

County of Monterey

Cayenne Room
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas Ca. 93901



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, April 20, 2026

12:00 PM

**Cayenne Conference Room
1441 Schilling Place, Salinas, CA 93901**

Water Resources Agency Board of Directors

Matt Simis – Chair

Jason Smith – Vice-Chair

Mike LeBarre

Mark Gonzalez

Deidre Sullivan

Ken Ekelund

Mike Scattini

John Baillie

Jon Conatser

For information on The Ralph M. Brown Act: Open Meetings please click on the link below:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5

Participation in meetings:

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

1. You may attend in person

2. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/91450374062>, password 669097

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

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PLEASE NOTE: IF ALL 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 MEETING MAY BE PAUSED WHILE A FIX IS ATTEMPTED BUT THE MEETING MAY CONTINUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.

Enter this Meeting ID number: 914 5037 4062, PASSWORD: 669097. 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.

3. 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@countyofmonterey.gov. 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 date (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.

4. **ALTERNATE AGENDA FORMATS:** If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals with a disability requiring a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may make these requests to the Water Resources Agency Office the Thursday prior to the Board of Directors 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. Para participar por ZOOM, por favor únase for audio de computadora por:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/91450374062>, Codigo: 669097

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

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POR FAVOR TENGA EN CUENTA: SI TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ ESTÁN PRESENTES EN PERSONA, EL ACCESO POR ZOOM ES SOLO POR CONVENIENCIA Y NO ES LEGALMENTE REQUERIDO. SI SE PIERDE LA SEÑAL DE ZOOM, LA REUNIÓN PUEDE PAUSARSE BREVE PERO PUEDE CONTINUAR A DISCRECIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

Cuando se le solicite, ingrese este número de reunión: 914 5037 4062, Código: 669097. Por favor tenga en cuenta no hay código de participante, simplemente presione # nuevamente después de que la grabación se lo indique. Se le colocará en la reunión 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 de teléfono.

3. 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 reunión. Envíe su comentario a la Secretaria de la Junta al correo electrónico WRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov. Para ayudar a la Secretaria a identificar el artículo de la agenda relacionado con su comentario, por favor indique en la línea de asunto del correo electrónico la fecha de la reunión (ejemplo, la Agenda de la Junta Directiva) y el número de artículo (ejemplo, el Artículo No. 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro de la reunión de esta Junta.

4. Formatos Alternativos de Agenda: si se solicita, la agenda estará disponible en formatos alternativos apropiados para personas con discapacidad, según lo requerido por la Sección 202 de la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132) y las normas y regulaciones federales adoptadas para su implementación. Las personas con discapacidad que requieran una modificación o adaptación, incluidos ayudas o servicios auxiliares, para poder participar en la reunión pública pueden hacer estas solicitudes a la Agencia de Recursos Hídricos el Lunes antes de la reunión.

Note: All numbered agenda titles related to agenda are live web links. Click on the link to be directed to corresponding item.

Call to Order at 12:00 P.M.

The Meeting was called to order at 12:00pm.

Roll Call

Present: Matt Simis, Jason Smith, Mark Gonzalez, Jon Conatser, John Baillie, Deidre Sullivan, Mike Scattini (arrived 12:15pm) Mike LeBarre, Ken Ekelund

Absent: None

Public Comments on Closed Session Items

None

Closed Session

1. Closed Session under Government Code section 54950, relating to the following items:
 - a. Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding existing litigation:
 - i. Mario Gonzalez, et al. v. State of California, et al., Monterey County Superior Court Case No. 23CV004194 (as lead coordinated case, including subordinate Monterey County cases: 24CV000215; 24CV000421; 24CV000428; 24CV000904; 24CV001269; 25CV004183; and Santa Cruz case: 23CV03022)

- ii. *City of Marina vs. RMC Lonestar, et al.*, Monterey County Superior case No. 20CV001387.
 - iii. *Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee v. Monterey County Water Resources Agency, et al.* (San Luis Obispo Superior Court Case No. 19CVP-0010)
- b. Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1), the Board will consider the performance of the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency.

