

February 25, 2026
Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, February 25, 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, Operations and Maintenance Manager Michael Craig, Senior Engineer David Macdonald, Water Programmer III Anne Stull, Office Specialist II Shannon Darnall and Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro. Assistant General Manager Brett Miller participated via Zoom from the CSMFO Conference. Jeff Cattaneo participated in person.

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. **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**
There were no changes to the Agenda, so a motion was made by Director Flores and seconded by Director Freeman; the Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.
- 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:

- 1. **Approval of Minutes for: January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting**
- 2. **Allowance of Claims**
- 3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the February Board Meeting**
- 4. **Consider Resolution Designating Agents to make transfers on the Local Agency Investment Fund (L.A.I.F.)**
- 5. **On Call Contracts – Status Updates**

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

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Public Hearing regarding 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Zone 6 Water Years San Felipe Distribution System Rates and Charges

a. Proof of Mailing and Proof of Publication submitted for Notice of Public Hearing

Mrs. Mauro confirmed the proof of mailing and the proof of publication.

b. Presentation of 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Zone 6 Water Years San Felipe Distribution System Rates and Charges

Mr. Miller, stated he wasn't able to attend the meeting in person, as he is at a finance conference. He then introduced Theresa Jurotich, from Raftelis to give a presentation of the rates, using a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Jurotich reviewed the schedule, the factors considered in the rate study and stated all 3 categories for Agricultural water rates and the M & I water rates were going down, however; the power charges were going up. As part of her presentation, she also presented the proposed rates for the Recycled Water.

c. Open Public Hearing

President Wright opened the Public Hearing.

i. Consider Objections and Staff's Responses to Objections

ii. Consider Written Protests

Mrs. Mauro confirmed the District had not received any written protests, so therefore staff did not have any responses.

Ms. Carly Deitch, with UCAR, introduced herself and stated she represented the interests of small-scale farmers in the District.

d. Close Public Hearing and Adjourn if there is a Majority Protest or continue to later date

With no further public comment, and not receiving a majority protest, President Wright closed the Public Hearing.

e. If there is no Majority Protest, Consider Adoption of 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Water Years San Felipe Distribution System Rates and Charges

i. Consider Resolution Establishing San Felipe Distribution System Water Rates and Charges for Agricultural and Non-Agricultural (Municipal and Industrial) Water for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Water Years

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Vice President Tonascia, the Board approved Resolution #2026-06, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Establishing San Felipe Distribution System Water Rates and Charges for Agricultural and Non-Agricultural (Municipal and Industrial) Water for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Water Years* by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

7. **Public Hearing regarding the 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029, Rates and Charges for the Recycled Water**

a. **Proof of Mailing and Proof of Publication submitted for Notice of Public Hearing**

Mrs. Mauro confirmed the proof of mailing and the proof of publication.

b. **Presentation of the 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Rates and Charges for the Recycled Water**

Mr. Miller stated the 3-years of proposed rates for recycled water, were presented by Ms. Jurotich during agenda item #6. Vice President Tonascia questioned why power rates were higher for recycled water than for San Felipe water. Staff responded that the power requirements for recycled water are higher due to the treatment process, need for boosting, and due to the lower cost of CVP power.

c. **Open Public Hearing**

President Wright opened the Public Hearing.

i. **Consider Objections and Staff's Responses to Objections**

ii. **Consider Written Protests**

Mrs. Mauro confirmed the District did not receive any written protests, so therefore, there was no need for staff responses.

d. **Close Public Hearing and Adjourn if there is a Majority Protest or continue to later date**

With no public comment, and not receiving a majority protest, President Wright closed the Public Hearing.

e. **If there is no Majority Protest, Consider Approval of Resolution for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Rates and Charges for the Recycled Water**

With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Flores, the Board approved Resolution #2026-07, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Approval for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 Rates and Charges for the Recycled Water Project* by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

8. **Consider Resolution Establishing Temporary Rules and Regulations for the Recycled Water Project**

Mr. Jacobson reviewed this item for the Board. Staff and the Board discussed concerns about water pressure and scheduling, for the temporary use of blue valve water served through the recycled water system. Mr. Jacobson added the blue valve customer would be the priority over the recycled water customers. He further added the recycled water customers would be the first to be cut back if pressure issues arose. With a motion by Director Williams and a second by Director Flores, the Board approved Resolution #2026-08 *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Establishing Rules and Regulations for the Recycled Water Project* by 4 affirmative votes, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Williams and there was 1 dissenting vote, Tonascia.

