

# County of Monterey

*Cayenne Room  
1441 Schilling Place  
Salinas Ca. 93901*



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

**12:00 PM**

**Cayenne Room - 1441 Schilling Place Salinas, Ca. 93901**

## Water Resources Agency Board of Directors

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

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](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://monterevcty.zoom.us/j/94486979351>, passcode 755796

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

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Enter this Meeting ID number: 944 8697 9351 when prompted. Please note the Participant Code, 755796 or 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@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov)

<mailto: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 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](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/94486979351>

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

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+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: 944 8697 9351. Por favor tenga en cuenta código de participante 755796, o 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 electrónico [WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov) mailto:WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov Para ayudar al Secretario a identificar 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.**

**Call to Order at 12:00 P.M.**

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

**Roll Call**

Present: Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Jason Smith, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, John Baillie (left at 2:18pm), Jon Conatser (resumed meeting at 2:19pm)

Absent: Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan

**Public Comments on Closed Session Items**

None

**Recess to Closed Session**

The Board of Directors recessed to Closed Session at 12:01pm.

1. Closed Session under Government Code section 54950, relating to the following items:
  - a. Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2) and (d)(4), the Board will confer with legal counsel regarding one matter of significant exposure to litigation and the potential initiation of litigation.

b. 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; 24CVOOO428; 24CV000904; 24CV001269; 25CV004183; and Santa Cruz case: 23CV03022)

c. Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1), the Board will consider the performance of the General Manager of the Water Resources Agency.

**Reconvene Meeting at 1:00 P.M.**

The meeting reconvened at 1:02 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Additions and Correction by Clerk**

None

The Clerk of the Board will announce agenda corrections and proposed additions, which may be acted on by the Board as provided in Sections 54954.2 of the California Government Code.

**Public Comment**

Rick Kleinsasser, Scott Johnson

**Election of Officers**

Upon Motion by Director Ken Ekelund and Second by Director Mike Scattini the Board approved the Nominations for Chair and Vice for the Board of Directors and Committees.

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

Noes: None

Absent: Jon Conatser, Deidre Sullivan, Mark Gonzalez

Recused: None

Director Comments: John Baillie

Public Comments: None

2. Receive nominations and elect members of the Board of Directors to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for a two-year term, effective immediately.
3. Chair to make Board of Director committee member assignments to:
  - a. The Finance & Administration Committee, consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and two other members.

- b. The Planning Committee, consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and two other members.
- c. The Water Resources Advisory Committee, consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and two other members.

### **Ceremonial Resolution**

**Director Comments: Jason Smith, Ken Ekelund, John Baillie, Mike Scattini, Matti Simis, Mike LeBarre**

**Public Comments: Norm Groot**

- 4. Adopt a Resolution of Commendation recognizing Peter Kwiek for completion of twenty-four years of dedicated service to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency. (Staff: Ara Azhderian)

### **Presentations**

**Directors Comments: Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini**

**Public Comments: None**

- 5. Receive an update on recent winter storm activities. (Staff: Shaunna Murray)

### **Consent Calendar**

**Upon Motion by Director Ken Ekelund and Second by Director Jason Smith approved the Consent Calendar. Consent Item #8 was pulled from Consent Calendar by Director John Baillie for further discussion.**

**Ayes: Mike LeBarre, John Baillie, Ken Ekelund, Jason Smith, Matt Simis, Mike Scattini**

**Noes: None**

**Absent: Deidre Sullivan, Jon Conatser, Mark Gonzalez**

**Abstained: None**

**Recused: None**

**Director Comments: None**

**Public Comments: None**

- 6. Approve the Action Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on November 17, 2025.

**Attachments:**     [draft BOD Minutes November 17,2025](#)

- 7. Approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors Special Strategic Planning Workshop held December 8, 2025.

