



SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2:00 PM Tuesday, March 3, 2026

ZOOM INFORMATION

Online: <https://sbvmwd.zoom.us/j/83910934313>

Telephone: (877) 853 5247 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 839 1093 4313

PASSCODE: 3802026

If you are unable to participate online or by telephone, you may submit your comments and questions in writing for the District's consideration by emailing comments@sbvmwd.com with the subject line "Public Comment Item #" (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment) or "Public Comment Non-Agenda Item". Submit your written comments no later than 6:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting. All public comments will be provided to the Board President and may be read into the record or compiled as part of the record.

IMPORTANT PRIVACY NOTE: Online participants MUST log in with a Zoom account. The Zoom app is a free download. Please keep in mind: (1) This is a public meeting; as such, the virtual meeting information is published on the World Wide Web and available to everyone. (2) Should you participate remotely via telephone, your telephone number will be your identifier during the meeting and available to all meeting participants; there is no way to protect your privacy if you elect to call in to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

1) PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may address the Board regarding any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board; however, no action may be taken on off-agenda items except as authorized by law. Each speaker is limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

2) CONSENT CALENDAR

2.1 Approve Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors' Meeting - January 20, 2026 (2 min) - Page 3
[Approve Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors' Meeting - January 20, 2026](#)

2.2 Approve Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors' Meeting - February 3, 2026 (2 min) - Page 14
[Approve Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors' Meeting - February 3, 2026](#)

- 2.3 Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting - Resources/Engineering Workshop - February 10, 2026 (2 min) - Page 23
[Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting - Resources/Engineering Workshop - February 10, 2026](#)

3) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

4) REPORTS (Discussion and Possible Action)

- 4.1 State Water Project Update
- 4.2 Directors' Report of Activities and Travel Requests in accordance with Resolution 1100
- 4.3 General Counsel Report
- 4.4 Ad-Hoc and Standing Committee Reports
- 4.5 SAWPA Meeting Report

5) FUTURE BUSINESS

6) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 6.1 List of Announcements (2 min) - Page 27
[List of Announcements](#)

7) CLOSED SESSION

- 7.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9 (one potential case)

8) ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
OF
THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

January 20, 2026

Directors Present: Gil J. Botello, T. Milford Harrison, Paul R. Kielhold (until 3:22 p.m.), Susan Longville, and Jose Velasquez

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present:

Heather Dyer, MS, MBA – Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
 Joanna Gibson, MS – Executive Director Upper SAR HCP Program
 Wen B. Huang, PE, MS – Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer
 Jose Macedo, ML, CPT-P (USA Retired) – Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board
 Michael Plinski, PE – Chief of Water Resources
 Cindy Saks, CPA – Chief Financial Officer/Deputy General Manager

Owen Cross, BS – Environmental Compliance Analyst I
 Michael Esquer – Senior Project Manager
 Leo Ferrando, PE – Assistant Chief Engineer
 Anthony Flordelis – Business Systems Analyst
 Greg Herzog, BS Geology – Principal Water Resources Analyst
 Adekunle Ojo – Manager of Integrative Planning
 Matthew Olivo – Senior Accountant
 Sayer Pinto, MBA – Principal Water Resources Analyst
 Karen Resendez, MAOL – Human Resources & Risk Manager
 Alliah Smith – Senior Administrative Assistant
 Andreea Tanase, MPA – Administrative Analyst I
 Francisco Wences – Assistant Engineer

Brad Neufeld, Varner & Brandt

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Erin LaCombe, CV Strategies
 George Hanson, Bear Valley Mutual Water Company
 James Morales, East Valley Water District
 Michael Moore, East Valley Water District
 Betsy Miller, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
 Melody McDonald, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
 Mark Falcone, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
 Bob Stewart, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
 John Longville, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
 Richard Corneille, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District

Manuel Colunga, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
 Thomas Purvis, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
 Tom Crowley, Dopudja and Wells
 Jason Wolf, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
 Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
 Jim Tickemyer, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
 Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District
 Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District
 Micah Knox, Yucaipa Valley Water District
 Ben Kelly, Western Heights Water Company
 Chuck Vahovick

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Harrison at 2:00 p.m. President Harrison led the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was noted present by roll call.

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item 2. Consent Calendar.

2.1) Representation at Bear Valley Mutual Water Company Annual Shareholders Meeting(s): Appointment of Chief Operating Officer/Assistant General Manager Wen Huang to represent the District's shares at the Bear Valley Mutual Water Company 2026 Annual Shareholders Meeting on February 17, 2026, and approval of Mr. Huang as the District's shareholder representative for future years, unless and until a change in representation is required.

2.2) Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors Special Meeting – Policy / Administration Workshop – December 16, 2025

The Board of Directors approved the items on the Consent Calendar by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Longville	SECONDED: Velasquez	APPROVED 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Kielhold, Longville, Velasquez	
NOES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

Agenda Item 3. Presentation

3.1) Presentation of ACWA JPIA Award by President Melody McDonald. Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA JPIA) President

McDonald presented SBVMWD with the 2025 President's Special Recognition Award for demonstrating excellence in risk management across General Liability, Property, and Workers' Compensation programs.

