

County of Monterey

*Board of Supervisors Chambers
168 W. Alisal St 1st Flr,
Salinas, CA 93901*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

12:00 PM

Water Resources Agency Board of Directors

*Mike LeBarre, Chair
Matt Simis, Vice Chair
Mark Gonzalez
Deidre Sullivan
Ken Ekelund
Mike Scattini
Jason Smith
John Baillie
Marvin Borzini*

Participation in meetings:

You may attend the Board of Directors meeting through the following methods:

1. You may attend in person
2. Attend via Zoom (info below) or observe the live stream of the Board of Directors meetings at http://monterey.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=19 or <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>
3. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/99769079850>

OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:

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- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
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Enter this Meeting ID number: 997 6907 9850 when prompted. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just press # again after the recording prompts you.

You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment if joined by computer audio please Raise your Hand; and by phone please push *9 on your keypad.

PLEASE NOTE: IF ALL BOARD MEMBERS ARE PRESENT IN PERSON, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY ZOOM IS FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW. IF THE ZOOM FEED IS LOST FOR ANY REASON, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MAY BE PAUSED WHILE A FIX IS ATTEMPTED BUT THE MEETING MAY CONTINUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.

4. If you choose not to attend the Board of Directors meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting.. Please submit your comment to the Secretary of the Board at WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us In an effort to assist the Secretary in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the Subject Line, the meeting body (i.e. Board of Directors Agenda) and item number (i.e. Item No. 10). Your comment will be placed into the record at the Board meeting.

Participacion en Reuniones:

Puede asistir a la reunion de la Junta Directiva a traves de los siguientes metodos:

- 1. Podar asistir personalmente a la reunion; o,**
- 2. Asistir por Zoom (informacion a continuacion), que observe la transmisión de la reunión de la Junta Directiva en vivo por http://monterey.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=19 o <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>**
- 3. Para participar for ZOOM, por favor únase for audio de computadora por:
[https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/997 6907 9850](https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/99769079850)**

O para participar for teléfono, llame a culquiera de los números a continuación:

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- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)**
- +1 253 215 8782 US**
- +1 301 715 8592 US**

Cuando se le solicite, ingrese este número de reunión: 997 6907 9850. Por favor tenga en cuenta que no hay código de participante, simplemente presione # nuevamente después de que la grabación se lo indique.

Se le colocará en la reunion como asistente; cuando desee hacer un comentario público si esta unido por la computadora utilice la opción de levantar la mano en el chat de la pantalla; o por teléfono presione *9 en su teclado.

TENGA EN CUENTA: SI TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DE LA JUNTA ESTÁN PRESENTES EN PERSONA, LA PARTICIPACIÓN PÚBLICA DE ZOOM ES SOLO POR CONVENIENCIA Y NO ES REQUERIDA POR LA LEY. SI EL FEED DE ZOOM SE PIERDE POR CUALQUIER MOTIVO, LA REUNIÓN DE LA JUNTA DIRECTIVA PUEDE PAUSARSE MIENTRAS SE INTENTA UNA SOLUCIÓN, PERO LA REUNIÓN PUEDE CONTINUAR A DISCRECIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

- 4. Si prefiere no asistir a la reunión de la Junta Directiva pero desea hacer un comentario sobre algún tema específico de la agenda, por favor envíe su comentario por correo electrónico antes de las 5:00 p.m. el Viernes antes de la reunion.. Envíe su comentario al Secretario de la junta al correo electronico WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us <mailto:WRAPubliccomment@co.monterey.ca.us> Para ayudar al Secretario a idenficar el**

artículo de la agenda relacionado con su comentario, por favor indique en la línea de asunto del correo electrónico el cuerpo de la reunión (es decir, la Agenda de la Junta Directiva) y el número de artículo (es decir, el Artículo No. 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro de la reunión de esta Junta.

NOTE: All agenda titles related to numbered agenda items are live web links. Click on the title to be directed to corresponding Board Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public may address comments to the Board concerning each agenda item. The timing of public comment shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

Call to Order at 12:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Matt Simis, Deidre Sullivan (arrived at 12:05p.m.), Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini (arrived 12:10p.m.), Jason Smith (arrived at 12:02 p.m.), John Baillie, Marvin Borzini
Absent: Mike LeBarre, Mark Gonzalez

Public Comments on Closed Session Items

None

1. Closed Session under Government Code section 54950, relating to the following items:
 - a. Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding one matter of significant exposure to litigation.
 - b. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding existing litigation:
 1. *Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee v. Monterey County Water Resources Agency, et al.* (San Luis Obispo Superior Case No. 19CVP-0010)
 - c. Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1), the Board will provide a performance evaluation for the General Manager.
 - d. Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8, the Board will confer with real property negotiators:
 - Property: Recycled Industrial Wastewater
 - Agency Negotiator(s): Ara Azhderian, General Manager
 - Negotiating Parties: City of Salinas and Monterey One Water

Under Negotiation: Price and terms.