**Attachments:**     [Draft Strategic Workshop Minutes December 8, 2025](#)

- 8. Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Services with Balance Hydrologics for the Carmel River Flooding Impacts Study, to increase the amount of the contract by \$50,000 for a total agreement amount of \$192,300; and authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 1. (Staff: Amy

Woodrow)

**Attachments:**    [Board Report](#)  
[Att1 Agreement for Services Balance Hydrologics](#)  
[Att2 Amendment 1 Balance Hydrologics](#)  
[Board Order](#)

**Director Comments:** John Baillie  
**Public Comments:** None

9. Approve Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement for Services with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) to revise the fee schedule, for services related to the administration of and compliance with Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program 404 and 401 permits; and authorize the General Manager to execute the Amendment. (Staff: Jennifer Bodensteiner)

**Attachments:**    [Board Report](#)  
[Executed - Resource Conservation District Agreement original](#)  
[Amendment No. 3 - RCD \(Salinas River Stream Maint.\) final](#)  
[Executed - Amendment No. 1 \(RCD - SRSM\)](#)  
[Executed - Amendment No. 2 \(RCD - SRSM\)](#)  
[Board Order](#)

**Action Items**

10. Adopt the 2026 Board of Directors and Committee Meetings Calendars for the Monterey County Water Resources Agency and approve 1441 Schilling Place, Salinas Ca. 93901 as the Board of Directors Meeting location. (Staff: Shauna Murray)

**Attachments:**    [2026 Board of Directors Meeting Calendar](#)  
[2026 Committee Meeting Dates](#)  
[2026 JBL Committee Meeting Dates](#)  
[Board Order](#)

Upon Motion by Director Jason Smith and Second by Director Mike Scattini approved the 2026 Board of Directors and Committee Meeting Calendars and approve 1441 Schilling Place Salinas Ca. 93901 as the Board of Directors meeting location for the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

**Ayes:** Jason Smith, Matt Simis, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Mike LeBarre  
**Noes:** John Baillie  
**Absent:** Deidre Sullivan Jon Conatser, Mark Gonzalez  
**Recused:** None

**Director Comments:** John Baillie, Mike LeBarre, Mike Scattini, Ken Ekelund  
**Public Comments:** None

11. Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Service Agreement with Larry Walker and Associates

for the CSIP Title 22 Engineering Report and Permit Migration Project, to increase the dollar amount by \$219,860.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$401,250.00; and authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 1. (Staff: Peter Vannerus)

**Attachments:** [Board Report](#)  
[Executed - Larry Walker & Associates](#)  
[Amendment No. 1- Larry Walker- CSIP T22 Report and Permit-Final](#)  
[Board Order](#)

**Upon Motion by Director Mike LeBarre Second by Director Jason Smith approved Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Service Agreement with Larry Walker and Associates for the CSIP Title 22 Engineering Report and Permit Migration Project, to increase the dollar amount by \$219,860.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$401,250.00; and authorize the general Manager to execute Amendment No. 1.**

**Ayes:** Mike Scattini, Jason Smith, Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, John Baillie, Ken Ekelund  
**Noes:** None  
**Absent:** Jon Conatser, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan  
**Recused:** None

**Director Comments:** Matt Simis  
**Public Comments:** None

12. Consider authorizing execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Vega Economics for a maximum amount payable of one hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000) to perform a dam ownership regulatory program cost study. (Staff: Ara Azhderian)

**Attachments:** [Board Report](#)  
[Vega Economics Agreement](#)  
[Board Order](#)

**Upon Motion by Director Jason Smith and Second by Director John Baillie approved authorizing execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Vega Economics for maximum amount payable of one hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000.00) to perform a dam ownership regulatory program cost study.**

**Ayes:** Jason Smith, Matt Simis, John Baillie, Mike LeBarre, Mike Scattini, Ken Ekelund  
**Noes:** None  
**Absent:** Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Jon Conatser  
**Recused:** None

**Director Comments:** John Baillie, Matt Simis  
**Public Comments:** None

13. Consider forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to respond to the January 12, 2026, letter received from certain Nacimiento Reservoir boat dock licensees requesting a transitional process to address un-encapsulated foam dock floats and other boat dock program compliance issues. (Staff: Ara Azhderian)

**Attachments:** [MCWRA Boat Dock Correspondence](#)

Upon Motion by Director Jason Smith and Second by Director Ken Ekelund approved forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to respond to the January 12, 2026, letter received from certain Nacimiento Reservoir boat dock licensees requesting a transitional process to address un-encapsulated foam dock floats and other boat dock program compliance issues.

