

## Imperial, Lorena

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**From:** Bill Lipe <william.o.lipe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 5:10 PM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard  
**Cc:** Clerks; Piret Harmon; Azhderian, Ara; Daniels, Kate; MC Water  
**Subject:** General Public Comment for Entry into the Record — May 18, 2026 SVBGSA & MCWRA Joint Board Workshop  
**Attachments:** 20260518\_SVBGSA\_MCWRA\_Joint\_Workshop\_Public\_Comment\_Bill\_Lipe.pdf

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Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please accept the attached public comment for entry into the public record for the SVBGSA & MCWRA Joint Board Workshop.

I respectfully request that this comment be distributed to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, the Directors and WRAC members of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, and the Directors and Advisory Committee members of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

I also ask that the record reflect two process concerns from the meeting itself. First, the meeting appears to have been conducted under a defective agenda, as the posted meeting time was incorrect (see my public comment submitted 30 minutes before the meeting, upon discovering the defect posted right outside of the meeting location). Second, when I entered the meeting remotely via Zoom, I was allowed in with an open microphone and camera, which is not standard operating procedure for a meeting of this nature and creates exactly the kind of “seven dirty words” procedural confusion that public agencies should avoid when conducting formal public business.

In plain English, the public should not have to navigate a meeting process where the time is wrong, the access controls are loose, and the governance consequences are serious. That is not transparency; that is a bureaucratic magic trick where the rabbit, the hat, and the rules all seem to move around at the same time.

Thank you for entering this comment into the record and distributing it accordingly.

Respectfully,

Bill Lipe  
Member of the Public and 180/400 Resident  
Salinas, CA 93908

# PUBLIC COMMENT

SVBGSA & MCWRA Joint Board Workshop

**SUBMITTED BY**

Bill Lipe

**ROLE**

Member of the Public and 180/400 Resident

**LOCATION**

Salinas, 93908

**Chair, Board Members, Committee Members, and Staff,**

I submit this comment to reinforce the May 15, 2026 Advisory Committee guardrails and to address specific May 18, 2026, workshop assertions that remain outside them.

Supervisor Root-Askew’s comments were refreshingly honest: she stated that decisions “are going to be best informed by those closest to the issues” and emphasized the need for deeper community education. That recognition of knowledge boundaries is exactly the disciplined approach the process requires.

By contrast, several May 18, 2026, assertions fall short of decision-grade status. The City of Salinas project remains undefined; the Mayor could not articulate its specifics when asked. Minimum Threshold changes still require a project and plan behind them. The Salinas Basin Water Alliance effort is still weeks from completed modeling and appears supply-focused rather than directed at repairing existing coastal intrusion.

Permit 11043 is an MCWRA water-right pathway, not an SVBGSA-controlled permit. During the Monday meeting, after leaving the room and logging into Zoom from my car, I was overheard saying “It’s your f---ing permit.” I apologize for the language—it is one of George Carlin’s seven words you cannot say on television—but I do not apologize for the underlying frustration at this ridiculous, long-running farce of governance. MCWRA has held that permit for nearly seventy years and has not fully implemented projects such as the Eastside Canal that ratepayers have awaited for just as long. The MCWRA, its Supervisors and its Boards have failed to fully implement it for seven decades, including the long-promised Eastside Canal project that ratepayers in that area have awaited for just as long. The MCWRA Board is broken. Decades of continuity in the MCWRA’s governance composition have produced extremely ignorant comments, inaction that has caused real damage, and a pattern of resistance to the SVBGSA itself—only to suddenly pivot now that the consequences are landing on coastal landowners and operators not connected to CSIP. In this theater of the absurd, it is the staff trying to do serious work and the public—especially the 180/400 residents—who are the real victims of this negligent ineptitude and broken promises by the ineptly ignorant souls who continue to occupy those seats. That broken record cannot be allowed to reset the PMA process into open-ended brainstorming.

Thank you.

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**Bill Lipe**

Member of the Public and 180/400 Resident

Salinas, 93908

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