

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 **December 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**

C. Mulholland called the meeting to order. Twenty voting Members were present, constituting a quorum.

2) **Approval of October 1, 2025, WRAC Meeting Minutes**

Item start time ~ 00:02:28

C. Mulholland introduced the item and opened the floor for questions or comments from the Committee.

B. Clark noted minor grammatical changes and indicated that a comment attributed to E. Eby, who was not present at the previous meeting, will be corrected.

MOTION: Approve the October 1, 2025 WRAC Meeting Minutes as Amended

MOTION BY: E. Greening

SECOND BY: J. Marderosian

MOTION CARRIES

AYES: 18

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 2

ABSENT: 0

3) **Receive Update from County Staff on SB-552 (2018), County Drought Planning Requirements**

Item start time ~ 00:05:56

C. Mulholland introduced the item, and J. Porter presented on SB-552, County Drought Planning Requirements, and related topics.

M. van Ryn asked how communications and resources with private well owners would be handled during a drought event. J. Porter responded.

D. Chipping commented on Lopez releases and pending litigation outcomes and asked whether this issue would be considered when working on SB-552 projects. J. Porter and B. Clark responded.

E. Greening asked if a timetable was available for the implementation of recommendations in the report and how input from LAFCO would influence decision-making. J. Porter and B. Clark responded.

D. Roques asked about better preparing the County for drought and if staff had any afterthoughts on the SB-552 project and planning process. J. Porter responded.

4) Receive Update from County Staff on IRWM Proposition 1, Round 2 Project Replacement Process and Consider Support

Item start time ~ 00:21:20

C. Mulholland introduced the item, and B. Clark provided an update on the IRWM Proposition 1, Round 2 Project replacement process.

E. Greening asked whether the legal deadline applied to the entire scope of a project or only to a specific portion of it. B. Clark responded.

T. Kershaw asked for clarification regarding the implementation and completion of projects within the established grant timeline. B. Clark responded.

S. Inman asked how project scores were determined and commented that it would be helpful to provide those scores for WRAC's consideration. B. Clark responded.

P. Brown and R. Munds provided additional details regarding the RWMG Working Group's scoring considerations and the criteria used to the score projects.

M. Guthrie asked for clarification regarding the project and land and well sites submitted by the City of Pismo Beach. B. Clark responded.

T. Kershaw asked about the Committee's role and whether a recommendation from the WRAC was required to move the item forward. B. Clark responded.

MOTION: Support the recommended suite of Projects (listed below) to the Board of Supervisors for approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heritage Ranch CSD – Disinfection Byproduct Reduction Project• City of San Luis Obispo – Groundwater Cleanup Project				
MOTION BY: T. Walters				
SECOND BY: E. Greening				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 17	NOES: 1	ABSTAIN: 2	ABSENT: 0

R. Gaglione commented, thanking the District for the opportunity to reapply for the grant and congratulating the groups whose projects were selected.

D. Crater asked if the project descriptions are available online. B. Clark responded.

5) Consider Endorsing Environmental At-Large Alternate Application of Sara Sternberg

Item start time ~ 00:45:49

C. Mulholland introduced the item, and S. Sternberg introduced herself to the Committee and shared her background and qualifications related to the position.

B. Clark reminded the Committee of its role as defined in the WRAC Bylaws.

MOTION: Approve Endorsement of Sara Stenberg for Environmental At-Large Alternate				
MOTION BY: E. Greening				
SECOND BY: E. Francis				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 20	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0

6) Ongoing Updates

Item start time ~ 00:51:26

a) Rain & Reservoir Report

No comments.

b) California Drought Monitor Summary

C. Mulholland commented on an article published in the *Los Angeles Times* reporting on California's ongoing drought risk.

D. Chipping commented on recent weather predictions indicating that California is likely to experience further drought conditions.

E. Greening recommended two Substack websites – *Biotic Regulation and Biotic Pump* and *The Climate According to Life* – noting that they highlight research on land use as an active factor in water metabolism and related climate issues.

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

C. Mulholland and P. Clark commented on the ongoing basin management efforts related to the Paso Basin.

d) Flood Control Zones

P. Brown commented on a recent ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals related to Zone 3 and Arroyo Grande Creek.

C. Mulholland noted an upcoming Zone 9 meeting at which the Committee would discuss the recently completed San Luis Creek Enhancement Project, among other topics.

e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

No comments.

f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

No comments.

g) State Water Project (SWP)

No comments.

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

No comments.

i) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

No comments.

j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comments.

7) Future Agenda Items

B. Clark noted an upcoming item related to the Salinas Dam scheduled for early 2026.

8) Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

No comments.