**Ayes:** Jason Smith, Matt Simis, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, John Baillie, Mike LeBarre

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Deidre Sullivan, Jon Conatser, Mark Gonzalez

**Director Comments:** Ken Ekelund

**Public Comments:** Norm Groot

### **Key Information and Calendar of Events**

**Director Comments:** None

**Public Comments:** None

#### **14.** January and February 2026 Calendars.

**Attachments:** [January 2026](#)  
[February 2026](#)

### **General Manager's Report**

**Director Comments:** None

**Public Comments:** Norm Groot

- #### **15.**
1. Personnel
  2. Groundwater Monitoring Program
  3. Dam Safety & Operations Future Funding Strategy
  4. Water Resources Advisory Committee
  5. Coordination with the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**Attachments:** [General Manager's Report January 20, 2026](#)

### **Committee Reports**

#### **16.** Committee Agenda's for December 2025 and January 2026:

- Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee Agenda
- Water Resources Agency Finance Committee Agenda
- Water Resources Personnel and Administration Committee Cancellation Notice
- Water Resources Agency Basin Management Advisory Committee
- Water Resources Agency Planning Committee Cancellation Notice
- Water Resources Agency Board of Directors Special Strategic Planning Workshop Agenda
- Water Resources Agency Board of Directors Cancellation Notice
- Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee Rescheduling Notice

- Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations Advisory Cancellation Notice
- Water Resources Agency Finance Committee Cancellation Notice
- Water Resources Personnel and Administration Cancellation Notice
- Water Resources Agency Basin Management Advisory Cancellation Notice
- Water Resources Agency Planning Committee Cancellation Notice

**Attachments:**    [final ResOps Agenda December 11, 2025](#)  
[final Finance Agenda December 5, 2025](#)  
[final P&A December 5, 2025 Cancellation Notice](#)  
[final BMAC December 3, 2025 Cancellation Notice](#)  
[final Planning December 3, 2025 Cancellation Notice](#)  
[Board of Directors Special Strategic Planning Workshop Agenda December 8, 2025](#)  
[final Board of Directors Cancellation Notice December 15, 2025](#)  
[JBL Rescheduling Notice January 26, 2026](#)  
[final ResOps Cancellation Notice January 2026](#)  
[final Finance Cancellation Notice January 2026](#)  
[final P&A Cancellation Notice January 2026](#)  
[final BMAC Cancellation Notice January 2026](#)  
[final Planning Cancellation Notice January 2026](#)

### **Information Items**

17. 2025 Well Permit Application Activities Update. (Staff: Guillermo Diaz-Moreno)

**Attachments:**    [2025 Well Permit Application Activities](#)

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

**Attachments:**    [Reservoir Storage Release Update Report](#)

### **Correspondence**

**Director Comments: None**

**Public Comments: None**

19. 1. Email Correspondence dated December 2, 2025 to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources Agency from Jonathan Rivera, Commission Counsel, Enforcement Division, Fair Political Practices Commission re: MCWRA Rejection Letter Redacted.  
2. Email correspondence dated December 3, 2025, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Clerk of the Board, Clerks, Piret Harmon, SVBGSA, Chayito Ibarra M1 Water from Bill Lipe, General Public re: General Public Comment- Reflections following FPPC Closure.

3. Email Correspondence dated January 5, 2026, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Shaunna Murray Deputy General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Board of Directors, from Bill Lipe, General Public Comment re: Triage and Transition Alternative Implementation Packet.
4. Email Correspondence dated January 7, 2026, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources, Clerks, from Bill Lipe, General Public Comment re: Public Comment Agenda Item 2.1 - Board Packet Supplement-Executive Comparison of Reservoir Data.
5. Email Correspondence dated January 7, 2026, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources, Clerks, from Bill Lipe, Public Comment Agenda Item 2.1: SGMA Engine Reality Check.
6. Email Correspondence dated January 12, 2026, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Clerk, from Rick Kleinsasser, MCWRA Board of Directors Meeting January 20, 2026 Letter.

**Attachments:**     [MCWRA Rejection Letter\\_Redacted](#)  
[General Public Comment Re:FPPC Closure](#)  
[Triage and Transition Alternative Implementation Packet](#)  
[Public Comment Agenda Item 2.1 Board Packet Supplement - Executive Comparison of Reservoir Data](#)  
[Public Comment Agenda Item 2.1 SGMA Engine Reality Check](#)  
[MCWRA Board of Directors Meeting-Boat Dock Correspondence](#)

### **Board of Directors Comments**

**Director Comments: Ken Ekelund, Mike LeBarre, Matt Simis, Jason Smith**

### **Adjournment**

**The meeting adjourned at 2:29pm.**