Recess to Closed Session

The Board of Directors recessed to Closed Session at 12:02pm.

Reconvene Meeting at 1:00 P.M.

The Meeting reconvened at 1:03pm. Due to technical issues meeting resumed at 1:25pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions and Corrections by the Clerk

Action Item #13 will be pulled and heard as first order of business.

Public Comment

None

Presentations

2. Update on the San Antonio Dam Spillway Project. (Staff: Elise Harden)

Director Comments: Mark Gonzalez

Public Comments: Bill Lipe

3. Review of the 2025 August Trough Groundwater Elevation Contour Maps. (Staff: Guillermo Diaz-Moreno)

Director Comments: Matt Simis

Public Comments: Bill Lipe, Dennis LeBow

4. Review of the 2025 Seawater Intrusion Contour Maps. (Staff: Amy Woodrow)

Director Comments: Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, John Baillie

Public Comments: Nancy Isakson, Chris Bunn

5. Review of the 2025 Annual Groundwater Level Contours and Cumulative Change Chart. (Staff: Guillermo Diaz-Moreno)

Director Comments: Deidre Sullivan, John Baillie

Public Comments: Chris Bunn, Bill Lipe

Consent Calendar

Upon Motion by Director Ken Ekelund and Second by Director Deidre Sullivan approved the Consent Calendar.

Ayes: Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Ken Ekelund, Deidre Sullivan, John Baillie, Jon Conatser, Mark Gonzalez

Noes: None

Absent: Jason Smith, Mike Scattini

Abstained: None

Recused: None

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

6. Approve the Action Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 16, 2026.
7. Authorize the General Manager to execute an Agreement for Services with One Water Econ, LLP to complete the Dam Materiality General Benefits Study; and authorize the General Manager to execute up to three amendments to this Agreement where the total amendments do not exceed 10% of the contract amount, do not significantly change the scope of work, and do not exceed a maximum aggregate amount of \$209,673. (Staff: Amy Woodrow)
8. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency:
 - a. Approve and authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to accept donation of monitoring wells ES-1A valued at \$350,806; ES-1B valued at \$152,388; ES-1C valued at \$92,109; ES-ISW-1 valued at \$38,110; F-DA-1 valued at \$350,806; F-ISW-1 valued at \$74,528; F-ISW-2 valued at \$43,133; F-ISW-3 valued at \$43,133; L-GWL-1 valued at \$67,244; L-GWL-4 valued at \$127,272; UV-GWL-2 valued at \$200,109; UV-GWL-3 valued at \$149,877; and UV-ISW-2 valued at \$43,133 from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency;
 - b. Authorize the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency to enter into Agreements to Convey Ownership in Monitoring Wells ES-1A, ES-1B, ES-1C, ES-ISW-1, F-DA-1, F-ISW-1, F-ISW-2, F-ISW-3, L-GWL-1, L-GWL4, UV-GWL-2, UV-GWL-3, and UV-ISW-2; and
 - c. Authorize the Water Resources Agency to use monitoring wells ES-1A, ES-1B, ES-1C, ES-ISW-1, F-DA-1, F-ISW-1, F-ISW-2, F-ISW-3, L-GWL-1, L-GWL-4, UV-GWL-2, UV-GWL-3, and UV-ISW-2 for implementation of its Groundwater Monitoring Program.
9. Approve an Agreement for Services with FlowWest in the amount not to exceed \$60,000 to perform a study of flood reduction benefits related to the presence of Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams; and authorize the General Manager to execute the amendment. (Staff: Jason Demers)

Action Items

10. Consider adopting a release schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs for 2026. (Staff: Joseph Klein)

Upon Motion by Director Mike LeBarre Second by John Baillie the Board approved the release schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs 2026.

