CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors – Special Board Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2026
10:35 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

1. PRELIMINARY

Meeting Called to Order	10:35 a.m. by Secretary/Treasurer Phillip Brumley
Directors Present	Brumley (Secretary/Treasurer), Chiappe, Van-Groningen, Veldstra; Thompson (arrived 10:55 a.m.)
Directors Absent	Wagner, Thompson (initially)
Staff Present	Kevin King (General Manager), Anne-Liisa Larks, Carson Henry
Conflict of Interest	None Identified

The agenda was approved as noticed.

ACTION TAKEN

Agenda approved as noticed.

Moved: Chiappe | Seconded: Brumley | Ayes: 4 | Noes: 0 | Abstain: 0 | Absent: 2

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Two comments were received from unidentified members of the public regarding the delivery (or non-delivery) of surface water in 2026 and current water releases through Jack Tone Road. General Manager King noted that both issues would be addressed in the presentations that followed.

3. SCHEDULED ITEMS

3.1 - Public Hearing: Engineering Investigation and Report on Groundwater Conditions and Surface Water Supplies (Water Code §§ 75570–75573)

General Manager King stated the purpose of the hearing: to receive evidence regarding groundwater conditions and surface water supplies and to consider support of or protest to the Engineering Investigation and Report prepared pursuant to Water Code § 75570. He confirmed that notice of the hearing was published and posted as required by law, and that the Report was made available for public review at the District Office (1900 McHenry Avenue, Suite 305, Escalon, CA 95320) and on the District website.

Secretary/Treasurer Brumley opened the public hearing at 10:40 a.m. and called on General Manager King to review the Report's contents. GM King summarized the key finding: an overall downward trend in groundwater storage since 1908.

Vice-President Grant Thompson arrived at 10:55 a.m.

Secretary/Treasurer Brumley opened the floor for public comment. The following questions and comments were received from landowners in attendance:

- A landowner requested clarification on the San Joaquin River Index (SJI). GM King explained that the SJI is the index used by the Bureau of Reclamation to type water years and determine allocations. It reflects the confluence of four tributaries — San Joaquin, Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus Rivers — and applies primarily to South of the Delta users.
- A landowner requested information on the District's original contract terms and the settlement regarding the first 15,000 acre-feet of allocation. GM King indicated additional information was needed and requested the landowner contact the District outside of the meeting.
- A landowner commented on statewide snowpack and the outlook for a District allocation. GM King noted that recent precipitation may not yet be reflected in current reports and that the District believes an allocation is imminent.
- A landowner requested clarification on whether the first 15,000 acre-feet settlement was dependent on the total allocation amount. GM King confirmed the settlement is not dependent on the District's allocation.
- A landowner asked about the District's SGMA efforts. GM King indicated that District Consultant Steve Knell would address SGMA in a subsequent presentation.
- A landowner requested the District consider cost-sharing for additional surface water projects.
- A landowner questioned the District's ability to capture storm water runoff. GM King confirmed the system is fully configured to capture current rainfall and charge the distribution system.

Secretary/Treasurer Brumley closed public comments at 11:04 a.m. and opened the floor for Board member questions. No questions were posed. Board comments were closed at 11:05 a.m.

ACTION TAKEN

Approve and adopt the Engineering Investigation and Report prepared pursuant to California Water Code § 75570, finding that it accurately reflects the groundwater conditions and surface water supplies of the District, and direct staff to proceed in accordance with the Report's findings and recommendations.

Moved: Veldstra | Seconded: Chiappe | Ayes: 4 | Noes: 0 | Abstain: 0 | Absent: 2

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 - 2026 District Update & Outlook

Presenter: General Manager Kevin King

GM King highlighted that the District is in a period of transition following a change in management. With a dedicated Board, the District is well-positioned to address the challenges ahead over the next five years. Key areas of focus include increased public outreach, grower education, and strengthening regional partnerships.

4.2 - 2026 Capital Improvement Program

Presenters: General Manager Kevin King and District Consultant Steve Knell

District Consultant Steve Knell provided a high-level overview of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The District offers a credit of $300 per acre for up to 10 years for new surface water projects, designed to offset the cost of converting from groundwater to surface water. Program details and applications are available on the District website.

4.3 — Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Presenter: District Consultant Steve Knell

District Consultant Knell presented an overview of the District's role as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and its participation in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA), a Joint Powers Agreement among regional GSAs. The ESJGWA serves as the Department of Water Resources' primary point of contact for basin reporting. Each member agency must address groundwater use deficits by 2040, with demand management measures potentially required as soon as 2027. The District is actively working toward these goals through planned system expansions, including the Mariposa Drain and Avena Drain projects. Additional information on SGMA, the ESJGWA, and District projects is available on the District website.

4.4 — District System Improvements

Presenter: District Engineer John Davids

District Engineer JohnDavids reviewed completed and planned capital projects. In the prior year, the District installed monitoring stations along Mariposa Drain to improve flow management. Four additional projects are in various stages of planning:

- Pump station at Avena Drain
- Reservoir on Mariposa Drain
- Avena Drain diversion point
- Additional surface water monitoring stations

Current projects are at 30% design completion; 60% completion is required before pursuing grant funding. The District intends to advance to that phase and apply for Proposition 4 grant funds.

Board Comments Following Presentations

Secretary/Treasurer Brumley opened the floor for general Board comments at the conclusion of the presentations.

- Director Veldstra commented that he has observed significant progress toward the District's goals over the past year and expressed confidence that the District is well-positioned to address the challenges of SGMA.
- Vice-President Thompson reflected on the historical tensions among regional agencies and noted that current attitudes support collaborative, basin-wide groundwater solutions.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Phillip Brumley, Secretary/Treasurer
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District

Date: 5/21/26