Agenda Item 4. Discussion and Possible Action Items

4.1) 2025 Groundwater Recharge Operations Summary. Senior Project Manager Mike Esquer reported more than 30,000 acre-feet (af) of State Project Water was provided for recharge in the Bunker Hill Basin, 5,700 af in the Yucaipa Basin, and 2,500 af to the Rialto-Colton Basin. Recharge of this amount of water relies on coordination with partners, including the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (Conservation District) and San Bernardino County Flood Control (Flood Control) to get as much water as possible into the ground. He shared the Recharge Summary and provided details on the replenishment efforts and buyers of the water:

Basin	Acre-Feet
Mill Creek	1,074
Santa Ana River	10,121
Sweetwater	4,668
Waterman	14,667
Wilson Creek	5,115
Oak Glen Creek	638
Rialto-Colton	2,500

Additionally, Mr. Esquer acknowledged the efforts of Yucaipa Valley Water District and Fontana Water Company to keep the recharge basins full, and the retail agencies that proactively buy recharge water and support efforts for drought resilience. He also recognized the Water Planning Group for its efforts to support water sales such as the Storage and Exchange Plan, and Baseline Feeder Replenishment Obligation.

Director Longville commented the replenishment was a remarkable accomplishment thanks to good planning and partnerships but is also successful because the alluvial floodplain provides opportunity for recharge.

Director Botello pointed out the coordination and regional collaboration, commending the Conservation District for working hard at their purpose of putting water in the ground.

Director Kielhold noted the agency is now taking advantage of the ideas that were posed by their predecessors to this Board over decades and funded by the taxpayers.

President Harrison expressed gratitude for the collaboration with the Conservation District and its results and acknowledged the work of Mr. Manuel Colunga.

In response to CEO/General Manager Heather Dyer, Mr. Esquer explained that 66,000 acre-feet could serve a little more than 190,000 households (about 750,000 people) for one year.

4.2) Status Update on Partnership Agreement for Joint Active Recharge Project Development. Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer Wen Huang reminded the Board of the 2019 approval of the partnership agreement with the Conservation District for their lead on development of the Joint Active Recharge Project, now known as the Program for the Expansion of Recharge Capacity (PERC). The objective is to capture stormwater within SBV's service area using the water rights jointly obtained with Western Municipal Water District in 2010, and to apply the agreement to another tributary of the Santa Ana River to capture additional local runoff and improve water supply reliability.

Betsy Miller, General Manager of the Conservation District, advised the feasibility study was approved by the PERC Policy Committee in large part late last year. Consultant Tom Crowley reflected on the difficulty of recharge and the focus of efforts to optimize the basin. He provided background on the current process to increase recharge and the ability to put more water in the basin when available, capitalizing on wet years.

Mr. Crowley presented the work of the PERC Committee and the next phase in the long-standing cooperative efforts to enhance groundwater recharge in the San Bernardino Basin. He touched on regional collaboration over the past 25 years, emphasizing that recharge efforts were once difficult to advance independently but have since matured through regional planning.

Mr. Crowley outlined the Conservation District's core mission areas: groundwater recharge, natural resource stewardship, and participation in the Big Bear Watermaster, noting the growth of environmental stewardship efforts over time. He acknowledged the collective efforts of SBV, the Conservation District, Western Municipal Water District, local cities, flood control agencies, federal partners, and multiple consulting teams. The current recharge program represents the cumulative work of multiple generations of boards, agencies, and staff, he said. He noted that the present moment is a critical opportunity to further expand recharge capacity during wet periods to address future dry cycles.

Mr. Crowley summarized the principal agreements supporting PERC, including cost-sharing arrangements, memorandum of understanding with Flood Control, and the 2019 partnership agreement between SBV and the Conservation District, which provided funding and conservation easements to support project development. Subsequent amendments to the partnership agreement extended the term through 2029 and modified governance provisions to reflect the dissolution of the Groundwater Council and the inclusion of the Basin Technical Advisory Committee.

Policy oversight is provided through a PERC Policy Committee, which meets regularly to guide project direction, ensure policy consistency, and coordinate information flow among participating agencies, Mr. Crowley explained. He reminded the Board that the Conservation District initially identified eight potential recharge sites and advanced

feasibility analysis for ten alternatives across three watersheds and six locations within the Upper Santa Ana River system.

He presented the project alternatives evaluated in the East Twin Creek watershed, Plunge Creek area, and Mill Creek area, including new recharge basins, modifications to existing flood control and recharge facilities, and phased or interim configurations where future land uses may change.

Waterman Recharge Basin (East Twin Creek Watershed). Mr. Crowley described the Waterman Recharge Basin as an existing recharge facility currently in operation, with the PERC alternative focused on regrading and reconfiguring the basin to improve hydraulic efficiency. The objective of the alternative is to increase recharge capacity by creating additional basins and improving internal routing so that available flows can be spread more effectively across the facility.

There are two grading options: a smaller and a larger configuration, intended to enhance recharge upstream of the Linwood area. Mr. Crowley explained both options were evaluated separately to assess the incremental benefits and costs associated with different levels of grading and basin modification.

Linwood Recharge Basin Alternative. The Linwood alternative is located downstream within the East Twin Creek watershed and involves operational improvements to an existing basin influenced by downstream conditions and coordination with the City of San Bernardino. The alternative evaluates how operational changes and facility enhancements could increase recharge effectiveness while maintaining compatibility with flood control operations.

Oak Creek Recharge Basin (Plunge Creek Watershed). The Oak Creek alternative proposes construction of a new recharge basin south of Greenspot Road on land owned by SBV, adjacent to existing Conservation District facilities. The project would divert Oak Creek flows to the new basins to provide direct recharge benefits and was identified as a strong candidate for early advancement.

Plunge Creek Recharge Alternatives. Two Plunge Creek alternatives were evaluated on land proposed for exchange from the Bureau of Land Management to the Conservation District. These alternatives consider an interim recharge configuration that could operate prior to future mining activities, followed by an ultimate configuration once mining is completed, allowing recharge use during both phases.

