

February 26, 2025  
Regular Meeting  
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, February 26, 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 John Freeman and Joe Tonascia; Director Sonny Flores was absent. Also present were General Manager Dana Jacobson, District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem, Operations and Maintenance Manager Michael Craig, Senior Engineer David Macdonald, Water Programmer III Anne Stull, Office Specialist I Shannon Darnall and Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro. Assistant General Manager Brett Miller and 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 Freeman and Tonascia; Director Flores was absent.
- c. **Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board; rebuttal will be limited to 3 minutes; no new business agenda items will be heard after 8:00 p.m.**
- d. **Approval of Agenda**  
With a motion by Director Freeman and a second by Director Tonascia, the Agenda was approved by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Freeman and Tonascia and there was 1 absence, Flores.
- e. **Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda**  
There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. **Approval of Minutes for: Regular Meeting January 29, 2025**
- 2. **Allowance of Claims**
- 3. **Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the February Board Meeting**
- 4. **On Call Contracts – Status Updates**

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Freeman, the Consent Agenda was approved by 4 affirmative votes, Williams, Wright, Freeman and Tonascia and there was 1 absence, Flores.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

5. **Consider Director Attendance at the May 12, 2025 ACWA JPIA Board of Directors Meeting, Monterey, California**

Mrs. Mauro explained this item doesn't need to be voted on. If any director or directors want to attend, just let her know so she can register them. Director Freeman, as our ACWA JPIA representative, has expressed interest in attending and asked to be registered.
6. **Consider General Manager or his Designee and Director Attendance at the Spring ACWA Conference May 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Monterey, California**

Mrs. Mauro stated this also doesn't need a vote and our budget allows for the GM or his designee and 2 directors to attend. Please let Mrs. Mauro know if interested in attending, so she can register you for the conference.
7. **Committee/Agency Representative Reports:**
  - a. **San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia/Jacobson)**

As per Director Tonascia, this can be covered under the Manager's report.
  - b. **Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (Flores/Wright)**

Director Flores is absent, so no report was given.
  - c. **Mid Pacific Water Users Conference, Reno, Nevada, January 29-31, 2025 (Miller/Tonascia)**

As per Director Tonascia, the attendance was the largest he'd seen, with over 400 attendees. It was a very upbeat conference, and the water forecast looks good this year. Mr. Miller added, he also thought it was a very positive, productive conference.
  - d. **Water Resources Association (Flores/Freeman)**

Director Flores attended the WRA meeting but is absent. Mrs. Mauro reported it was the first meeting of the year. The 2025 calendar was approved and general business was discussed but a Chair wasn't chosen, as it was the City of Hollister's turn and neither the representative or the alternate were able to attend, so it was tabled until the next meeting. The turf removal program was also discussed.
8. **Monthly Operations and Maintenance Report**

Mr. Craig reported staff reviewed all their meter reads, to be sure they were accurate. In Paicines, District staff is mowing, and he is contracting with a new vendor to do some spraying. He further reported Hernandez Reservoir's level is up slightly and Paicines Reservoir is at dead pool. Mr. Craig reported he is putting water into San Justo Reservoir to get it to 495.5' or 10,000-acre feet. The Recycled Water Ponds' cleaning has been completed, and Mr. Jacobson has given the go ahead to start filling the ponds.
9. **General Manager's Report:**
  - a) **Reach 1 Operations**

Mr. Jacobson reported staff attended the quarterly meeting with Valley Water. Valley Water reported they are behind on the pump rebuilds. Our staff reminded them the importance of staying on target. Also, Director Varela came to SBCWD for a visit

of our facilities, which included a few staff members and Director Freeman and Tonascia.

**b) Zone 3 Operations**

Mr. Jacobson reported this has already been covered.

**c) Zone 6 Operations**

Mr. Jacobson reported on the Pipeline Replacement Project. A proposal from HDR was received for approximately \$250,000. There is a task for a right of way and utility document. The overall project is \$700,000 to \$1 million.

Mr. Jacobson reported yesterday the District was given their water allocation. The Bureau allocated 75% of historical use for Municipal and Industrial and 35% for Agriculture. Based on what we have stored in San Justo and in San Luis, Mr. Jacobson is comfortable giving our customers 100% M & I allocation and 55% Ag allocation.

Director Freeman asked about San Juan and their water needs being about 100-115 AF annually. Mr. Jacobson said that was about right but that would be considered in the future and not in this water year.

**d) Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)**

Mr. Jacobson reported the City of Hollister approved the term sheet at their February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting but asked for an annual reporting of the grant funding associated with this project.

Also, outside Counsel is working on drafting the amendment to the Water Supply and Treatment Agreement.

Mr. Jacobson further reported a pre-construction meeting was held in February and the anticipated start date is early April. The Incidental Take Permit has not yet been issued and that construction cannot start until it is complete. We have received the 100% design from HDR, and Kennedy/Jenks; and staff is currently doing their review. As per David Macdonald, the bid was expected to go out in mid-March and the bid opening is scheduled for April.

**e) San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority Activities**

Mr. Jacobson reported the Authority approved their new O&M rates; there will be an increase of approximately 13%. Also, next month, there will be an activity agreement coming to the Board which will be a \$10/acre foot increase.

**f) City of San Juan Bautista Water Supply Plan**

Mr. Jacobson reported District staff continues to meet with San Juan Bautista staff. The City of San Juan Bautista will hold a workshop for its Council on March 25<sup>th</sup>, which Mr. Jacobson plans to attend. The schedule for the RFP for the Pipeline, which San Juan Bautista will be doing, is unclear at this time.

**g) B F Sisk Dam Raise Project**

Mr. Jacobson reported San Luis Water District withdrew from the project, so there will be an additional 250 AF increase for our District. However, it may require more funds to be paid.

**h) Miscellaneous District items**

Mr. Jacobson reported he has initiated talks about the capacity fee. He also met with Steve Loupe, County Public Works Director, regarding San Justo. The Board of Supervisors have created an Ad Hoc Committee regarding the reservoir.

10. **CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Legal Counsel-Existing litigation  
Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1)  
Kurasaki vs. Caltrans *et al*; San Benito County**

11. **CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Legal Counsel-Existing litigation  
Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1)  
In Re Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation MDL  
2873, U.S.D.C. for the District of South Carolina, No. 2:18-mn-02873 RMG**

*(The Board convened in Closed Session at 5:30 p.m.)*

12. **OPEN SESSION:  
Report any actions, if any, from Closed Session items**

*(The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:02 p.m.)*

President Williams called the meeting back to order and stated there was no action on either Closed Session items to report.

13. **Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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Minutes were approved at the March 26, 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