

County of Monterey

Saffron Room
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas Ca. 93901



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, May 18, 2026

12:00 PM

Thyme Conference Room

1441 Schilling Place

Salinas, CA 93906

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:

You may attend in person

For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/93366103733>

Password: 885643

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

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: 933 6610 3733, PASSWORD: 885643. 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.

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.

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 Friday 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:

Podar asistir personalmente a la reunion; o,

Para participar por ZOOM, por favor únase for audio de computadora por:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/93366103733>

Codigo: 885643

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)

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+1 253 215 8782 US
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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: 933 6610 3733, Código: 885643. 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.

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.

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 Viernes antes de la reunión.

The Meeting was called to order at 12:02pm

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.

Roll Call

Present: Matt Simis, Ken Ekelund, Mike LeBarre, John Baillie, Mike Scattini, Mark Gonzalez

Absent: Deidre Sullivan, Jason Smith, Jon Conatser,

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. *Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee v. Monterey County Water Resources Agency, et al.*, San Luis Obispo Superior Court Case No. 19CVP-0010

iii. *Ed Borchard & Sons, LLC vs. MCWRA*; Monterey County Superior Court Case No. 25CV004613

Recess to Closed Session

The Board of Directors recessed to Closed Session at 12:05pm.

Reconvene Meeting at 1:00 P.M.

The Meeting reconvened at 1:04pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions and Corrections by the Clerk

None

Public Comment

None

Presentations

2. Present Public Service Recognition Certificates. (Chair Simis)

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

3. Hydraulic and Hydrologic Modeling Tools used by the Water Resources Agency. (Staff: Amy Woodrow and Jason Demers)

Director Comments: John Baillie, Matt Simis, Mike LeBarre, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini

Public Comments: Bill Lipe

4. ALERT Users Group Conference Participation by Flood Warning and Reservoir Operations Staff. (Staff: Jason Demers and Joey Klein)

Director Comments: John Baillie, Mark Gonzalez, Ken Ekelund, Mike LeBarre, Mike Scattini

Public Comments: Bill Lipe

Consent Calendar

Upon Motion by Director Ken Ekelund, Second by Mark Gonzalez the Consent Calendar was approved.

Director Mark Gonzalez pulled Item # 9 for discussion.

Ayes: Mark Gonzalez, Matt Simis, Mike Scattini, Ken Ekelund, John Baillie, Mike LeBarre

Noes: None

Absent: Deidre Sullivan, Jon Conatser, Jason Smith

Abstained: None

Recused: None

5. Approve the Action Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on April 20, 2026.
6. Receive the Monterey County Water Resources Agency FY 2025-26 Financial Status Report through March 31, 2026. (Staff: Nora Cervantes)
7. Approve Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement for Services with Errol L. Montgomery & Associates, Inc. for CSIP Well Consulting Services, to extend the term length by two years, to add a dollar increase of \$200,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$450,000; and authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 2. (Staff: Pete Vannerus)
8. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Agreement for Services with DRS Marine Inc., to increase the dollar amount by \$400,000 for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$500,000; and extend the term of the Agreement to June 30, 2029, to provide underwater inspection, maintenance and repair services of the agency facilities; and authorize the General Manager to execute the Amendment. (Staff: Mark Foxworthy)
9. Approve Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement with GEI Consultants Inc., to increase the dollar amount by \$100,000 for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$200,000; and revise the scope of work to provide permitting and environmental compliance support services for construction of repairs to the Moss Landing Tide Gate facility; and authorize the General Manager to execute the Amendment. (Staff: Mark Foxworthy)

Action Items

10. Board to consider nominations for Director and Alternate to serve on the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors. (Staff: Ara Azhderian)

Upon Motion by Mark Gonzalez, Second by the Board approved to consider nominations for Director and Alternate to serve on the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors.

**Director Comments: Ken Ekelund, Mike LeBarre, John Baillie, Matt Simis
Public Comments: Bill Lipe**

Key Information and Calendar of Events

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

11. June 2026 Calendar
July 2026 Calendar

General Manager's Report

Director Comments: Mike LeBarre, John Baillie, Ken Ekelund, Mike Scattini, Mark Gonzalez, Matt Simis

Public Comments: None

12.
 1. Personnel
 2. Agency Outreach
 3. Strategic Plan Update
 4. Legislative Update

Committee Reports

Director Comments: Ken Ekelund, John Baillie

Public Comments: None

13. Committee Agenda's for May and June 2026.

Informational Items

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

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

15. Salinas Valley Water Conditions: Second Quarter of Water Year 2025-2026. (Staff: Amy Woodrow)

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

16. Staff update on the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Advisory Committee meetings in April. (Staff: Shaunna Murray)

Director Comments: None

Public Comments: None

17. Staff update on the new Grazing Lease Cycle for November 2026. (Staff: Jessell Fenley)

Director Comments: John Baillie

Public Comments: None

Correspondence

18. Email Correspondence dated May 18, 2026, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Clerk of the Board, Clerks.
From Bill Lipe, Public Member
Re: Public Comment Joint MCWRA & SVBGSA Workshop

Email Correspondence dated May 18, 2026, to Ara Azhderia, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Clerk of the Board, Clerks.

From Bill Lipe, Public Member

Re: General Public Comment Re May 18, 2026, SVBGSA & MCWRA Joint Board Workshop for Distribution and Record Placement

Email Correspondence dated May 26, 2026, to Ara Azhderian, General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Clerk of the Board, Clerks.

From Bill Lipe, Public Member

Re: General Public Comment for Entry into the Record-May 18, 2026 SVBSA & MCWRA Joint Board Workshop

Board of Directors Comments

Mark Gonzalez, Matt Simis

Adjournment

The Meeting Adjourned at 2:41p.m.