Mill Creek Recharge Alternatives. The Mill Creek alternatives focus on improving recharge capacity at the existing spreading grounds near Mentone through a series of phased enhancements. These include construction of new desilting basins, canal improvements to more efficiently distribute water across approximately 55 existing basins, and additional basin expansion under higher-level alternatives to assess the cost-effectiveness of larger-scale improvements. Mr. Crowley explained that technical studies set the stage for qualitative comparison among alternatives by evaluating geotechnical conditions, hydrology, water sources, construction costs, environmental, social, and legal

considerations. The project documentation was compiled into several volumes, with individual watershed analyses consolidated into a summary volume intended to support decision-making. He introduced a chart showing relative rankings of the projects given the comparison parameters, noting that the project valued at #1 does not necessarily represent the highest priority. The group will next decide on the priorities, he explained.

The PERC Policy Committee directed staff to pursue a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) grant to help pay for 25% of the design and construction of the Oak Creek alternative, advance the design work for Mill Creek and the Lynwood alternative, continue stakeholder coordination, and further refine project sequencing. President Harrison expressed appreciation for the work and the expert knowledge needed to make the recommendations.

Director Botello pointed to the various agreements and asked how the projects would be funded. Mr. Crowley explained much of the planning work to be done is covered in the prepayment of \$36 million to the Conservation District to move the project forward. The next cost level for implementation would be related to which agencies benefit most. Director Botello pointed out that many agencies are pumping from the basin and suggested every agency should contribute.

Ms. Dyer acknowledged SBV does not have \$371 million in the General Fund to pay for these local projects. She stated that funding groundwater recharge projects is one of the fundamental challenges facing both the PERC effort and other active recharge projects being advanced by SBV. She explained that while past boards successfully secured water rights for the basin, little consideration was given at the time to how large-scale local recharge infrastructure would ultimately be financed.

Ms. Dyer noted while SBV was able to make significant investments in projects such as Enhanced Recharge Phase 1B, the agency does not have the General Fund financial capacity to independently fund the full suite of proposed projects. She emphasized that both SBV and the Conservation District serve as facilitators of groundwater recharge and basin management for hundreds of wells operated by retail agencies, helping maintain economically viable groundwater production across the region.

These recharge facilities are long-term, generational investments intended to protect the basin during future droughts rather than provide immediate benefits, Ms. Dyer continued. She stated that regional leadership, including retail agencies that pump from the basin, will need to engage in difficult but necessary discussions to determine how costs can be shared fairly and equitably. The region must look at this as a collective whole, with a responsibility to future generations to maintain the groundwater basin in a way that will perform over decades, Ms. Dyer posited. The responsibility for funding groundwater management and replenishment cannot rest with a single agency and must reflect the collective benefits and shared obligation to maintain the basin over the coming decades. Ms. Miller noted that through a groundwater charge, the Conservation District has the capacity to recover costs associated with maintaining basins that are currently built; but the question will be in building new basins.

Director Botello stated SBV and the Conservation District work well together, but costs must be discussed. He reminded the Groundwater Council was hampered due to costs and fairness. This infrastructure is needed for the future, but costs cannot rest entirely on SBV, he noted. Robust discussion must include creative financing, ways to bring people to the table, and how it will be equitable, he said, but he also pointed out considerations such as making investments in recharge basins, with no guarantee of rain.

President Harrison agreed with Director Botello and acknowledged the work of the PERC Committee. He noted that SBV had invested about \$160 million in the Regional Recycled Water Pipeline, Weaver Basins, and the Enhanced Recharge Project, plus \$36 million to the Conservation District in just the last few years to support future water supplies. Ms. Dyer highlighted that both SBV and the Conservation District are small agencies working together to figure out how to put infrastructure in place for the future with the resources available.

Director Kielhold posited that a broader coalition is needed and suggested reworking the Groundwater Council for the future. President Harrison agreed, saying these entities depend on SBV and the Conservation District but the two do not have that financial ability.

3:22 p.m. Director Kielhold left the meeting.

3:23 p.m. President Harrison called a recess.

3:33 p.m. The Board reconvened.

Agenda Item 5. Reports. (Discussion and Possible Action)

5.1) State Water Project Update. Chief of Water Resources Michael Plinski reported:

- The SWP allocation remains at 10% (about 10,260 af of imported water for the SBV service area). Direct delivery will be prioritized until the allocation exceeds 30%.
- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is coordinating with the BOR to use a portion of their storage capacity in the San Luis Reservoir if needed, as the Reservoir is about 94% full. It is hoped not to lose any San Luis flow.
- It is hoped the Table A allocation will increase after evaluation by DWR, as there have been quite a few storms and the snow base has built and reservoirs have filled.
- Sites Reservoir:

The Sites Project Authority team continues to work on completion of the Reservoir permitting, the Benefits and Obligations Agreement, the operations plan, the State and federal partnership agreements, impact assessment, and fees, facility use agreements, and the mitigation management approach. In late December, Mr. Plinski provided comments on the first facility use agreement related to how to fill Sites Reservoir and how to take releases. The agreement must be in place before the project can move forward.

The Sites Reservoir water rights permit is anticipated in February or March as the State Board continues to evaluate internally. This must also be in place before the project can be considered.

