

MINUTES (FINAL)

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 **September 3, 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 19. Quorum met.

2) **Approval of June 4, 2025, WRAC Meeting Minutes**

Item start time ~ 00:04:36

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

C. Mulholland notes a typo under Item 5 and asks for clarification on the listed voting record and attendance. B. Clark responds.

MOTION: Approve the June 4, 2025 WRAC Meeting Minutes, with corrections MOTION BY: C. Mulholland SECOND BY: E. Greening				
Motion Carries	AYES: 16	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 3	ABSENT: 3

3) **Receive Presentation from Stantec on the SB-552 Water System Consolidation Analysis**

Item start time ~ 00:07:11

T. Burhenn introduces the item; C. Poytress and G. Kasman present on the SB-552 Water System Consolidation Analysis Plan and related topics.

J. Marx asks if the domestic well index used in the analysis begins in 1965, the year the County started recording that data. C. Poytress responds.

D. Chipping asks if land acquisition is part of the cost estimate. C. Poytress responds.

E. Greening asks if easement or severance costs are being considered. C. Poytress responds.

J. Marx asks if capital cost estimates are based on prevailing wage. C. Poytress responds.

J. Marx comments that public water policies should be taken into consideration throughout the consolidation analysis. C. Poytress responds.

P. Brown highlights the distinction between a consolidation project, which merges two water systems, and a project to connect to a new water source.

E. Greening asks for clarification on the areas highlighted on the "Joining State Small Water System" slide. C. Poytress and B. Clark respond.

D. Crater asks what components are included in the SSWS water quality risk assessment, and also asks for clarification about the capital costs estimates. C. Poytress responds.

B. Clark notes that DWR and Water Board staff are in attendance and have shared links to water quality information for SSWS and domestic wells in the chat:

<https://gispublic.waterboards.ca.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=18c7d253f0a44fd2a5c7bcfb42cc158d>.

D. Chipping asks if risk would be transferred to domestic users in a consolidation project driven by agricultural users' overuse. C. Poytress responds.

D. Crater asks if the aggregated domestic well groupings would be considered self-sustaining. C. Poytress responds.

C. Mulholland asks if there have been discussions about balancing water contributions and usage when consolidating established systems? C. Poytress and P. Brown respond.

E. Greening asks if a small district consolidates with a larger one, would the small district's board be dissolved? If so, what is the public process for this, aside from the procedures handled by LAFCO? C. Poytress responds.

M. van Ryn asks if wells solely used for irrigation were excluded from the ungrouped wells. C. Poytress responds.

D. Chipping asks about the role of SGMA in managerial consolidation. C. Poytress responds.

J. Marx asks if this information will be integrated into the County's planning process as more homes are built in unincorporated areas. C. Howard responds.

T. Walters asks about the next steps, including the creation of programs to help people choose to consolidate and get grant funding. C. Howard responds.

D. Chipping asks if the presentation will be made available to WRAC members. B. Clark responds.

M. Frederick comments on the informative presentation and offers to provide additional data or clarification if needed.

4) Ongoing Updates

Item start time ~ 01:02:57

a) Rain & Reservoir Report

B. Clark notes the final 2024/25 Water Year Report is included in the agenda packet.

b) California Drought Monitor Summary

B. Clark notes that the Hazard Mitigation plan has been submitted to CalOES for review and comments.

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

S. Carter comments on the failed Proposition 218 vote for the Paso Basin.

d) Flood Control Zones

No comments.

e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

B. Clark notes that a call for projects will be issued to replace the Central Coast Blue Project under the IRWM grant.

D. Chipping asks if the County anticipates losing state/federal grant funding for water projects. B. Clark responds.

E. Greening comments on the extended time for grant processing being a result of having too few staff members to review project applications.

f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

B. Clark summarizes the written update.

g) State Water Project (SWP)

B. Clark notes that the County Board of Supervisors adopted the SWP policy framework that was presented to the WRAC in July.

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

C. Howard notes that a public survey is now available and that a virtual community meeting for the DESAL Plan is scheduled for September 15th.

i) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

E. Greening shares that there will be an item to discuss the Salinas Pressure Pipeline Repair which has been agendaized for the Tuesday Board of Supervisors meeting on September 9th.

j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comments.

5) Future Agenda Items

E. Greening requests a possible discussion on “First Flush” cleanup efforts and the potential for downstream monitoring.

B. Clark comments that the DESAL Plan project team will present to the WRAC in October.

6) Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

No comments.