July 29, 2026
Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, July 29, 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 and Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro. Jeff Cattaneo was also present at the meeting.

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 there was a second 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: June 23, 2026 Special Meeting**
   June 24, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. **Allowance of Claims**
3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the July Board Meeting**
4. **On Call Contracts – Status Updates**
5. **Consider Approval of Quarterly Investment Reports for March 31, 2026 and June 30, 2026**
6. **Sole Source Purchase of TechnoFlo Systems Water Meters — Approval of Purchase in the Amount of $295,732**
   Director Freeman asked to remove items #6 and #7 from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Before discussion on those items, a motion was made by Director Williams to approve Consent Agenda items, #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #8, with a second by Vice

President Tonascia; the above listed Consent Agenda items were approved by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

#6--Director Freeman asked why this is a sole source purchase. Mr. Craig stated the water meters the District uses are not off the shelf, but custom built. He used to purchase them from Sparling but can no longer get them and local vendors cannot get close to the pricing he can get from this vendor. Mr. Cattaneo added the District has a custom system which requires custom valves that are designed specifically for ag usage.
With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Williams, the Board approved the Sole Source Purchase of TechnoFlo Systems Water Meters — Approval of Purchase in the Amount of $295,732 by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

7. **Sole Source Purchase of Chem Valves with Check Valves and Gaskets — Approval of Purchase in the Amount of $73,489.08 from Fresno Valves & Castings, Inc.**
Mr. Craig stated the same reason as for item #6, the District's lay lengths are different and require custom made valves. Director Freeman asked if the piping was replaced, could the District move to more standardized valves. Mr. Craig stated there would be a considerable cost to change and most companies don't make a 12" valve; it is more cost effective to keep the equipment as is. With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Director Williams, the Board approved the Sole Source Purchase of TechnoFlo Systems Water Meters — Approval of Purchase in the Amount of $295,732 by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

8. **Consider Approval of Non-Financial Agreements between the San Benito County and the San Benito County Water District for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WOIA) and Work Experience Program (WEX) and Authorize General Manager to Execute both Agreements**

<u>REGULAR AGENDA</u>

9. **Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report**
Mr. Craig reported on water operations and maintenance activities, including reservoir levels and releases. Showing a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Craig discussed the significant break and subsequent repair in the 30-inch pipeline near San Juan Bautista. He further discussed the on-going issues in this area from previous construction management issues, removal of a blow-off system without replacement and other contributors to repeated maintenance in this area of the system.

Mr. Macdonald, also showed a PowerPoint presentation, reviewed several options that may address some of the issues mentioned by Mr. Craig in sub 10. There were 3 cost estimates ranging in price from $6 million up to $8.6 million. Discussion ensued about the significant cost, however; the rates in place should be sufficient to cover these expenses. Staff will consider all of these options and make a formal recommendation at a later date to the Board.

10. **Consider Resolution Authorizing Board President to Execute the Temporary Contract Between the United States and the San Benito County Water District Providing for Storage and/or Conveyance of Non-Project Water and the Power Letter of Agreement 26-WC-20-6448 for the Replacement of Central Valley Project Electrical Power and Fees Incurred for the Conveyance of Non-Project Water**
Mr. Jacobson stated the Board had previously approved the Yuba Water Agreement, which was between the members of the SLDMWA. The agreement before the Board, per Mr. Jacobson, is the Warren Act, which is between the District and the USBR. In addition to the contract, there is a separate agreement that is for power charges, as this is non-CVP water. Mr. Jacobson reviewed the costs involved and stated this agreement is for a period of 5 years. Discussion ensued about the water losses and where they occur.

With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Freeman, the Board approved Resolution #2026-19, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Authorizing Board President to Execute the Temporary Contract Between the United States and the San Benito County Water District Providing for Storage and/or Conveyance of Non-Project Water and the Power Letter of Agreement 26-WC-20-6448 for the Replacement of Central Valley Project Electrical Power and Fees Incurred for the Conveyance of Non-Project Water* by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

11. **Consider Approval of MUN CPAs for Auditing Services for Fiscal Years Ended 2026, 2027, and 2028, with option for renewal for Fiscal Years 2029 and 2030 and Authorize the General Manager to Enter into a Contract and Approve Renewals**
Mr. Miller stated the District circulated an RFP for Auditing Services in June 2026. Seven proposals were received and upon review, 3 firms were interviewed by Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Miller. From the 3 firms interviewed, staff recommended 1 of the 3 firms at the July 21st Finance Committee meeting. Director Flores asked where this firm is located; Mr. Miller stated Sacramento. Director Flores asked how this firm would conduct the audit and would they present the final audit in person. Mr. Miller stated a secure portal will be set up for the District to submit their information and yes, the audit presentation would be in person. Discussion ensued regarding the current District auditor. Mr. Miller reported their per year fee doubled. Director Freeman added at both the Finance Committee and Board Meeting, the current auditor's presentation was not very impressive.