Barnard Construction has been selected as the Sites Construction Manager at Risk for the dams, roadways, and bridge. Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer Wen Huang served on the panel to make that selection. Barnard does not have a master labor agreement with some of the unions and had proposed to have a project labor agreement. Before the decision to move forward with Barnard, the Authority received substantial public comment and communicated to the union and Barnard that they must enter a project labor agreement. The parties were asked to work out the terms as quickly as possible, and they indicated that could be done in the next 30 days.

The Sites project has been funded through past Board action, which provides budget through the end of 2026. Moving into 2027, there must be discussion about the project authorization to move forward. The Barnard contract is for \$3 billion but is authorized only for \$1 million through the end of the year to complete both design and schedule review, participate in local community meetings, and support the Sites team. If there is not full participation in Sites, the contract will be on hold until the funding is in place.

In response to President Harrison, Mr. Plinski reported the \$3 billion construction contract will include labor and materials for two dams, seven cofferdams, roadway infrastructure, and a bridge across the Sites valley, which will be constructed upon project participation later this year, once all participants lock in their percentage of the project. The cost is more than 50 percent of the total project. The next package will be the conveyance infrastructure, a project in the range of \$2 billion.

Director Botello asked about land acquisition. Mr. Plinski noted the Authority is working with landowners to gain early access to do environmental surveys. There is no money currently available at this time for land, but discussions are taking place. Additional purchases will take place after investor commitment, and the Authority is prepared to take action once that authorization is received. Ms. Dyer added each investor's shares are being finalized. Other entities are interested in investing more than their current line item, so there will be a shuffling of numbers before each investor goes to its board for approval of the final investment.

President Harrison asked if there were any concerns about the water rights decision. Mr. Plinski said it was not possible to tell what the decision of the State Board would be, but all information appears positive and it comes down to a final number. He pointed to the expert testimony making the case for the State Board and recognition of prior rights.

- Delta Conveyance:
 - The Change of Point-of-Diversion Water Rights hearing is ongoing at the State Board, and the new permit is anticipated in late 2027.
 - The Delta Conveyance Authority (DCA) is continuing to progress the design from 10% to 20% and is evaluating design enhancements and improving

constructability. Mr. Plinski participated in a workshop on a deep dive into the intake facilities, tunnel, pumping plant, and outlet structure to be as cost effective as possible.

- The DCA had received an injunction to stop the geotechnical investigation, but the court has ruled that the work may resume, hopefully in the fall.
- DWR had initiated two validation cases. The court recently found that the first validation case was overly broad, prohibiting authority to borrow funding. DWR has filed a new validation action, which is pending consideration. One must be successful in order for the DCA to borrow money. Detail is being added to the second case. Director Longville noted that opponents continue to raise money to fight the project.

5.2) Directors' Report of Activities and Travel Requests in accordance with Resolution 1100.

Director Longville reported that she attended:

- Jan. 7 – California Natural Resources webinar on Co-Location Solar With Ground Water Recharge
- Jan. 9 – League of Women Voters Water Committee

Director Botello reported that he attended:

- Jan. 12 – Assembly Committee on Natural Resources webinar
- Jan. 19 – City of San Bernardino Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and event

President Harrison reported that he attended:

- Jan. 7 – Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce meeting
- Jan. 9 – Redlands Chamber of Commerce
- Jan. 19 – Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts Board meeting
- Jan. 19 – Lunch with the President of East Valley Water District

Director Velasquez had no meetings to report.

5.3) General Counsel Report. No report.

5.4) Ad-Hoc and Standing Committee Reports. No reports.

5.5) SAWPA Meeting Report. Director Botello presented the January 20, 2026, Regular Meeting of the SAWPA Commission report:

- The Commission recognized the following employees for their years of service:
 - Emily Fuentes – 1 Year
 - Shavonne Turner – 1 Year
 - Daniel Vasquez – 3 Years
 - Brian Henderson – 5 Years

- The Commission honored Watershed Manager, Haley Gohar, as SAWPA's 2025 Employee of the Year.
- The Commission authorized the General Manager to execute a 5-year fixed cost OnBase Subscription Agreement and Task Order No. KON100-15 with BlueIrisIQ, a Division of Konica Minolta Business Solutions U.S.A., Inc., for \$194,264.89.
- The Commission received and filed the following Informational Report:
 - Updates on the Santa Ana River Watershed Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan

5.6) Treasurer's Report. Chief Financial Officer/Deputy General Manager Cindy Saks reminded the Board about the WIFIA loan for the Enhanced Recharge Phase I-B project and the related short-term notes (\$46.9 million) issued prior to drawing on the loan. Those notes matured in January 2026, so the District drew on the loan in November, and paid off the short-term notes. This shows as a disbursement in December. Director Longville presented the report:

The Board approved the following cash disbursements for the month of December 2025:

State Water Contract Fund	\$ 3,017,135.58
General Fund	\$ 50,328,656.05

by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Longville	SECONDED: Velasquez	APPROVED: 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Longville, Velasquez	
NOES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	Kielhold	

5.7) Water Delivery Report. Principal Water Resources Analyst Sayer Pinto reported the following for the month of December 2025:

December 2025	acre-feet (af)
Imported State Project Water (SPW) delivered to the District	4,203
Total State Water Project for 2025	62,787
Baseline Feeder Wells	262
Total Baseline Feeder Wells year to date 2025	3,164
San Bernardino Avenue Well	0
Santa Ana River diversions	4,706
Direct deliveries calendar year 2025 (88% per the operating plan)	30,222
Recharge deliveries calendar year 2025 (97% of plan)	32,565

Ms. Pinto reported:

- Retail agencies have submitted their orders for 2026
- The preliminary allocation from DWR for SWP is 10% and is expected to increase
- SBV Water Resources staff will host a meeting with the Retail Agencies in March 2026 to discuss the operating plan for orders and allocation
- Water Resources staff are reconciling accounts with DWR before finalizing total carryover into 2026.

