

April 22, 2026
Regular Meeting
5:01 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 5:01 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 Director John Freeman; Directors Sonny Flores and Doug Williams were absent. Also present were General Manager Dana Jacobson, District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem, Assistant General Manager Brett Miller, Senior Engineer David Macdonald, Water Conservation Program Manager Lundi Barroso-Osorio, Human Resources Analyst Cindy Tyler, Office Specialist II Shannon Darnall and Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro. Jeff Cattaneo also participated.

CALL TO ORDER

President Wright called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 at the meeting were: President Wright, Vice President Tonascia and Director Freeman; Directors Flores and Williams were 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**
Before considering approval of the agenda, Mrs. Mauro pointed out the resolution numbers were incorrect on agenda items #5 and #8, from the board packets. Agenda #5, Affirming the District's Investment Policy should be #2026-10 and Agenda #8, Proclaiming May as Water Awareness Month should be #2026-11. She added, that was the only change. Noting that change, a motion was made by Director Freeman and seconded by Vice President Tonascia, the Agenda was approved by 3 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia and Freeman and there were 2 absences, Flores and Williams.
- e. **Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda**
Mr. Liem stated he had lunch with Dave Pipal; he said say to hello to everyone.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Approval of Minutes for: March 25, 2026 Regular Meeting**
2. **Allowance of Claims**
3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the April Board Meeting**
4. **On Call Contracts – Status Updates**
5. **Consider Resolution Affirming the District's Investment Policy**

With no questions from the Board or the public, a motion was made by Director Freeman and seconded by Vice President Tonascia; the Board approved the Consent Agenda with 3

affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia and Freeman and there were 2 absences, Flores and Williams.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. **Public Hearing to receive stakeholder input on fee structure for the Groundwater Management Fee that was adopted for Fiscal Years 2021-2026 pursuant to Resolution #2021-13**
 - a. **Presentation on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Groundwater Management Fee**

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Miller gave the Board a presentation on the SGMA Groundwater Management Fee. Staff recommended the retention of the parcel-based fee as an interim solution and a further evaluation of the OpenET in the future. There will be a second public hearing at the May meeting to consider approval of the actual fee.
 - b. **Questions of Directors**

There were no questions from the Directors.
 - c. **Open Public Hearing**

President Wright opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments from the public, either in person or on Zoom.
 - d. **Close Public Hearing**

President Wright, then Closed the Public Hearing.
 - e. **Discussion of Public Comments by Directors**

As there were no public comments, no discussion ensued.

7. **Public Hearing to Acknowledge Annual Vacancy, Recruitment & Retention Report (Government Code §3502.3)**
 - a. **Presentation for the Public Hearing on the Annual Vacancy, Recruitment & Retention Report (Government Code §3502.3)**

Mr. Miller presented this item to the Board, based on AB 2561, which makes this a new obligation. He reported all positions were filled except for the District Engineer, which the District continues to actively recruit for.
 - b. **Questions of Directors**

Director Freeman expressed concern about the inability for the District to fill the engineer position.
 - c. **Open Public Hearing**

President Wright opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments from the public, either in person or on Zoom.
 - d. **Close Public Hearing**

President Wright, then Closed the Public Hearing.

e. **Board Acknowledgement of Receipt of Annual Vacancy, Recruitment & Retention Report (Government Code §3502.3)**

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Vice President Tonascia, the Board acknowledged the receipt of the Annual Vacancy, Recruitment & Retention Report (G.C. §3502.3) with 3 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia and Freeman and there were 2 absences, Flores and Williams.

8. **Consider Resolution Proclaiming May as Water Awareness Month**

Mrs. Osorio made a presentation, using PowerPoint, for Water Awareness Month. She highlighted the conservation programs and rebates that are offered to San Benito County residents.

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Vice President Tonascia, the Board approved Resolution #2026-11, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Proclaiming May as Water Awareness Month*, with 3 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia and Freeman and there were 2 absences, Flores and Williams.