With a motion by Director Williams and a second by Director Freeman, the Board approved of a contract for MUN CPAs for Auditing Services for Fiscal Years Ended 2026, 2027, and 2028, with option for renewal for Fiscal Years 2029 and 2030 and Authorized the General Manager to Enter into a Contract and Approve Renewals by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

12. **Consider Approving a Contract with GEI Consultants Inc. to Update the Inundation Maps for the Paicines and Hernandez Reservoirs and Authorize General Manager to execute all necessary documents (NTE $34,900)**
Mr. Macdonald reported, as part of maintaining our reservoirs, the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) requires the District has annual inspections, usually done in the month of May. Mr. Macdonald reviewed the findings of these inspections and how the District

plans to address the issues found. The contract for GEI Consultants, Inc. is to update the inundation maps that are a part of the required Emergency Action Plan (EAP). He reviewed the importance of maintaining these maps and EAP's to ensure public safety in case of dam emergencies.

With a motion by Vice President Tonascia and a second by Director Williams, the Board Approved a Contract with GEI Consultants Inc. to Update the Inundation Maps for the Paicines and Hernandez Reservoirs and Authorized General Manager to execute all necessary documents (NTE $34,900) by 5 affirmative votes, Wright, Tonascia, Flores, Freeman and Williams.

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

a. **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Jacobson)**
Director Tonascia stated this can be covered during the Manager's report.

b. **Finance Committee (Tonascia/Freeman)**
Directors Freeman and Tonascia stated this has already been covered.

c. **Investment Committee (Flores/Williams)**
Directors Flores and Williams stated this has already been covered.

d. **Personnel Committee (Flores/Tonascia)**
Directors Flores and Tonascia stated this was a Closed Session meeting.

e. **Zone 3 Water Supply & Operations Committee (Tonascia/Williams)**
Directors Tonascia and Williams stated the GEI contract was discussed.

f. **Zone 6 Water Supply & Operations Committee (Tonascia/Wright)**
Directors Tonascia and Wright stated this has already been covered.

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

a. **Reach 1 Operations**
Mr. Jacobson stated he did not have anything to report.

b. **Zone 3 Operations**
Mr. Jacobson stated he did not have anything further to report following Mr. Craig's report.

c. **Zone 6 Operations**
Mr. Jacobson stated customers have experienced pressure issues in subsystem 7, due to the recycled water issues.

d. **Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)**
Mr. Cattaneo gave an update on the progress on the West Hills Water Treatment Plant upgrade and the ongoing work on the ASR wells and pipeline components, with completion expected in June 2027.

e. **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities**
Mr. Jacobson stated there is new federal representation and also a new activity agreement for the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam project.

f. **City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan**
Mr. Jacobson stated San Juan Bautista is at about 30% of design. Also, in the MOU there was a reimbursable limit of $180,000, but the District has spent $234,000, which Mr. Jacobson is confident of full reimbursement.

g. **B F Sisk Dam Raise Project**
Mr. Jacobson stated the group is closer to obtaining the necessary mitigation credits for the project.

h. **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance**
Mr. Jacobson stated staff is working on the periodic Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Amendment.

i. **Miscellaneous District items**
There were no miscellaneous items.

15. **CLOSED SESSION:**
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
Agency Designated Representative: Dana Jacobson, General Manager
Employee Organization: SEIU 521 Office and Field Employees Unit
Union Labor Negotiations

16. **CLOSED SESSION:**
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
Agency Designated Representative: Dana Jacobson, General Manager
Unrepresented Employees:
Management/Confidential/Professional Employees: Accountant, Assistant Engineer, Associate Engineer, Deputy District Engineer, Finance Manager, Human Resources/Administrative Analyst, Operations and Maintenance Manager, Senior Engineer, Supervising Accountant, Water Conservation Program Manager
Management/Confidential/Professional Labor Negotiations

17. **CLOSED SESSION:**
Pursuant to Government Code Section § 54957.6
CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
Agency designated representative: Dana Jacobson
Unrepresented Employee: Assistant General Manager
Performance Evaluation

18. **CLOSED SESSION:**
Pursuant to Government Code Section § 54957.6
CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
Agency designated representative: Jeremy T. Liem
Unrepresented Employee: General Manager
Performance Evaluation

(The Board convened in Closed Session at 6:15 p.m.

19. **OPEN SESSION:**
Report any action, if any, from Closed Session

(The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:14 p.m.)

President Wright called the meeting back to order and stated there was no action to report from Closed Session.

20. **Adjournment**
With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the August 26, 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