5.8) CEO/General Manager’s Report. CEO/General Manager Heather Dyer highlighted events and engagement activities:

- Ms. Dyer will serve on a panel including the Deputy Director of the DWR at the California Irrigation Institute Water Policy Conference on Jan. 26
- On Feb. 19, will serve on a panel at the American Ground Water Trust Conference, then will give the keynote at the Santa Ana River Science Symposium

Agenda Item 6. Future Business. None added.

Agenda Item 7. Announcements.

7.1) List of Announcements. Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board Jose Macedo reviewed the List of Announcements. He highlighted the holiday on Feb. 16, an Upper SAR WIFA meeting on Feb. 18, and the Santa Ana River Science Symposium.

Agenda Item 8. Closed Session. District Counsel Brad Neufeld announced the Closed Session. President Harrison opened the Closed Session at 4:06 p.m.

- 8.1 Threat to Public Services or Facilities
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 (b)
Consultation with:
Wen Huang, Chief Operating Officer/Assistant General Manager

President Harrison returned the meeting to Open Session at 5:01 p.m. Counsel Brad Neufeld announced that no reportable action was taken.

Agenda Item 9. Adjournment. President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL CERTIFICATION	
I hereby certify to approval of the foregoing minutes of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District	

Secretary	
Date	_____

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda J. Kerney
Contract Assistant

**MINUTES
OF
THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

February 3, 2026

Directors Present: Gil J. Botello, T. Milford Harrison, Paul R. Kielhold, Susan Longville, and Jose Velasquez

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present:

Heather Dyer, MS, MBA – Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
Wen Huang, PE, MS – Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer
Jose Macedo, ML, CPT-P (USA Retired) – Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board
Michael Plinski, PE – Chief of Water Resources

Dan Borell, GISP – Geospatial Services Program Manager
Owen Cross, BS – Environmental Compliance Analyst I
Leo Ferrando, PE – Assistant Chief Engineer
Anthony Flordelis – Business Systems Analyst
Greg Herzog, BS Geology – Principal Water Resources Analyst
Ryan Kuruppu – Intern
Adekunle Ojo, MPA – Water Resources Manager
Matthew Olivo – Senior Accountant
Sayer Pinto, MBA – Principal Water Resources Analyst
Karen Resendez, MAOL — Human Resources & Risk Manager
Francisco Wences – Assistant Engineer

Brad Neufeld, Varner & Brandt

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Mark Falcone, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
David Armstrong, South Mesa Water Company
Michael Moore, East Valley Water District
Allison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Jennifer Ares, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Michah Knox, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Joseph Zoba, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Brett Granlund, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Matthew Beeston, Carpenter's Union
Brianna Schultz, Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott
Robert Blunt

Eugenia Lin, Metropolitan Water District
 John Bednarski, Metropolitan Water District
 Robert Blunt
 Matthew Adler

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Harrison at 2:00 p.m. President Harrison led the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was noted present by roll call.

Agenda Item 1. Public Comment. Assistant General Manager for Water Resources, Metropolitan Water District (MWD) John Bednarski, spoke in support of Item 4.2. MWD and SBV have a strong history of collaboration including the interconnection agreement between the Foothill Pipeline and the MWD Inland Feeder which allowed for the filling of Diamond Valley Lake. MWD has been working with SBV on a way to utilize the interconnection to send water backwards from Diamond Valley Lake into the inland empire to alleviate dependence on the State Water Project (SWP) when needed. Three of the related projects have been completed by MWD, and this intertie is very important. The concept has already been tested.

Matthew Beeston representing the Carpenter's Union, advised the Sites Reservoir Construction Manager at Risk Barnard Construction negotiated a project labor agreement with the Building Trades Council. He advised the Board that the Union was not provided with an opportunity to participate in negotiations and noted the SBV Board will be asked to commit funding to the project. President Harrison acknowledged the comment.

Agenda Item 2. Consent Calendar.

2.1) Approve Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting – January 6, 2026

The Board of Directors approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Botello	SECONDED: Velasquez	APPROVED 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Kielhold, Longville, Velasquez	
NOES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

Agenda Item 3. Presentation.

3.1) Announcement of Inland Empire Top Workplace Award for 2025. Human Resources and Risk Manager Karen Resendez reported the District was recognized for the fourth consecutive year as an Inland Empire Top Workplace, improving from seventh place in 2022 to third place in 2025 out of 43 organizations, and noted that it was the only water agency in its size category ranked in the top 15. She explained that the award is based entirely on confidential employee survey results, and stated that the recognition reflects a consistent, high-performing culture aligned with the District's mission, vision, and values. Ms. Resendez added that the survey results strengthen recruitment and retention efforts, reinforce the District's learning culture, and provide insight into areas to sustain and improve.

Board members expressed appreciation for the recognition, noting the employee-driven survey results provided meaningful insight into staff perspectives and reflected a supportive and engaged workplace culture. Directors commended management for integrating the District's mission, vision, and values into daily operations and stated that the award demonstrated the effectiveness of those efforts. CEO/General Manager Heather Dyer thanked the Board and staff, emphasized the achievement was a collective team effort, and expressed appreciation for the shared commitment that contributed to the recognition.

Agenda Item 4. Discussion and Possible Action Items.