9. **Consider Appeal by Legacy Homes Seeking Exemption from Capacity Fees (District Code of Regulations section 4.53.120)**

a. **Presentation by Brett Miller**

Mr. Miller reviewed this item for the Board. The District received a letter from Legacy Homes asking the District to consider their appeal to be relieved of the capacity fees for the remaining 37 lots. Mr. Miller read their appeal requests into the record. Staff is recommending denying their appeal, which would be approximately \$456,000 in lost revenue. Jake Matthews, representing Legacy Homes, was on Zoom, if there were any questions.

b. **Consider Approval or Denial of the Appeal pursuant to District Code of Regulations section 4.53.120**

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Vice President Tonascia, the Board Denied the Appeal by Legacy Homes Seeking Exemption from Capacity Fees (District Code of Regulations section 4.53.120), with 3 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia and Freeman and there were 2 absences, Flores and Williams.

10. **Consider Increasing Contingent Funding for a Contract Issued to Specialty Construction, Inc. in the Amount of \$1,043,281.05, for the Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP) ASR Well Sites and Pipeline Project Construction and Authorize the General Manager to execute all necessary documents**

Mr. Cattaneo reviewed this item for the Board. He stated there is a need to increase the contingency funding for Specialty Construction, Inc. for the ADRoP Well Sites and Pipeline Project due to cost overruns due to utility conflicts and other unforeseen issues. He further remarked that next month, there will likely be an additional \$1.6 million request, which will be for pump and motor purchases, which will be a change order through Specialty Construction. Discussion ensued about the motor sizes and what would be needed. Kim Sloat of Kennedy-Jenks, who is the construction management

company for this project, praised Specialty Construction's cooperation in managing cost and addressing utility interferences.

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Vice President Tonascia, the Board Approved Increasing the Contingent Funding for a Contract Issued to Specialty Construction, Inc. in the Amount of \$1,043,281.05 for the Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP) ASR Well Sites and Pipeline Project Construction and Authorized the General Manager to execute all necessary documents, with 3 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia and Freeman and there were 2 absences, Flores and Williams.

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

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

Director Tonascia was unable to attend the meeting; Mr. Jacobson stated he will cover it under his manager's report.

b. **Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (Flores/Williams)**

Mrs. Mauro stated Director Flores did attend this meeting virtually, but as he is absent from the Board meeting, he can report on it at the May Meeting.

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

Mrs. Mauro stated Director Flores did attend this meeting, but as he is absent from the Board meeting, he can report on it at the May Meeting.

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

Mr. Jacobson reported this has already been covered.

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

Mr. Miller reported the Investment Policy was reviewed and has already been covered.

f. **Personnel Committee (Flores/Tonascia)**

As per Director Tonascia, the committee discussed the Compensation Study.

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

Mr. Jacobson reported the committee met with a representative from Primex, who is the consulting firm doing the upgrade on the SCADA. The committee was presented with a change order, for an increase above what had already been approved, to complete the project. After the meeting, Primex has now agreed to use the remaining funds to complete the project, without the additional funds originally asked for. Mr. Jacobson further reported it was a good meeting.

12. **Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report**

Mr. Cattaneo reported on O & M in Michael Craig's absence. He reported there is some leakage at the Paicines Canal, due to squirrels, but it has temporarily been addressed by sealing some holes. Mr. Cattaneo also reported about 300 feet of bentonite matting was installed to help with leaks in the canal. He further reported on water levels and usage in various zones.

13. **General Manager’s Report:**

a. Reach 1 Operations

Mr. Jacobson reported on a new notification system that the District and Valley Water will be using for the Pacheco Pumping Plant.

b. Zone 3 Operations

Mr. Jacobson stated Mr. Cattaneo has already covered this.

c. Zone 6 Operations

Mr. Jacobson stated he didn’t have anything further to report.

d. Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)

Mr. Jacobson reported on a grant application that was recently submitted for additional funding.

e. San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities

Mr. Jacobson reported the following was discussed: the potential impact on the Yuba Water Transfer Program due to a power plant failure, an approval of a contract with M&M Consultants and significant funding for the DMC Subsidence Project.

f. City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan

Mr. Jacobson stated he had nothing to report on this matter.

g. B F Sisk Dam Raise Project

Mr. Jacobson reported there could be a potential cost savings on mitigation regarding this project.

h. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance

Mr. Jacobson reported he had nothing further to report on SGMA.

i. Miscellaneous District items

Mr. Jacobson had no miscellaneous items to report on.

14. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Approved at the May 27, 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