Note: Continuance of Closed Session to be held at the conclusion of the Board's Regular Agenda, or at any other time during the course of the meeting announced by the Chairperson of the Board. The public may comment on Closed Session items prior to the Board's recess to Closed Session.

Recess to Closed Session

Reconvene Meeting at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS BY CLERK: The Clerk of the Board will announce agenda corrections and proposed additions, which may acted on by the Board as provided in Sections 54954.2 of the California Government Code.

Public Comment

None

Presentations

**Board of Directors Comments: Marvin Borzini, John Baillie, Jason Smith, Mike Scattini
Public Comments: Bill Lipe (will also follow-up in writing), Nancy Isakson**

2. Summary of the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project's 2023 Operational Season.
(Staff Presenting: Peter Vannerus)

Attachments: CSIP Season Summary 2023

Consent Calendar

Upon Motion by Director John Baillie and Second by Deidre Sullivan the Board approved the Consent Calendar.

Ayes: Matt Simis, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Jason Smith, John Baille, Marvin Borzini

Noes: None

Absent: Mike Lebarre, Mark Gonzalez,

Abstained: None

Recused: None

3. Approve the Action Minutes of January 16, 2024, and Special Board of Directors Meeting Action Minutes of January 24, 2024.

Attachments: Draft BOD Minutes January 16, 2024
Draft SPECIAL BOD Minutes January 24, 2024

4. Receive the Monterey County Water Resources Agency FY 2023-24 Financial Status Report through December 31, 2023. (Staff: Nan Kyung Kim)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[FY24 Financial Status Report thru Dec. 31, 2023](#)
[Executed BO# 24-002 FY24 WRA Financial](#)

Action Items

5. Consider receiving the 2023 Annual Groundwater Level Contours and Cumulative Change Chart. (Staff Presenting: Guillermo Diaz Moreno)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Attachment A: Annual 2023 Shallow](#)
[Attachment B: Annual 2023 Deep](#)
[Attachment C: Cumulative Changes 1944 - 2023](#)
[Attachment D: Summary of Changes 2022 - 2023](#)
[Board Order](#)
[Executed BO# 24-003 Annual GWL Contours & Cumulative Change Chart](#)

Upon Motion by Director Deidre Sullivan and Second by Jason Smith the Board received the 2023 Annual Groundwater Level Contours and Cumulative Change Chart.

Ayes: Matt Simis, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Jason Smith, John Baillie, Marvin Borzini

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mike LeBarre, Mark Gonzalez

6. Consider adoption of a resolution amending the Bylaws of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors concerning Board member participation on standing and advisory committees. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[MCWRA Bylaws proposed amendments \(clean\) REVISED](#)
[MCWRA Bylaws proposed amendments \(redline\) REVISED](#)
[Resolution](#)
[Executed RESO #24-001 MCWRA Bylaws](#)
[Executed MCWRA Bylaws 2.20.24](#)

Upon Motion by Director Ken Ekelund and Second by Jason Smith the Board adopted a resolution amending the Bylaws of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors concerning Board member participation on standing and advisory committees.

Ayes: Matt Simis, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Jason Smith, John Baillie, Marvin Borzini

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Mike LeBarre, Mark Gonzalez

Board of Directors Comments: Ken Ekelund

Public Comments: None

7. Consider recommending the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors to include funding for Interlake Tunnel Project development, in the recommended budget for fiscal-year 2024-2025. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Board Order](#)
[Executed BO#24-004 Interlake Tunnel Project](#)

Upon Motion by Director Ken Ekelund and Second by Deidre Sullivan the Board Recommend to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors to include funding for Interlake Tunnel Project development, in the recommended budget for fiscal-year 2024-2025 OPTION 3: The Agency could budget \$350,000 from Fund 130 (Hydroelectric Funds) to support work proposed under Option 2 as well as certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report and finalizing the Agency's water rights change petitions. This funding represents a moderate level of effort by staff with some consulting technical and legal support.

Ayes: Matt Simis, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Jason Smith, John Baillie,

Noes: Marvin Borzini

Abstained: None

Absent: Mike LeBarre, Mark Gonzalez

Board of Directors Comments: Ken Ekelund, Marvin Borzini, John Baillie, Mike Scattini, Deidre Sullivan

Public Comments: Nancy Isakson, Christopher Bunn, Bill Lipe

Key Information and Calendar of Events

8. February, March and April 2024 Calendars.

Attachments: February 2024
March 2024
April 2024

General Manager's Report

Board of Directors Comments: Ken Ekelund

Public Comments: Thomas Virsik, Margie Kay

9.
 - Fiscal-Year Ending 2025 Budget Preparation Update
 - GEMS Expansion

- Personnel Update
- Monterey One Reconciliation
- Dam Safety Project Funding
- Carmel River Flood Model Update Funding
- Association of California Water Agencies Update
- Other