Ayes: Mike LeBarre, John Baillie, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Matt Simis, Jon Conatser

Noes: None

Absent: Jason Smith, Mike Scattini

Abstained: None

Recused: None

Director Comments: John Baillie, Mike LeBarre

Public Comments: Chris Bunn

- 11.** Public hearing to consider recommending the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors:

a. Adopt a resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27) Zone 2B Water Delivery charge of \$100.24 per acre-foot (AF) of water delivered for Zone 2B for the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP) and the Salinas Valley Reclamation Project (SVRP); and

b. Adopt a resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27) Zone 2B Water Service charge of \$113.57 per acre-foot (AF) of water delivered for Zone 2B for the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF); and

c. Notice and hold a public hearing on May 19, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. to consider approving and adopting the rate change; and

d. Direct the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to publish a hearing notice once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the date set for the public hearing by Board of Supervisors.

Upon Motion by Director Mike LeBarre Second by Ken Ekelund the Board approved the Public hearing to consider recommending the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Water Delivery charges for Zone 2B CSIP and Zone 2B SRDF.

Ayes: Mike LeBarre, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Matt Simis, Jon Conatser

Noes: John Baillie

Absent: Jason Smith, Mike Scattini

Abstained: None

Recused: None

Director Comments: John Baillie, Mike LeBarre, Ken Ekelund

Public Comments: Chris Bunn, Bill Lipe

12. Consider recommending the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors:
- a. Approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27) cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.5% to the assessment charges of Zones 1, 1A, 2B, 2C, 2Y, 2Z, 8, 9, 12, and 17;
and
 - b. Set and hold a public hearing at 10:30 AM on May 19, 2026, to consider approving and adopting the assessment rate and charges; and
 - c. Direct the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to publish a hearing notice once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the date set for the hearing.

Upon Motion by Director Ken Ekelund Second by Mark Gonzalez the Board approved recommending the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-27 cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase of 2.5% to the assessment charges of Zones 1, 1A, 2B, 2C, 2Y, 2Z, 8, 9, 12, and 17. Set and hold a public hearing at 10:30am on May 19, 2026 to consider approving and adopting assessment charges.

Ayes: Mike LeBarre, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Matt Simis, Jon Conatser

Noes: None

Absent: Jason Smith, Mike Scattini, John Baillie

Abstained: None

Recused: None

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: Chris Bunn

13. The Board of Directors to consider recommendation from the Finance & Administration Committee to transfer \$200,000 of hydroelectric revenue from Fund 1508 to Fund 1509, the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project. (Staff: Ara Azhderian)

Upon Motion by Director John Baillie Second by Mike Scattini the Board approved recommendation from the Finance & Administration Committee to transfer \$200,000 of hydroelectric revenue from Fund 1508 to Fund 1509, the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project.

Ayes: Mike LeBarre, John Baillie, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Matt Simis, Jon Conatser, Jason Smith, Mike Scattini

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstained: None

Recused: None

Director Comments: John Baillie, Mike LeBarre, Mike Scattini, Mark Gonzalez, Matt Simis, Jason Smith, Ken Ekelund
Public Comments: Chris Bunn, Nancy Isakson

14. Consider recommending the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution approving the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27) Recommended Budget. (Staff: Nan Kim)

Upon Motion by Director Marl Gonzalez Second by Deidre Sullivan the Board approved recommending the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution approving the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Fiscal Year 2026-27 Recommended Budget.

Ayes: Mike LeBarre, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Matt Simis, Jon Conatser

Noes: None

Absent: Jason Smith, Mike Scattini, John Baillie

Abstained: None

Recused: None

Director Comments: Mark Gonzalez, Mike LeBarre, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund

Public Comments: None

Key Information and Calendar of Events

15. May 2026 Calendar

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

General Manager's Report

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

16. 1. Personnel
2. Groundwater Monitoring Program
3. SVBGSA Advisory Committee Update
4. Strategic Plan Update

Committee Reports

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

17. Committee Agenda's for March and April 2026.

Informational Items

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

18. Reservoir Storage and Release Update. (Staff: Joseph Klein)

Correspondence

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

19. Correspondence dated March 19, 2026, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency.
From Soren Nelson, Senior Policy Advocate, Association of CA Water Agencies.
Re: AB 2180 Support

Board of Directors Comments

Mark Gonzalez, Ken Ekelund, Matt Simis

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

Addenda/Supplemental

Language added to Item No.1 Closed Session
Added Item iii under Item No. 1 Closed Session a. ii