County of Monterey

Schilling Government Center
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901

Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

10:00 AM

Saffron Room
1441 Schilling Place Salinas, Ca. 93901

Water Resources Agency Planning Committee

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Ken Ekelund, Chair
Deidre Sullivan, Vice Chair
Matt Simis
Mark Gonzalez

How to participate in this meeting: In-Person at the address listed above.

Via Zoom: Members of the public may participate in this meeting virtually via computer or smart device. To Join the Zoom Meeting, copy and paste the link into your browser:
https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/92329693521?pwd=vi52WPz8baA3EL2FbIp05wM0awv5fv.1
Meeting ID: 923 2969 3521 Password: 901221

To Participate via phone, you can call the number below and enter the webinar ID number and password when prompted:

Phone Number: (669) 219 2599 Meeting ID: 923 2969 3521 Password: 901221

Public Comments: The following options are available to any member of the public participating virtually or in person who wishes to make any comments to the Planning Committee.
Before the Meeting via Email: Written comments can be emailed by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the Committee meeting, to WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov. Please indicate the Committee name, meeting date and agenda number in the subject. Comments received by the deadline will be distributed to the Committee and placed in the record.

During the Meeting via Oral Comments: When the Chair calls for public comment, attendees can queue to speak by raising their hand in person. On the Zoom application, click the "Raise Hand" button. On the phone, or press *9 on the phone. The Secretary to the Board Committee will call speaker names and unmute speaker mics. You will have 3 minutes to provide your comments.

Please note, the time limit for commenter's who have already submitted something in writing may be shortened.

Individuals with disabilities who desire to request a reasonable accommodation or modification to observe or participate in the meeting may make such request by sending an email to WRApubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov. The request should be made no later than noon on Tuesday prior to the Committee meeting in order to provide time for the Agency to address the request.

The Chair and/or Secretary may set reasonable rules as needed to conduct the meeting in an orderly manner

Cómo participar en esta reunión: En persona: En la dirección indicada anteriormente.
De forma remota vía Zoom: Los miembros del público pueden participar en esta reunión de manera virtual a través de una computadora o dispositivo inteligente. Para unirse a la reunión de Zoom, copie y pegue el siguiente enlace en su navegador:

https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/92329693521?pwd=vi52WPz8baA3EL2FbIp05wM0awv5fv.1
ID de la reunión: 923 2969 3521 Contraseña: 901221

Para participar por teléfono:Puede llamar al número que aparece a continuación e ingresar el ID de la reunión y la contraseña cuando se le solicite:

Número de teléfono: (669) 219 2599 ID de la reunión: 923 2969 3521 Contraseña: 901221

Comentarios del público:Las siguientes opciones están disponibles para cualquier miembro del público que participe de

forma virtual o en persona y desee hacer comentarios ante el Comité de Plannacion Hídricos. Antes de la reunión por correo electrónico: Los comentarios escritos pueden enviarse por correo electrónico hasta las 5:00 p. m. del martes previo a la reunión del Comité a: WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov

Por favor, indique el nombre del Comité, la fecha de la reunión y el número del punto de la agenda en el asunto del correo electrónico. Los comentarios recibidos antes de la fecha límite serán distribuidos al Comité y archivados como parte del registro oficial.

Durante la reunión mediante comentarios orales: Cuando el Presidente solicite comentarios del público, los asistentes pueden hacer fila para hablar levantando la mano en persona. En la aplicación de Zoom, haga clic en el botón "Levantar la mano". Por teléfono, presione *9.

El/la Secretario/a del Comité llamará a los oradores por nombre y activará sus micrófonos. Cada persona tendrá 3 minutos para presentar sus comentarios. Tenga en cuenta que el tiempo permitido para quienes ya hayan presentado comentarios por escrito puede ser reducido.

Las personas con discapacidades que deseen solicitar una adaptación o modificación razonable para observar o participar en la reunión pueden hacerlo enviando un correo electrónico a: WRApubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov
La solicitud debe realizarse a más tardar al mediodía del martes previo a la reunión del Comité, para permitir que la Agencia tenga tiempo de atender la solicitud.

El Presidente y/o el Secretario podrán establecer reglas razonables según sea necesario para conducir la reunión de manera ordenada.

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 10:02 am.

Roll Call

Present: Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Matt Simis, Mark Gonzalez
Absent: None

Public Comment

None

Committee Member Comments

None

Presentations

Committee Member Comments: Matt Simis, Ken Ekelund, Deidre Sullivan
Public Comments: None

1. Overview of the Agency's Administrative Process Workflow. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

Consent Calendar

Upon Motion of Mark Gonzalez, Seconded by Matt Simis the Committee approved the Consent Calendar of the Planning Committee.

Ayes: Matt Simis, Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mark Gonzalez

Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

2. Approve the Action Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on June 3, 2026

Scheduled Items

3. Update on staff's participation in the Sainas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Advisory Committee. (Staff Presenting: Shaunna Murray)

Committee Member Comments: Mark Gonzalez
Public Comments Via Zoom: Bill Lipe, Chris Bunn

4. Recommend that the Agency send letter of support to the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors for the selection of Portofolio 3A for future analysis and potential development. (Staff Presenting: Ara Azhderian)

Committee Member Comments: Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Matt Simis, Ken Ekelund
Public Comments via Zoom: Bill Lipe, Thomas Virsick, Patrick Breen, Chris Bunn

Upon Motion by Matt Simis, Seconded by Deidre Sullivan the Committee approved recommendation to send letter of support to Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors for selection of Portfolio 3A

Ayes: Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mark Gonzalez, Matt Simis
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

Public Comments: None

5. Recommend to the Board of Directors that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors:
a) Approve a Grazing Lease Agreement with Heartland Mark LLC in the amount of $28,672 for year one increasing annually by 2.5-percent, from November 1, 2026, through October 31, 2036, for grazing lands located at the Nacimiento 5 lease area; and
b) Authorize the General Manager of the Agency to execute the lease agreement, subject to approval as to form by the County Counsel’s Office.

Committee Member Comments: Mark Gonzalez, Ken Ekelund

Public Comments: None

Upon Motion by Matt Simis, Seconded by Deidre Sullivan the Committee approved recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the Grazing Lease Agreement with Heartland Mark LLC.

Ayes: Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Mark Gonzalez, Matt Simis
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstained: None

Public Comments: None

Staff Reports

6. Update on the Development of the Agency's 2026 Strategic Plan. (Staff Presenting: Shaunna Murray)

Committee Member Comments: Ken Ekelund, Deidre Sullivan, Mark Gonzalez, Matt Simis
Public Comments: Bill Lipe

Calendar

7. Set the next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 11:29 am.