

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 **April 1, 2026** 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

T. Burhenn called the meeting to order. 15 voting Members were present, constituting a quorum.

2) Approval of December 4, 2025, WRAC Meeting Minutes

Item start time ~ 00:03:30

T. Burhenn introduced the item and opened the floor for questions or comments from the Committee.

E. Greening noted a correction to his comment in the Ongoing Updates report regarding the referenced Substack website, clarifying that "Biotech" should be changed to "Biotic."

MOTION: Approve the December 4, 2025 WRAC Meeting Minutes as Amended				
MOTION BY: E. Greening				
SECOND BY: D. Roques				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 14	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 1	ABSENT: 2

3) Election for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Item start time ~ 00:05:10

T. Burhenn introduces item and asked for Chair and Vice-Chair nominations from the Committee.

C. Mulholland nominated T. Burhenn for Chairperson. No other nominations were received, and T. Burhenn accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Appoint T. Burhenn as WRAC Chairperson MOTION BY: C. Mulholland SECOND BY: A. Loe				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 15	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 2

T. Burhenn nominated C. Mulholland for Vice-Chairperson. No other nominations were received, and C. Mulholland accepted the nomination.

MOTION: Appoint C. Mulholland as WRAC Vice-Chairperson MOTION BY: T. Burhenn SECOND BY: E. Greening				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 15	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 2

4) Consider Submitting the 2025 Annual Report to the District Board of Supervisors

Item start time ~ 00:06:12

T. Burhenn introduced the item and opened the floor for questions or comments from the Committee.

C. Mulholland expressed appreciation to staff for compiling the report.

E. Greening commented on the absence of Committee recommendations reflected in the report, asked whether recommendations are being solicited less frequently than in previous years, and requested consideration of future format changes to the annual report regarding recommendations and actions taken in response to those recommendations. B. Clark responded.

MOTION: Submit the 2025 Annual Report to the District Board of Supervisors MOTION BY: C. Mulholland SECOND BY: E. Greening				
MOTION CARRIES	AYES: 17	NOES: 0	ABSTAIN: 0	ABSENT: 0

5) Receive Updates from Community Services Districts (CSDs) on Water Issues Relevant to Their Agency

Item start time ~ 00:09:20

T. Burhenn and B. Clark introduced the item and opened the floor for updates from CSD members on water issues relevant to their agencies.

J. Green provided updates for Cambria CSD.

D. Groshart provided updates for Heritage Ranch CSD.

D. Chipping asked whether Heritage Ranch has encountered issues with mercury levels. D. Groshart responded.

E. Greening asked whether fire-related pollution had been mitigated or continued to pose a threat. D. Groshart responded.

R. Munds provided updates for Los Osos CSD.

C. Mulholland asked about the pipeline between Los Osos and Chorro Valley and whether a planned alignment had been identified in connection with the bridge project. R. Munds responded.

E. Greening asked whether Los Osos CSD had observed measurable sea level rise on a year-to-year or decade-to-decade basis that may contribute to increased seawater intrusion. R. Munds responded.

J. Britz provided updates for Templeton CSD.

T. Burhenn asked what changes allowed the water connection waitlist to be removed. J. Britz responded.

A. Villa provided updates for Oceano CSD.

E. Eby provided updates for Nipomo CSD.

6) Ongoing Updates

Item start time ~ 00:35:10

a) Rain & Reservoir Report

C. Mulholland noted her comparison of recorded rainfall to the City of San Luis Obispo's Whale Rock Dam data during the fall and asked why those totals appeared lower than surrounding rain stations and were not more closely aligned. B. Clark responded.

D. Crater asked if there is a dedicated station at that location or whether staff use an alternative method for recording rainfall. B. Clark responded.

M. van Ryn commented that recorded rainfall totals in Nipomo also appeared to be inaccurate. B. Clark responded.

b) California Drought Monitor Summary

B. Clark noted that the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan received final approval from the County Board of Supervisors in January.

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

C. Mulholland requested additional information be provided to the WRAC regarding the managed SGMA basins.

E. Greening noted that, while the WRAC does not regulate the CSDs, the Committee benefits from receiving regular updates from them and suggested a similar approach for ongoing SGMA updates, while respecting GSA autonomy and valuing transparency.

B. Clark responded.

D. Chipping commented on the benefit of the WRAC taking a more holistic approach to water resource discussions at the countywide level, including groundwater basin management. B. Clark responded.

D. Crater commented on the benefit of viewing water resources as a whole system rather than as separate parts.

d) Flood Control Zones

B. Clark commented on the completion of construction of the Mid-Higuera Bypass Project for Flood Control Zone 9, which has been planned and implemented over the past 20 years.

M. Pasa introduced herself as the new Supervising Engineer for Flood Control Zone 1/1A and touched on the written updates provided in the report.

D. Chipping asked whether there was any possibility of diverting water from the lower section of Meadow Creek as an option to help prevent flooding. M. Pasa responded.

e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

B. Clark highlighted key points from the written update.

T. Burhenn asked when a response from the State regarding the Replacement Projects submittal could be expected. B. Clark responded.

f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

B. Clark summarized the written update.

g) State Water Project (SWP)

No comments.

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

T. Burhenn noted that the DESAL Plan Project Team would be presenting to the WRAC at the May meeting and is planning to host two community engagement meetings, one in

Morro Bay and another in Grover Beach, to provide an update on the feasibility study and gather public input.

C. Mulholland commented on Norway's underwater desalination efforts and San Diego's deep seawater desalination system, noted potential differences in resource use between underwater and land-based operations, and suggested the County investigate similar options as desalination efforts continue.

i) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

E. Greening shared information about the upcoming Beaver Fest event scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2026.

j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

C. Mulholland commented on the effectiveness of conservation efforts in Southern California, noting significant reductions in water use in the Los Angeles area despite substantial population growth, and referenced a recent celebration related to the history of Mulholland Dam.

7) Future Agenda Items

None

8) Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

E. Greening noted unusually hot conditions across the county and nationwide, including record highs, and encouraged research into effective public policy approaches to address climate change in the present and future.