Attachments: General Manager Memo
Board of Director - Special Meeting GEMS Expansion Presentation
WRA Planning Committee Presentation RE Financial Forecasting Model
BOS Legislative Workshop WRA Priorities Fact Sheets
DRAFT ACWA 2024 FAC Priorities

Committee Reports

10. Committee Agenda's and Cancellation Notices for January and February 2024:

- Special Water Resources Agency Board of Directors
- Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee
- Water Resources Agency Basin Management Advisory Committee
- Water Resources Agency Personnel and Administration Committee
- Water Resources Finance Committee
- Water Resources Planning Committee
- Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee

Attachments: Final SPECIAL BOD MEETING Agenda January 24, 2024
Final ResOps Agenda January 25, 2024
Final BMAC Agenda February 7, 2024
P&A Cancellation Notice February 2024
Final Finance Agenda February 2, 2024
Final Planning Agenda February 7, 2024
Final SPECIAL BOD Agenda February 7, 2024
JBL Cancellation Notice February 2024

Information Items

11. Reservoir Storage Release Update. (Staff: Peter Kwiek)

Attachments: Reservoir Storage Release Update

12. Salinas Valley Water Conditions: Quarterly Update for the First Quarter of Water Year 2023-2024.
(Staff: Rene Nunez, Guillermo Diaz Moreno, and Tamara Voss)

Attachments: Salinas Valley Water Conditions for the First Qtr. Water Yr 23-24

13. Well Permit Application Summary. (Staff: Guillermo Diaz Moreno)

Attachments: Well Permit Application Summary

Correspondence

Board of Directors Comments: Deidre Sullivan

Public Comments: None

14. 1. Letter dated January 23, 2024 to Governor Gavin Newsom, Ben Allen (Bond Authors), Susan Eggman (Bond Authors), Eduardo Garcia (Bond Authors), Carlos Villapudua (Bond Authors), Josh Becker (Budget Subcommittee Chair), Steve Bennett (Budget Subcommittee Chair) from ACWA, CMUA, California Alliance for Jobs, Irvine Ranch Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, Sweetwater Authority, Yuba Water Agency, EVMWD, El Dorado Irrigation District, United Water Conservation District, Sonoma Water, NCWA, Serrano Water District, Monterey County, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, The City of San Diego, Turlock Irrigation District, Northern California Power Agency, Valley Water, SAFCA
RE: Dam Safety and Resilience Program/Legislative Bond Proposals
2. Letter dated February 2, 2024 to Majority Leader Charles Schumer, Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, Democratic Leader Hakeem Jefferies from Agribusiness and Water Council Arizona, Animas - La Plata Water Conservancy District (Colorado), Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District, Colorado Ag Water Alliance Colorado River District, Columbia Basin Development League (WASHINGTON), Deschutes Basin Board of Control (OREGON) - Arnold Irrigation District - Central Oregon Irrigation District -North Unit Irrigation District -Ochoco Irrigation District -Swalley Irrigation District -Three Sisters Irrigation District -Tumalo Irrigation District -Lone Pine Irrigation District, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (WASHINGTON), Elephant Butte Irrigation District (NEW MEXICO), Farmers Conservation Alliance, Family Farm Alliance, Family Water Alliance (CALIFORNIA), Farwell Irrigation District (NEBRASKA), Greenfields Irrigation District (MONTANA), Idaho Water Users Association, Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District (KANSAS), Kittitas Reclamation District (WASHINGTON), Klamath Water Users Association (OREGON), Iliff Irrigation District (COLORADO), Logan Irrigation District; Loup Basin Reclamation District (NEBRASKA), Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District (ARIZONA), Milk River Joint Board of Control (MONTANA), Monterey County Farm Bureau (CALIFORNIA), Monterey County Water Resources Agency (CALIFORNIA), National Water Resources Association, New Magma Irrigation and Drainage District (ARIZONA), North Sterling Irrigation District (COLORADO), Orange Cove Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA), Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Water Resources Congress, Roza Irrigation District (WASHINGTON), Salt River Project (ARIZONA), San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District (ARIZONA), San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (CALIFORNIA), Sargent Irrigation District (NEBRASKA), Solana Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA), South Columbia Basin Irrigation

District (WASHINGTON), Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (NEVADA), Turlock Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA), Washington State Potato Commission, Washington State Water Resources Association.

RE: 70 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operation Program

3. Letter dated February 1, 2024 to Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senate from Sonia M. De La Rosa, County Administrative Officer RE: Support for the Low-Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act

Attachments:

1.23.24 LTR Coalition to Governor Newsom RE Dam Safety Funding

2.2.24 LTR Re WFPO Funding FY24 Appropriations

2.1.24 CAO LTR of Support for Padilla RE: LIHWAP Establishment Act

Board of Directors Comments

Jason Smith, Ken Ekelund

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:33p.m.