4.1) Consider Financial Statement Auditing Services for Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026. Senior Accountant Matthew Olivo reminded the District is required to have an independent audit of its financial records each year. The current auditing firm, Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott (RAMS), is a local firm experienced with State Water Contractors. RAMS has been providing the annual audits for the past 20 years, with a change in the engagement partner every five years.

The current RAMS contract concluded with the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025. Overall, RAMS' services have been satisfactory to staff, Mr. Olivo advised, and RAMS has been responsive to staff questions. The Fiscal Policy Committee directed staff to request a new contract proposal with RAMS for Board consideration.

The Board of Directors authorized the CEO/General Manager to sign an engagement contract with Rogers, Anderson, Malody, & Scott (RAMS), for auditing services for a three-year period of time (fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, 2027 and 2028) with audit fees not to exceed \$33,390, \$34,875 and \$36,020, respectively with the option to extend an additional two years (fiscal years June 30, 2029 and 2030) by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Longville	SECONDED: Kielhold	APPROVED 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Kielhold, Longville, Velasquez	
NOES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

4.2) Consider Joint Use Agreement with Metropolitan Water District for the Inland Feeder and Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project. President Harrison reminded about the earlier public comment on this item. Assistant Chief Engineer Leo Ferrando acknowledged MWD representatives Mr. Bednarski and Eugenia Lin, Project Manager and Lead Engineer, and provided background on the project. Approval of a Coordinated Operating Agreement in 2021 established a framework for coordinated operations and exploration of mutual aid opportunities, resulting in Board authorization for development of the intertie (joint use) agreement, he explained.

Mr. Ferrando detailed the functions of the project allowing MWD to deliver water from Diamond Valley Lake to their service area and gave an overview of the property and infrastructure including 2,000 linear feet of pipe and a 132-inch valve. Key provisions of the agreement, Mr. Ferrando explained, include that MWD will own all the facilities, however the agencies will jointly inspect and maintain them.

In a test conducted in October 2025, water was pumped from Diamond Valley Lake via 33 miles of the Inland Feeder into the Foothill Pipeline and was delivered to the Santa Ana Low turnout, Mr. Ferrando reported. The test validated the hydraulics, communications, and field coordination between MWD and SBV staff. With readiness confirmed, the next steps following approval of the agreement are finalizing the design (currently 99% complete), preparation to advertise for bid, finalizing the ongoing permitting, and award of construction in the summer of 2026, he stated. The project would be completed near the end of 2027 and operational in early 2028.

Ms. Dyer commented this is a critical milestone for regional resilience and the ability to, under emergency circumstances, move water through the Inland Empire. It is a huge step forward in preparing for unknown future conditions.

Director Velasquez voiced support for the partnership and emphasized the importance of the project for the MWD San Gabriel area that is solely dependent on State Project Water. He noted this demonstrates creativity and coming to the table to work together and resolve a resilience issue, reminding of the recent drought era when Californians were not going to be able to get water. It is not just about retailers but is also about SWC working together, he said.

Director Longville recalled the development of Diamond Valley Lake and the first, historic agreements to use SBV infrastructure to help fill the reservoir. She noted the proposed agreement terminates in 2085 along with the State Water contracts.

Director Kielhold commented on the important collaboration providing capabilities that could not be provided by individual districts.

Director Botello commended staff of both agencies and noted MWD's commitment to collaboration and trust, which is important to SBV. He recalled his support for this item five years ago, and noted the value of being innovative, measured, and less reliant on Colorado River water by turning toward the State Water Project.

The Board of Directors approved the Joint Use Agreement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) for the Inland Feeder and Foothill Pump Station Intertie Project (Project) and authorized the General Manager to execute the Agreement, subject to non-substantive changes as approved by General Counsel by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Velasquez	SECONDED: Botello	APPROVED 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Kielhold, Longville, Velasquez	
NOES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

Agenda Item 5. Reports. (Discussion and Possible Action)

5.1) State Water Project Update. Chief of Water Resources Michael Plinski reported on proactive efforts to prevent the establishment of golden mussels in the District's system, noting that SBV, San Gabriel Valley, and MWD have been working with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to implement chemical treatment at Devil Canyon's First Afterbay. He explained that DWR pilot studies identified EarthTec as an effective treatment option and that DWR management assembled treatment specialists, engineers, and operations staff to advance a solution.

Mr. Plinski advised DWR has proposed to design, construct, operate, and maintain the new chemical dosing system, which will streamline approvals and implementation. He outlined an aggressive timeline with operations planning in February, design and equipment procurement in March, construction in April, and anticipated commencement of treatment in May to protect the Devil Canyon, Azusa, and Foothill Pipelines. This will allow SBV to turn off the Sweetwater dosing system, which will be kept as a spare. SBV staff will continue to meet with DWR and encourage the building of the system.

Director Velasquez expressed appreciation to the Board and staff for acting to find a solution and bringing DWR to the table. Mr. Plinski described the team effort.

President Harrison said he was pleased with the aggressive program to bring the treatment local. He commented on the cooperation of DWR, and their demonstration of concern about the issue.

Director Botello noted the collaboration and asked about the implications for SBV's recharge basins at Devil Canyon. Ms. Dyer said engineering and design work is in progress, along with an agreement with San Bernardino Municipal Water Department (the landowner), with the goal of the recharge basins to take both State Project Water and some stormwater capture. DWR has been receptive to ideas about the infrastructure.

Ms. Dyer advised that with the risk associated with not addressing the Golden mussel earlier and the potential solution in place, she contacted the top officials at DWR, and a meeting was quickly scheduled. She commended DWR Director Karla Nemeth for taking the issue seriously and directing her staff to be open-minded to the solution. The goal is to have the solution in place prior to the mussel's spawning season, she added.

Mr. Plinski described the temporary facilities to be replaced by a permanent structure upon proof of concept. DWR is moving as quickly as possible, he noted.

The Sites Reservoir Project Authority continues to seek outside funding and has identified additional Proposition 1 funding. The Authority is working with partners to gauge interest and finalize the application, Mr. Plinski continued. He reminded that one of the reasons SBV is investing in Sites is to have the dry year supply, and the application under drought emergency fits into the management plan and the commitment to the State for about 60,000 acre-feet in storage going into year 3, he noted. The benefit of these drought emergency commitments is estimated to be in the \$20 to \$30 million range.

He suggested being prepared for the State's anticipated three-year drought cycle once every decade. SBV's investments in projects will be critical should the State's model prove accurate.

In response to Director Kielhold, Mr. Plinski noted the State Water Project allocation had been increased to 30%, meaning SBV will be able to meet all direct delivery orders but the allocation is not high enough to start recharge activities.

5.2) Directors' Report of Activities and Travel Requests in accordance with Resolution 1100.

Director Kielhold reported that he attended:

- Jan. 28 – East Valley Water District Board meeting
- Jan. 28 – San Bernardino Conservation Trust Board meeting

Director Velasquez reported that he attended:

- Jan. 22 – Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority anniversary event
- Jan. 26 – Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts dinner
- Jan. 27 – 5th District Supervisor Joe Baca new baseball field event at Rialto High School

President Harrison reported that he attended:

- Jan. 22 – National Habitat Conservation Plan Board meeting
- Jan. 23 – California Special Districts Association Legislative Committee meeting
- Jan. 26 – Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts dinner
- Jan. 28 – Highland Chamber of Commerce meeting
- Jan. 29 – Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce annual dinner
- Feb. 2 – Basin Technical Advisory Committee

Director Botello reported that he attended:

- Jan. 21 – City of San Bernardino Council meeting
- Jan. 22 – Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority anniversary event
- Jan. 26 – Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts dinner
- Jan. 27 – San Bernardino Municipal Water District Board meeting
- Jan. 28 – Climate Center webinar
- Feb. 2 – Basin Technical Advisory Committee

Director Longville reported that she attended:

- Jan. 21 – California Water Commission webinar
- Jan. 21 – City of San Bernardino Council meeting
- Jan. 22 – Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority anniversary event
- Jan. 28 – San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District meeting
- Jan. 29-30 – Climate Center Annual Board Retreat

5.3) General Counsel Report. No report.

5.4) Ad-Hoc and Standing Committee Reports. No reports.

5.5) SAWPA Meeting Report. Director Botello presented the report.

February 4, 2026, Regular Meeting of the SAWPA Commission

- The Commission awarded a contract for an amount not-to-exceed \$87,985 to the Catalyst Group for the Strategic Plan Development.
- The per day of service rate for Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners will automatically increase by five percent (5%) (from \$270 to \$280) effective January 2026.

PA 24 Committee – President Harrison gave the report:

- The Project Agreement 24 Committee authorized the General Manager to execute a License Agreement with Southern California Edison Company (SCE) to remove existing electrical facilities and install, operate, and maintain new SCE facilities in SAWPA’s fee property on Reach IV.
- The Project Agreement 24 Committee authorized the General Manager to sign the Property Damage Release and receive payment of \$41,898.47 for the damage to the Brine Line Reach IV-B on or about June 24, 2022, and discovered on July 21, 2025.
- The Project Agreement 24 Committee received and filed the following Informational Report:
 - Inland Empire Brine Line Reach IV-D City of Chino Euclid Bridge Project.

Agenda Item 6. Future Business. Director Kielhold requested a status update on the City Creek Crossing project.

The Board of Directors added this item to a future agenda by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Kielhold	SECONDED: Botello	APPROVED: 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Kielhold, Longville, Velasquez	
NOES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

Agenda Item 7. Announcements.

7.1) List of Announcements. Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board Jose Macedo reviewed the List of Announcements.

Agenda Item 8. Closed Session. District Counsel Brad Neufeld announced the Closed Session. President Harrison opened the Closed Session at 3:05 p.m.

- 8.1) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(c)
Title: General Manager

President Harrison returned the meeting to Open Session at 3:24 p.m. District Counsel Brad Neufeld stated that no reportable action was taken.

Agenda Item 8. Adjournment. President Harrison adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

<p>APPROVAL CERTIFICATION</p> <p>I hereby certify to approval of the foregoing minutes of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Date _____</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda J. Kerney
Contract Assistant

**MINUTES
OF
THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
RESOURCES/ENGINEERING WORKSHOP
SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

February 10, 2026

Directors Present: Gil J. Botello (arrived at 2:06 p.m.), T. Milford Harrison, Paul R. Kielhold, Susan Longville, Jose Velasquez

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present:

Heather Dyer, MS, MBA – Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
Wen Huang, PE, MS – Chief Operating Officer/Assistant General Manager
Cindy Saks CPA – Chief Financial Officer/Deputy General Manager
Leo Ferrando, PE, MS – Assistant Chief Engineer
Joanna Gibson, MS – Executive Director Upper SAR HCP Program
Jose Macedo, ML, CPT-P (USA Retired) – Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board
Michael Plinski, PE – Chief of Water Resources

Owen Cross, BS – Environmental Compliance Analyst I
Anthony Flordelis – Business Systems Analyst
Aaron Jones, PE, MEng — Senior Engineer
Matthew Olivo – Senior Accountant
Kai Palenscar, Ph.D. – Environmental Compliance and Permitting Program Manager
Sayer Pinto, MBA – Principal Water Resources Analyst
Karen Resendez, MAOL – Human Resources & Risk Manager
Andreea Tanase, MPA – Administrative Analyst I
Francisco Wences – Assistant Engineer
Ryan Kuruppu - Intern

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Mark Falcone, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
Melody McDonald, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
James Morales, East Valley Water District
Andrea Richards, Golden State Labor Compliance

The Resources/Engineering Workshop of the Board of Directors was called to order by Chair Susan Longville at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was noted present.

Agenda Item 1. Introductions: None.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item 3. Discussion and Possible Action Items.

3.1) Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 1197 Authorizing San Bernardino Valley to Approve and Adopt a Labor Compliance Program as Required for the Award of Proposition 84 Grant Funding. Chair Longville introduced the item required for the Award of Proposition 84 Funding for Construction of the Hidden Valley Creek and Anza Creek Habitat Restoration Projects. Joanna Gibson, Executive Director, Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Program, reminded about the Santa Ana River Watershed Authority (SAWPA) receipt of a \$4.8 million Proposition 84 grant for several projects. The grant requires compliance with all applicable Labor Code requirements, and the grant agreement specifically requires the adoption, implementation, and oversight of a Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)-certified Labor Compliance Program (LCP), which ensures conformance with labor and prevailing wage requirements, she explained.

The recent award of the two projects to JK Excavation and Grading triggered the need for the LCP, which will need to be submitted to the DIR, Ms. Gibson continued. A resolution identifying that the Board will be adopting the DIR-approved LCP and contracting with Golden State Labor Compliance to initiate and monitor the program is necessary, she said. Ms. Gibson introduced the qualifications of Golden State Labor Compliance, whose program is already approved by the DIR. The fiscal impact for the Golden State contract is \$29,953 including all oversight related to the projects, regardless of length of construction time, she said.

Director Kielhold requested background information on the grant award. Chief Executive Officer/General Manager Heather Dyer explained the total award to SAWPA member agencies was approximately \$55 million, with \$4.8 million designated for the tributaries restoration project. This represents \$4.8 million off the total cost of the Habitat Conservation Program (HCP), in addition to several million dollars secured by Ms. Gibson through other grants, bringing the total project cost of the tributaries restoration to a few hundred thousand dollars, Ms. Dyer noted.

Director Harrison pointed out all SBV's projects require prevailing wage and asked why a consultant would be needed to perform a task already typically done by staff. Ms. Gibson confirmed the LCP is a requirement of the grant agreement, and Ms. Dyer and Andrea Richards of Golden State Labor Compliance clarified that the grant requires administration by a DIR-approved labor compliance program, which the District is not authorized to operate internally.

The Board adopted Resolution No. 1197 authorizing the adoption for implementation a Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)-approved Labor Compliance Program and contract with Golden State Labor Compliance, an approved third-party provider, to initiate and enforce the Labor Compliance Program on behalf of San Bernardino Valley; and authorized submittal of an application to the Director of the

Department of Industrial Relations for approval of San Bernardino Valley's Labor Compliance Program, as required by the award of Proposition 84 grant funds by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Kielhold	SECONDED: Velasquez	APPROVED: 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Kielhold, Longville, Velasquez	
NOES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

RESOLUTION NO. 1197

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT APPROVING AND ADOPTING A LABOR COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR AWARD OF PROPOSITION 84 FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY CREEK AND ANZA CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

(See Resolution Book)

Agenda Item 4. Future Business. Director Botello requested a presentation on the water requirements of Artificial Intelligence centers. President Harrison suggested Congressman Jay Obernolte, Chair of the House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, as a source of information.

The Board of Directors added this item to a future agenda by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Botello	SECONDED: Kielhold	APPROVED: 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Kielhold, Longville, Velasquez	
NOES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

Agenda Item 5. Adjournment. Chair Longville adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

APPROVAL CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to approval of the foregoing minutes of the
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

Secretary

Date _____

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda J. Kerney
Contract Assistant

DATE: March 3, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

SUBJECT: List of Announcements

- A. March 4, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – Upper SAR WIFA by Teleconference (Cancelled)
- B. March 5, 2026, 2 p.m. – Board of Directors’ Special Meeting – Policy/
Administration Workshop by Teleconference or In-Person
- C. March 10, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – PA 22 Committee Meeting by Teleconference or In-
Person
- D. March 10, 2026, 2 p.m. – Board of Directors’ Special Meeting – Resources/
Engineering Workshop by Teleconference or In-Person
- E. March 11, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – Upper SAR WIFA Technical Advisory Committee by
Teleconference (Cancelled)
- F. March 11, 2026, 1:30 p.m. – Conservation District Board Meeting
- G. March 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – Foundation Summit (All Day event at SB Valley)
- H. March 16, 2026, 6 p.m. – ASBCSD dinner (Hosted by: Chino Basin Water
Conservation District, 4594 San Bernardino St. Montclair, CA 91763)
- I. March 17, 2026, 09:30 a.m. – SAWPA Commission Meeting by Teleconference or
In-Person
- J. March 17, 2026, 2 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting by Teleconference or In-Person
- K. March 18, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – Upper SAR WIFA by Teleconference (Cancelled)

L. March 25, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – Upper SAR WIFA Technical Advisory Committee by
Teleconference (Cancelled)