

March 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, March 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, 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 other District staff were in attendance.

### **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**  
With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Director Flores, 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: February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting**
2. **Allowance of Claims**
3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the March Board Meeting**
4. **On Call Contracts – Status Updates**
5. **Acceptance of District Investment Reports, July 2025 through December 2025**
6. **Consider Resolution Ordering District Election, Requesting Election Services and Authorizing Payment Therefore**

Director Tonascia asked what the payment for Kennedy-Jenks was for; staff stated it was for construction management and inspection for the ADRoP Program. With no further questions from the Board or the public, a motion was made by Director Tonascia and seconded by Director Williams, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **7. Recognizing Barbara Mauro for 20 Years of Service, Certificate Issued**

Barbara Mauro was recognized for her 20 years of service to the district, with multiple board members praising her professionalism, institutional knowledge, and support in maintaining procedures and board operations.

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Director Williams, the Board approved recognizing Barbara Mauro for 20 Years of Service, with 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

### **8. FYE 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Audit**

Mr. Miller introduced Jacinto Acosta Bernal from McGilloway, Ray, Brown & Kaufman, who will give the Board a presentation on the FYE 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Audit.

#### **a. Presentation by McGilloway, Ray, Brown & Kaufman**

Mr. Bernal presented the report, using a PowerPoint presentation. He reported the District received an unmodified opinion on the financial statements. Mr. Bernal also highlighted the significant increase in current assets and stated it was due to a \$40 million bond issuance. Mr. Bernal stated District staff and management were easy to work with and there were no difficulties or disagreements.

Mr. Miller thanked the accounting staff for their hard work and congratulated them on Government Finance Recognition Week. He further thanked the water office and administration staff for their help with the audit.

#### **b. Consider Acceptance and Authorize Distribution**

With a motion by Director Williams and a second by Director Tonascia, the Board Accepted the FYE 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Audit and Authorized Distribution with 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

### **9. 2025 Annual Groundwater Report**

Mr. Jacobson introduced Maureen Reilly from Todd Groundwater. Mr. Jacobson reported this is the primary tool the District uses to fulfill the requirements of both the District Act and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). He further added this is the final year of a 5-year contract with Todd Groundwater to prepare the annual report.

#### **a. Presentation of Report**

Ms. Reilly thanked District staff for getting all the necessary data for the report. Ms. Reilly presented the annual groundwater report for the North San Benito Groundwater Basin, covering the 2025 water year. She reported that the basin experienced a dry year with less rainfall, resulting in stable groundwater levels and a slight decrease in storage. The report meets SGMA requirements and includes updates on basin conditions, water supply and use, and groundwater management across four

management areas. Ms. Reilly noted that while some wells became temporarily inaccessible, they were replaced with nearby wells, and the numerical model was updated annually to simulate groundwater contours and estimate agricultural pumping. Discussion included updates on groundwater management and SGMA compliance, including the transition to a new OpenET solution for estimating groundwater pumping, which may result in billing discrepancies. She further presented the annual report findings, highlighting that groundwater levels, storage, and quality indicators are performing well, with no significant issues identified. Key projects like ADRoP, B.F. Sisk Dam Raise, and the San Juan Bautista Regional Water and Wastewater Solution are progressing as planned. The Board agreed to continue with the current groundwater charges and SGMA Implementation, while preparing for the next GSP Amendment due to DWR in January 2027.

**b. Consider Acceptance of Annual Groundwater Report 2025**

With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Director Williams, the Board Accepted the Annual Groundwater Report 2025 with 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

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

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

Mr. Miller reported officers were approved.

**b. Water Resources Association (Flores/Freeman)**

Director Flores reported the association covered general business.

**c. Administration Committee (Flores/Williams)**

Mr. Jacobson reported the committee discussed paperless billing.

**d. Finance Committee (Tonascia/Freeman)**

As per Directors Tonascia and Freeman, this has already been covered.

**e. Investment Committee (Flores/Williams)**

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

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

As per Mr. Jacobson, the main discussion focused on the Zone 6 committee's concerns about approving a change order for SCADA services with Primex, leading to an additional committee meeting on April 2nd where the contractor will be present to address the committee's questions.

**11. Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report**

Mr. Craig reported operation updates included water demand levels being 75% of peak summer flows, reservoir levels dropping 5 feet since March 1st, and ongoing maintenance work including air valve checks and the installation of an Intertie RP device.

12. **General Manager’s Report:**

**a. Reach 1 Operations**

Mr. Jacobson reported there was a meeting with Valley Water and the agencies discussed how to deal with the Golden Mussel issue and discussion included creating a control procedure plan.

**b. Zone 3 Operations**

Mr. Jacobson stated Mr. Craig covered Zone 3.

**c. Zone 6 Operations**

Mr. Jacobson reported the demand for CVP is up. Also, the allocation for Ag has been increased from 15% to 20% and the M & I allocation went from 65% of historical use to 70%.

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

Mr. Jacobson reported expansion at the West Hills Water Treatment Plant is going well. There was a pipeline issue that may use up the 5% contingency for the pipeline and well contract. A special meeting may be needed in a few weeks as the increase is more than \$1 million. Mr. Jacobson will keep the board updated on the status.

**e. San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities**

Mr. Jacobson reported there will be a cost of \$235 million, non-reimbursable for the canal work needed. The Yuba Water Transfer Program could be impacted by the penstock failure that occurred at Yuba Water’s hydropower facility.

**f. City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan**

Mr. Jacobson did not have anything to report at this time.

**g. B F Sisk Dam Raise Project**

Mr. Jacobson reported there is nothing new to report at this time.

**h. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance**

Mr. Jacobson did not have anything to report at this time.

**i. Miscellaneous District items**

Mr. Jacobson did not have any miscellaneous items to report.

13. **Adjournment**

With no business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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The minutes were approved at the April 22, 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