnyslope County Water District's small water agency consolidation project.

President Williams asked if the District will be abandoning the old pipeline. Mr. Macdonald reported the District will install our new line adjacent to the old pipeline and Sunnyslope will be installing their pipeline inside of our old pipeline.

With no further questions from the Directors and no questions from the public, a motion was made by Director Tonascia and seconded by Director Flores, the Board approved of an expenditure not to exceed \$1,047,827, for the District's share of costs associated with the Sunnyslope County Water District small water agency consolidation project, by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

9. **Discuss and Consider Resolution Setting a Public Hearing Date for the Purpose of Fixing the Standby or Availability Charge for the 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 Water Years**

Mrs. Mauro reviewed this item for the Board. This action is taken at the end of any year that precedes a year that includes an approval of rates for Standby or Availability charges.

With no questions from the Directors or the public, a motion was made by Director Flores and seconded by Director Freeman, the Board approved Resolution #2025-19, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Setting a Public Hearing Date for the Purpose of the Fixing of the Standby or Availability Charge for the 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 Water Years* was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

10. **Mid Pacific Water Users Conference, January 28 through 30, 2026 in Reno, Nevada**

a. **Consider General Manager or Designee and Director Attendance**

Mrs. Mauro reviewed this item for the Board. The District has budgeted for the General Manager or Designee and 2 Directors to attend. If more than 2 Directors wish to attend, the Board would need to approve that. She asked that any directors interested, should let her know.

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

Mr. Miller reviewed this item for the Board.

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

Mr. Miller stated there was a notification issue that the BIA brought to the District's attention. Because of this, the Board brought this ordinance to the November board meeting to have the first reading and this would be the second reading and consider approval of the 1-time payment of the capacity fee of \$12,327, effective 61 days after adoption, February 17, 2026.

b. **Questions from Directors**

Director Freeman asked how the District came up with the figures for growth. Mr. Jacobson stated the growth numbers came from the 2023 Water and Wastewater Master Plan.

c. **Open Public Hearing**

President Williams opened the Public Hearing.

Dennis Martin, representing the BIA, appreciates the vital service that the District provides the essential delivery of clean and safe water and recognizes the need for capacity fees to provide the infrastructure to deliver this water. This water and its infrastructure not only is vital to existing residents but also for future growth and to our industry. The BIA also wanted to acknowledge the efforts of staff and the

Board President Williams for conducting stakeholder outreach to the BIA members, who are active in Zone 6, San Benito County and the City of Hollister, building homes, pulling permits, providing residents, providing jobs in the District and we do appreciate that staff has made that effort to meet with the BIA members. Mr. Martin stated perhaps they could share with the board how that meeting unfolded and what was relayed by their members. What BIA has requested, active residential projects with approved maps in Zone 6, Sunnyslope and City of Hollister water districts, proceed under the fee structure in place prior to June 25th, as long as they prepay the fees by the effective date of this Ordinance, which apparently is February 17, 2026. This is alluded to in the Ordinance, 4.53.060, full payment of all applicable capacity fees are to be paid prior to obtaining a building permit. The BIA also provided language to Mr. Jacobson, "With respect to residential building permits that are obtained after the effective date of Ordinance 67, and for which a final map was approved by June 24, 2025, that was the date the Board acted on the original Ordinance, payment of a capacity fee in an amount equal to the capacity fees that were in effect on June 24, 2025 and that would have applied to such building permits shall conclusively represent full payment of all applicable capacity fees for such building permits as described in section 4.53.060 and previously stated, the BIA is requesting the Board clarify that prepayment of fees for these units that were discussed with Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Williams last week, would proceed. The BIA stated that this language would address the members concerns in the stakeholder meeting last week and they would appreciate the Board's consideration of this."

There were no other public comments.

- d. Close Public Hearing or continue to a later date**
President Williams, then Closed the Public Hearing.
- e. Conduct Second Reading of Capacity Fee Ordinance and Approve Capacity Fee Ordinance**
Per Mr. Liem, the Board's action would be a motion to waive the full reading of Ordinance 67, for the Capacity Fee. With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Freeman, the Board agreed to waive the full reading of Ordinance 67, and approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

With a motion by Vice President Wright and a second by Director Tonascia, the Board approved Ordinance 67, *An Ordinance of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District (Repealing and Reestablishing Capacity Fees within the District's Zone 6 Service Area; Adding Chapter 4.53 to the District Code)*, approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.
- f. 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 Flores and a second by Director Tonascia, the Board directed 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 and Tonascia.

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

- a. **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Jacobson)**
Mr. Jacobson will cover this under his manager's report.
- b. **ACWA JPIA and ACWA Fall Conferences (Freeman/Miller)**
Director Freeman gave a brief overview of both the ACWA JPIA Board of Directors Meeting as well as the ACWA Conference.
- c. **Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan Governance Committee (Tonascia/Williams)**
Mr. Jacobson reported that the committee discussed the LAFCO Presentation to the Board and asked staff to draft a comment letter. He will circulate the letter amongst the board for review before sending. He also stated the committee discussed whether or not the District will operate the wells for ADRoP on Fallon Road.
- d. **Groundwater Sustainability Agency Committee (Williams/Flores)**
Mr. Jacobson reported the committee discussed the future of the Groundwater Management Fee and whether to continue as a parcel-based fee or a usage fee. The committee agreed for now to stay as a parcel-based fee.
- e. **Personnel Committee (Flores/Tonascia)**
Director Tonascia reported the committee discussed a wage survey prior to this year's labor negotiations.
- f. **Zone 6 Water Supply & Operations Committee (Tonascia/Wright)**
Director Wright reported agenda items #7 and #8 were covered already from the committee meeting.

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

- a. **Reach 1 Operations**
Mr. Jacobson stated this was covered in Mr. Craig's report.
- b. **Zone 3 Operations**
Mr. Jacobson stated this was also covered in Mr. Craig's report.
- c. **Zone 6 Operations**
Mr. Jacobson stated this was also covered in Mr. Craig's report.
- d. **Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)**
Mr. Cattaneo reviewed this item for the Board. He offered an update on where the District is in regard to the budget, that there were delays on the well drilling on Fallon due to the rain, and the possibility of the need for another well at that site.

- e. **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities**
Mr. Jacobson reported there is a budget workshop scheduled for tomorrow.
- f. **City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan**
Mr. Jacobson stated there is nothing to report at this time.
- g. **B F Sisk Dam Raise Project**
Mr. Jacobson reported there is a need to secure mitigation for 3 endangered species, the Kit Fox, the Tiger Salamander and the Red Legged Frog, which could possibly increase the expenses by \$100 million.
- h. **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance**
Mr. Jacobson reported the District is reforming the TAC for SGMA, with the first meeting in early January 2026.
- i. **Miscellaneous District items**
Mr. Jacobson reported there will be 3 meetings in January; January 5th (Rate Study/Prop 218 Notices), January 12th (Annual Groundwater status) and January 21st, regular meeting.

14. **Board Organization**

- a. **Election of Officers** Mrs. Mauro stated the process for President and Vice President, can be nominated either as a slate for both, or individually; it is the Board's choice. The officers will change in January 2026.

President Williams nominated Mark Wright for President and Joe Tonascia for Vice President, which was seconded by Director Tonascia; these nominations were approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

15. **CLOSED SESSION:**

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code § 54956.9: One Case

(The Board convened in Closed Session at 5:54 p.m.)

16. **OPEN SESSION:**

Report any action, if any, from Closed Session

(The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:17 p.m.)

President Williams the meeting back to order and stated there was no action taken in Closed Session.

17. **Adjournment**

With no further action to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 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