

County of Monterey

*Cayenne Room
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas Ca. 93901*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

1:00 PM

Cayenne 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***

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/99102594638>, passcode 738282

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: 991 0259 4638 when prompted. Please note the Participant Code, 738282 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 or to: mcwater@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 o <http://www.mgtvonline.com/>**
- 3. Para participar for ZOOM, por favor únase for audio de computadora por: <https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/99102594638>**

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: 99102594638. Por favor tenga en cuenta

código de participante 738282, 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 [electronico WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov) o a mewater@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 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 1:00 P.M.

The Meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm.

Roll Call

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions and Corrections by Clerk: 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.

None

Public Comments

None

Director Comments: John Baillie

Committee Appointments

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

1. Chair to make appointments to Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC), consisting of Chair, Vice-Chair, two Board Members and public appointments.

Consent Calendar

Upon Motion by Director Jason Smith, Second by Director Ken Ekelund the Board of Directors approved the Consent Calendar.

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mike LeBarre

Abstained: None

Recused: None

Director Comments: None

Public Comment: None

2. Approve the Action Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on January 20, 2026.

Attachments: [draft BOD Minutes January 20, 2026](#)

3. Receive the Monterey County Water Resources Agency FY 2025-26 Financial Status Report through December 31, 2025. (Staff: Nan Kim)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)

[FY26 2025 12 Quarter 2 Financial](#)

4. Authorize the General Manager to enter into the Second Amendment to the Subgrant Agreement with the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to increase by \$200,000 the amount of funding for Monterey County Water Resources Agency services in support of Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Implementation Grants #4600015881 (SVBGSA) and #4600015624 (MCWDGSA), for a maximum payable amount of \$600,000; and authorize the General Manager to execute up to two no-cost amendments to the Subgrant Agreement. (Staff: Amy Woodrow)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Attachment 1 SGM R2 Subgrant Agreement MCWRA](#)
[Attachment 2 SGM R2 Subgrant Agrmnt Amend 1](#)
[Attachment 3 SGM R2 Subgrant Agreement Amendment 2](#)
[Board Order](#)

5. Approve Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement for Services with JDI Electrical Services, Inc., to increase the dollar amount by \$85,000 for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$235,000 and extend the term of the Agreement to June 30, 2029, to provide electrical maintenance and repair services for the Nacimiento Dam Hydroelectric Power Plant; and authorize the General Manager to execute the amendment. (Staff: Manuel Saavedra)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Original Agreement \(JDI Electrical Services\)](#)
[Amendment No. 1 \(JDI Electrical Services\)](#)
[Amendment No. 2 \(JDI Electrical Services\)](#)
[Board Order](#)

Action Items

6. Receive an update on staff's participation in the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Advisory Committee. (Staff: Shaunna Murray)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)

Director Comments: John Baillie, Mike Scattini, Mark Gonzalez
Public Comments: None

7. Receive an update on the Castroville & Eastside Canals and Alternatives Preliminary Feasibility Study. (Staff: Shaunna Murray)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Castroville & Eastside Canals and Alternatives Presentation Feb 2026 MCWRA](#)
[BOD](#)

Director Comments; John Baillie, Ken Ekelund, Mark Gonzalez, Deidre Sullivan, Mike Scattini, Jason Smith
Public Comments; Dennis Lebow, Thomas Virsik, Nancy Isakson

8. Receive an update on the New Seawater Intrusion Project (NSIP) Feasibility Study. (Staff: Shaunna Murray)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Presentation NSIP 2026-02 Final](#)

Director Comments: Deidre Sullivan, John Baillie, Mike Scattini, Ken Ekelund, Matt Simis
Public Comment: Nancy Isakson

Key Information and Calendar of Events

9. February and March 2026 Calendars.

Attachments: [February 2026](#)
[March 2026](#)

General Manager's Report

Director Comments: None
Public Comments: None

10. 1. Personnel
2. Groundwater Monitoring Program
3. Dam Safety & Operations Future Funding Strategy

Attachments: [2026-02-17 GM Report](#)

Committee Reports

Director Comments: Matt Simis, Ken Ekelund, Mark Gonzalez
Public Comments: None

11. Committee Agenda's for January 2026 and February 2026:

- Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee Meeting Agenda
- Water Resources Agency Planning Committee Meeting Agenda
- Water Resources Agency Finance and Administration Committee Meeting Agenda

Attachments: [final JBL Agenda Revised January 26, 2026](#)
[final Planning Agenda February 4, 2026](#)
[final FAC Agenda February 6, 2026](#)

Information Items

Director Comments: None
Public Comments: None

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

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

Correspondence

Director Comments: John Baillie, Mike Scattini
Public Comments: None

- 13.** 1. Email Correspondence dated January 21, 2026, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources, Clerk of the Board from Bill Lipe, General Public re; General Public Comment - The Economic Kill-Switch of State Intervention.
2. Email Correspondence dated February 10, 2026, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Board of Directors, Monterey County Water Resources, from Christopher Bunn, President Salinas Basin Water Alliance, re; Public Comment CSIP Analysis.

Attachments: [Public Comment -The Economic Kill Switch](#)
 [Public Comment - CSIP Analysis](#)

Board of Directors Comments

Director Comments: Deidre Sullivan, Ken Ekelund, Jason Smith

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm.