



San Benito County Water District

San Benito County Water District **MINUTES**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 05:00 PM
30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, CA 95023

<https://sbcwd.ca.gov/>

Join Remotely, Click Here

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84703926347?pwd=xi7usyDvllwPdVAdVPQURavqSeJb7D.1>

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by President Mark Wright.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by President Mark Wright

2. Roll Call

Present: President Mark Wright, Vice President Joe Tonascia, Director Sonny Flores, Director John Freeman, Director Doug Williams

3. 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.

2. Approval of Agenda Vice President Joe Tonascia motioned to approve. Director John Freeman seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

 5 **In Favor** 0 **Opposed**

 0 **Abstained** 0 **Absent** **Recused**

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes for: July 29, 2026 Regular Meeting
2. Allowance of Claims
3. Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the August Board Meeting
4. On Call Contracts – Status Updates

Director Doug Williams motioned to approve. Director John Freeman seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

5 **In Favor** 0 **Opposed**
0 **Abstained** 0 **Absent** 0 **Recused**

5. Consider Increasing Contingent Funding for a Contract Issued to Specialty Construction, Inc. in the Amount of \$1,917,254, for the Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP) ASR Well Pumps and Motors and Authorize the General Manager to execute all necessary documents

Mr. Cattaneo reviewed this item for the Board. The original contract did not include the pumps and motors, because staff and the consultant weren't sure of the depth of the wells until construction began. Mr. Cattaneo stated the consultant now has all of the specifications for the pumps, which Mr. Cattaneo included in the packet. He further stated staff is recommending the board approve this item. Director Williams asked if he should recuse himself and District Counsel stated that was not necessary.

Vice President Joe Tonascia motioned to approve. Director Sonny Flores seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following vote:

5 **In Favor** 0 **Opposed**
0 **Abstained** 0 **Absent** 0 **Recused**

6. Consider Director Attendance at the 2026 ACWA/JPIA Board of Directors Meeting on November 30, 2026 in Anaheim, California

Mrs. Mauro stated this is a budgeted item; the District budgets for 2 to attend. Past practice has been Mr. Miller and our District representative to ACWA/JPIA, Director Freeman, usually attend. If any other directors wish to attend, the Board would need to take action to increase the attendance. No other directors expressed interest in attending.

7. Consider General Manager (or his designee) and Director Attendance at the 2026 ACWA Fall Conference December 1st through 3rd, 2026 in Anaheim, California

Mrs. Mauro stated this is also a budgeted item; the District budgets for either the General Manager, or his designee, and 2 directors to attend. Past practice has been Mr. Miller and Directors Freeman and Tonascia have attended. If more directors are interested, the Board would need to take action to increase attendance. No other directors expressed interest in attending.

8. Committee/Agency Representative Reports:

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

Director Tonascia stated Mr. Jacobson can cover this under his manager's report.

2. Water Resources Association (Flores/Freeman)

Director Flores stated general business was discussed and Mrs. Osorio presented a new style of the manager's report, which gave a better picture of the work WRA has been doing.

3. Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan Governance Committee (Williams/Wright*)

Directors Williams and Wright stated only 1 Supervisor attending and no one from the City of Hollister attended. Mr. Jacobson gave a review to the committee on the ADRoP Project and the B.F.Sisk Dam Raise Project. The City of Hollister City Manager, who is fairly new, attended as well as the new Public Works Director. The directors stated they both can bring a new perspective to the group. Also discussed was meeting more frequently than once a year.

4. Personnel Committee (Flores/Tonascia)

Directors Flores and Tonascia stated the committee reviewed a recruitment proposal and the remainder of the meeting was closed session.

9. Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report

Mr. Craig reported San Justo Reservoir is at 479' or 6432 acre feet. He further reported Paicines Reservoir is at dead pool (about 300AF) Hernandez Reservoir, is also at dead pool (600 AF). He further reported there was a recent blowout at subsystem 9H; which was repaired and back up in less than 24 hours. Based on the recent Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) inspections, field staff is doing prep work for the repairs needed at Hernandez and the minor repairs needed at Paicines. Mr. Craig reminded the Board and staff, that the Pacheco Pumping Plant will be down from October 5th through 15th, and the District will be operating from San Justo Reservoir on reverse flow.

10. General Manager's Report:

1. Reach 1 Operations

Mr. Jacobson had nothing further to report at this time.

2. Zone 3 Operations

Mr. Jacobson stated Mr. Craig covered this already.

3. Zone 6 Operations

Mr. Jacobson stated the District water supply is good right now. The Bureau recently increased the allocations by 3%; the Ag allocation is now at 28% and the M & I allocation is at 78% of historical use.

4. Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)

Mr. Jacobson stated the expansion at the West Hills Water Treatment Plant should be complete around the third week in September and the contract should conclude by the end of the month. The ASR well drilling has been completed and the well site and pipeline continue to move forward, with some delays. The next step, per Mr. Jacobson, will be to negotiate a wheeling agreement between the City of Hollister and the District for use of their pipeline for the water from the ASR wells.

5. San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities

Mr. Jacobson reported that the Water Authority is in the process of transferring the Grasslands Basin Drainage Authority to a new JPA while continuing to facilitate grant funding for members including Westlands.

6. City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan

Mr. Jacobson stated he had nothing to report at this time.

7. B F Sisk Dam Raise Project

Mr. Jacobson stated there will be a formation of a JPA for Financing of this project. A letter of agreement is being formulated between the SLDMWA and the USBR to confirm the timing of the project and to expedite communication between the USBR and the members of SLDMWA.

8. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Compliance

Mr. Jacobson stated the District is working on the Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation. There is a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting scheduled for September 2nd and a Public Workshop, scheduled for September 15th; both at the District.

9. Miscellaneous District items

Mrs. Mauro reported the District will be using a new agenda management program, beginning in September. This month's agenda is in a very similar format to what the new program will produce.

The District convened in Closed Session at 5:30 p.m.

11. Closed Session

1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation Pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2) or (3) One case

No Reportable Action

2. Agency Designated Representative: Dana Jacobson, General Manager

Conference with Labor Negotiators - Employee Organization: SEIU 521 Office and Field Employees Unit

Union Labor Negotiations

No Reportable Action

3. Agency Designated Representative: Dana Jacobson, General Manager

Conference with Labor Negotiators - 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

No Reportable Action

4. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 – Public Employee Performance Evaluation

Agency designated representative: Dana Jacobson

Unrepresented Employee: Assistant General Manager

No Reportable Action

5. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 – Public Employee Performance Evaluation

Agency designated representative: Jeremy T. Liem

Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

No Reportable Action

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

The Board reconvened in Opened Session at 6:29 p.m. and had no action on any of the closed session items to report.

13. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.