

January 13, 2025  
Special Meeting  
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in special session on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Doug Williams, Vice President Mark Wright and Directors Sonny Flores, John Freeman and Joe Tonascia. Also present were General Manager Dana Jacobson, District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem, Assistant General Manager Brett Miller, Senior Engineer David Macdonald, Office Specialist I Shannon Darnall and Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro. Jeff Cattaneo participated via Zoom.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Williams called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**  
President Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Roll Call**  
Mrs. Mauro called roll; members present were: President Williams, Vice President Wright and Directors Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.
- c. Approval of the Agenda**  
With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Flores, the Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.
- d. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board**  
There were no public comments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approval of Minutes                      Special Meeting                      December 9, 2024**
- 2. Allowance of Claims**

With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Vice President Wright, the Consent Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 3. Public Hearing regarding 2024 Annual Groundwater Report**
  - a. Proof of Publication submitted on Notice of Public Hearing, Annual Groundwater Report**  
Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication.
  - b. Presentation of Report**  
Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the District Act's requirement for the groundwater report. He further stated that in 2022, when the District became the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for San Benito County, the Annual Groundwater Report shifted to the March board meeting to comply with SGMA's requirement. The SGMA report is due annually on April 1<sup>st</sup>. To fulfill the District's Act

requirement of reporting groundwater conditions on the second Monday each year, the District's Engineer prepared a report to present at the public hearing. Mr. Cattaneo reviewed the highlights of his report which included the recommendations for the upcoming water year which are: purchase additional CVP water as available, maximize use of the reservoirs for the benefits of the District and its customers, continue percolation of the District's water supply and levy a groundwater charge. Because the groundwater charge sunsets each year, even though there are groundwater charges approved and in place, the Board must confirm these rates. Mr. Cattaneo added in 2023, the District changed the groundwater charge agriculture and municipal/industrial to be the same amount. The groundwater charge for the water year 2025/2026 will be \$14.31 per acre foot. Discussion ensued about how the rates were determined and Mr. Cattaneo stated they were generated from a water rate study. As this is the last year of a 3-year schedule of rates, a new rate study will be conducted and by mid-summer, determine a new rate, which will seek Board approval in January of 2026.

**c. Questions of Directors**

There were no questions from the directors.

**d. Open Public Hearing**

President Williams opened the Public Hearing.

**e. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date**

There were no questions from the public; President Williams then closed the Public Hearing.

**f. Consider Adoption of Statement of Findings and Recommendations**

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Flores, the Board of Directors adopted the Statement of Findings and Recommendations by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

**g. Consider Acceptance of 2024 District Engineer's Report on Annual Groundwater Conditions and Recommendation on Groundwater Charges**

With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Vice President Wright, the Board of Directors accepted the 2024 District Engineer's Report on Annual Groundwater Conditions and Recommendation on Groundwater Charges by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

**4. Consider Resolution Approving the Change of Authorized Bank Signers for Heritage Bank of Commerce**

Mr. Miller reviewed this item for the Board. Currently, there are 2 past employees as the current signers at Heritage Bank of Commerce. This resolution authorizes he and Mr. Jacobson as the signers.

With no questions from the Board, a motion was made by Director Tonascia and seconded by Director Freeman; the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2025-01, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Approving the Change of Authorized Bank Signers for Heritage Bank of Commerce* by 5 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Flores, Freeman and Tonascia.

**5. Staff Report on Term Sheet for Financing of Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP) and the Addition of San Juan Bautista to the Hollister Urban Area Water Supply and Treatment Agreement**

Mr. Jacobson reviewed this item for the Board. Approximately 1 month ago, the Board approved the term sheet, and he has set up meetings with the other agencies for their approval. Tomorrow, Sunnyslope County Water District will consider the term sheet and on January 21<sup>st</sup>, the City of Hollister and the City of San Juan Bautista will consider it next. Mr. Jacobson further stated once the term sheet has been approved, the District will work on the amendment for the Water Supply and Treatment Agreement. The only change on the term sheet is that the pipeline to San Juan Bautista will be handled separately. Mr. Jacobson added the City Manager of Hollister asked the District to set up meetings with their council members to review this project and answer any questions. District staff is working to set these meetings up.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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Minutes were approved at the January 29, 2025 Board meeting and signed by the presiding board member.

*/s/Doug Williams*  
Doug Williams, President

*/s/Barbara L. Mauro*  
Barbara L. Mauro, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk