

MINUTES (Approved)

Chairperson: Thomas Burhenn
Vice Chairperson: Christine Mulholland
Secretary: Brendan Clark

The following action minutes are listed as they were acted upon by the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) as listed on the Regular Meeting agenda for **May 7, 2025** together with staff reports and related documents attached thereto and incorporated therein by reference.

The video recording of the meeting and materials submitted to the WRAC are available online: [https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Water-Resources-Advisory-Committee-\(WRAC\).aspx](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Water-Resources-Advisory-Committee-(WRAC).aspx)

Call to order at 1:30 PM

1) Determination of a Quorum and Introductions

The number of voting Members present is 18. Quorum met.

2) Approval of April 2, 2025, WRAC Meeting Minutes

Item start time ~ 00:04:00

T. Burhenn introduces the item and asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

D. Roques moves to approve the April 2, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

E. Greening seconds the motion.

Motion carries 16-0-2-0.

3) Review and Discuss Proposed San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Budget for FY 2025/2026 and Consider Actions

Item start time ~ 00:04:35

T. Burhenn introduces the item and C. Howard presents on the proposed San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Budget for FY 2025/26.

E. Greening references the County's drought planning consolidation efforts and asks if the assets or rate base are expected to cover the cost of integration. Is this a potential source for a future budget adjustment? And will the proposed budget account for any surprises as these efforts move forward? C. Howard responds.

E. Greening asks about the status and criteria related to Prop 4 Grant funding. C. Howard and B. Clark respond.

D. Chipping comments on Federal pullback of FEMA and Clean Water Act funding and asks if the County anticipates losing funds. C. Howard responds.

A. Loe asks about the proposed budget's ties to the Zone 3 budget. C. Howard and P. Brown respond.

P. Brown comments on the slide that mentions future Prop 218 initiatives and asks what rates might be analyzed. C. Howard responds.

P. Wilmore comments on the Joint Power Authority over the Paso Basin and asks if the establishment of new fees, levied on consumptive water use and potentially authorized through a Prop 218 ballot measure, would result in cost savings for the County's general fund. C. Howard responds.

L. Azeem asks for clarification about the County's well permitting authority as it relates to the GSAs. C. Howard Responds.

Committee Members ask staff to revisit sections of the 5-year projection spreadsheet and ask clarifying questions. C. Howard responds.

E. Greening moves to endorse approval of the proposed FY 2025/26 San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Budget.

D. Chipping seconds the motion.

Motion carries 17-0-1-0.

D. Chipping asks if a budget performance review can be provided to determine improved steps for the next budget proposal. C. Howard responds.

4) Receive Presentation on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the DESAL Plan

Item start time ~ 00:42:40

T. Burhenn introduces the item. C. Berg and A. Ford present on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the DESAL Plan.

E. Greening comments on potential site locations and conveyance facilities, and the likelihood of required property easements/resolutions, and asks when these property owners would be engaged in the outreach process. Also, in what format will you be engaging the regulatory agencies? A. Ford and D. Heimel responded.

D. Chipping asks if tailwater treatment is being considered as part of this analysis and comments on the energy/electrical requirements needed to meet conveyance.

A. Loe comments on the phased planning efforts of the project and how project specifics will be refined after the current phase. A. Ford responds.

T. Burhenn comments on OceanWell technology, a system that leverages the ocean's natural deep-water pressure to drive desalination and reverse osmosis. This technology is being prototyped in southern California and could interest the project team as they analyze power-related impacts and energy efficiency. D. Heibel responds.

P. Brown comments on the requirement to evaluate recycled water use as part of the desalination planning process and asks what is being done to meet that requirement. A. Ford responds.

5) **Ongoing Updates**

Item start time ~ 01:11:18

a) Rain & Reservoir Report

No comments.

b) California Drought Monitor Summary

No comments.

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

No comments.

d) Flood Control Zones

No comments.

e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

P. Brown asks if the Regional Water Management Group will hold a meeting in the near future. B. Clark responds.

f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

No comments.

g) State Water Project (SWP)

B. Clark notes that the State Water Subcontractors Advisory Committee will be meeting on Friday, May 9th to review the latest iteration of policy edits. The WRAC is scheduled to receive an update on this topic in June.

h) Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan (DESAL Plan)

No comments.

i) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

E. Greening comments on the current 5 AFY exemption related to the Paso Basin Offset Program and asks if this amount constitutes a realignment from the prior de minimis threshold. B. Clark responds.

j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

B. Clark provides an update on the recent boil water notice and Lopez Water System.

E. Greening notes the importance of available decontamination options during the boil water notice and asks:

1. How are residents able to handle situations where both water supply and electricity are simultaneously cut off; and
2. Are these types of simultaneous shut-off scenarios included in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

B. Clark and P. Brown respond.

P. Brown also comments on the recent boil water notice, noting that local cities tested negative for contamination in nearby connected distribution systems.

6) Future Agenda Items

Item start time ~ 01:20:25

B. Clark notes that staff from the Central Coast Water Board is planning on attending the June 4th WRAC Meeting.

E. Greening asks if any meetings are expected to be scheduled over the summer break period. B. Clark responds.

7) Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

None