9. **Staff Report on District’s 2026 Customer Water Allocations**
Mr. Jacobson reviewed this item for the Board. He stated the District has not received the actual allocation but reported staff is preparing for a conservative approach. Discussion included the amount of water the District had stored in San Justo and San Luis Reservoirs.
10. **Staff Report on the Pajaro River Watershed Resilience Plan**
Mr. Cattaneo reviewed this item for the Board, using a PowerPoint Presentation. Mr. Cattaneo reported the Department of Water Resources (DWR) new program, Water Resilience Program, which aims to integrate water resources across California. An overview of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning efforts, highlighting the Pajaro River Watershed’s special program. Also discussed was the Prop 4 grant funding allocation and the potential for additional funding, focusing on inclusivity and climate change adaptation strategies. Mr. Cattaneo focused on the Pajaro Watershed Resilience Program. He presented the program’s approach which included assessing hazards, vulnerabilities and risks as well as prioritizing adaptation strategies. Key issues identified included extreme precipitation, drought, extreme heat and wildfire risks. Mr. Cattaneo reported the program aims to address these challenges through strategies such as manage aquifer recharge, recycled water expansion and conservation. Mr. Cattaneo also discussed the need for inclusivity in leadership and the challenge of implementing such a broad plan.
11. **Consider Director Attendance at the May 4, 2026 ACWA JPIA Board of Directors Meeting, Sacramento, California**
Mrs. Mauro reviewed this item for the Board. The District budgets for 2 attendees to the ACWA JPIA meeting and Mr. Miller and Director Freeman are registered to attend.
12. **Consider General Manager or his Designee and Director Attendance at the Spring ACWA Conference May 5th through 7th, 2026, Sacramento, California**
Mrs. Mauro also reviewed this item. The District budgets for the General Manager/Designee and 2 directors to attend this twice a year. Mr. Miller, Director Freeman and Director Tonascia are registered to attend. If any other directors would like to attend, the Board would need to approve that action. No other directors expressed interest.
13. **Committee/Agency Representative Reports:**
 - a. **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Jacobson)**
As per Director Tonascia, the SLDMWA reviewed financial information and also a professional services contract for the subsidence project. Also, discussed was the water rate for the next water year.
 - b. **Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (Flores/Williams)**
As per Director Flores, this was the first meeting of the year. Discussed were on-going projects and grant funding.

- c. **Mid Pacific Water Users Conference, January 28th to 30th, 2026, Reno Nevada (Jacobson/Tonascia)**
As per Director Tonascia, it was an interesting conference. Discussion at the conference included the need for more rain/snow. He also stated at the conference in 2025, there were about 140 Bureau employees in attendance; due to cut backs/retirements, there were only 65 at this year's conference.
 - d. **Recycled Water Committee (Flores/Wright)**
As per Directors Flores and Wright, this had already been covered.
 - e. **Zone 6 Water Supply & Operations Committee (Tonascia/Wright)**
As per Directors Tonascia and Wright, this had already been covered.
14. **Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report**
Mr. Craig reported on Zone 3 operations, noting improved water levels after the recent storms and the completion of a meter replacement project.
15. **General Manager's Report:**
- a. **Reach 1 Operations**
Mr. Jacobson reported there will be an upcoming meeting with Valley Water regarding the golden mussel control.
 - b. **Zone 3 Operations**
Mr. Jacobson stated this was covered in Mr. Craig's report.
 - c. **Zone 6 Operations**
Mr. Jacobson offered the board members a tour of the facilities. Please contact Mrs. Mauro to schedule.
 - d. **Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)**
Mr. Cattaneo reported the progress on the ADRoP project, with one well showing promising results but noted rain delays have caused some schedule setbacks.
 - e. **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities**
Mr. Jacobson reviewed the SLDMWA activities, including the approval of a contract for the DMC subsidence project the potential for additional federal funding.
 - f. **City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan**
Mr. Jacobson stated he didn't have anything new to report on this item.
 - g. **B F Sisk Dam Raise Project**
Mr. Jacobson reported the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project is experiencing delays, as the completion date has been extended from 2032 to 2037, mainly due to the Bureau's decision to wait for completion of Phase 2 before starting on the intake and outlet works. The project is moving forward with various permits being secured, including a biological opinion and Incidental Take Permit, but there are concerns regarding the cost of mitigation credits needed for endangered species. The Authority and the Hallmark Group are working on the financial implications of these payments, which

could be due as early as April, before a decision is made to move forward with the project.

h. Miscellaneous District items

Mr. Jacobson reported the District is moving forward with changing our website.

16. **CLOSED SESSION:
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of
Government Code § 54956.9: Two Cases**

(The Board convened in Closed Session at 6:48 p.m.)

17. **OPEN SESSION:
Report of action, if any, from Closed Session Items**

(The Board returned to Open Session at 7:22 p.m.)

President Wright stated there was no action taken on either item in Closed Session.

18. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

The minutes were approved at the March 25, 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