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Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency – January 27, 2026

A special board meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA) was held in person at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: William C. Cooper, Jeff Ford (Alternate for Dirk Marks) Jason Gibbs, Gary Martin, Gina Natoli, and Ken Petersen (Alternate for Maria Gutzeit)

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Maria Gutzeit, Carolina Hernandez and Dirk Marks

Also in attendance were SCV-GSA Board Secretary Eunie Kang and General Counsel Tom Bunn; SCV Water Agency Communications Manager Kevin Strauss, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, Principal Water Resources Planner Rick Viergutz, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, and additional staff members. Participating virtually was consultant Katie Evans from Woodard & Curran.

President Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M. A quorum was present.

Item 1.3: There was no public comment.

Item 1.4: There were no changes to January 27, 2026, Board Agenda and it was accepted as presented.

Item 2.1: Upon a motion by Director Martin, seconded by Director Natoli, and carried, the Board approved the rotational schedule appointing Vice President William Cooper as Board President and Dirk Marks as Vice President for the 2026 term, by the following roll-call vote:

President Gibbs	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Vice President Cooper	Yes	Director Natoli	Yes
Director Ford	Yes	Director Petersen	Yes

Item 3.1: Upon a motion by Director Gibbs, seconded by Director Martin, and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll-call votes:

President Cooper	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Ford	Yes	Director Natoli	Yes
Director Gibbs	Yes	Director Petersen	Yes

Item 4.1: The Board received an update on the January 7, 2026, public kickoff meeting for the SCV-GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation. Thirty-two members of the public attended, along with eight panelists. The workshop introduced the purpose of the periodic evaluation, explained opportunities for public participation and comment, and previewed upcoming phases.

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Item 4.2: The Board received an update on the 2025 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) monitoring results, noting that all surveyed areas were in good condition with no evidence of significant water stress. Groundwater elevations remained generally consistent with the previous year despite lower precipitation levels. Although some stream channel and flow changes were observed, none indicated any areas of concern. The report concluded that no undesirable results were identified for the reporting year.

Item 4.3: The Board received its quarterly update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation, including key information on the schedule for the GSP periodic evaluation public workshops, the SGM Round 2 Grant tasks, the future release of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Interconnected Surface Water Best Management Practices, DWR's recent release of final Best Management Practices for Land Subsidence, and a six-month outlook.

Item 5: Staff provided an update on the Bouquet Canyon Creek Recovery Project. L.A. County has indicated it is moving forward with project design and anticipates beginning construction on select project elements by 2027. Arundo removal work in Bouquet Creek began in early January under a limited schedule due to the start of the nesting season in early February. Recent rainfall resulted in wet channel conditions that prevent the use of machinery under current permit requirements, so crews have been performing the work manually. Equipment is being staged along nearby trails with support from the City of Santa Clarita to ensure public access is maintained. Staff recognized the contractor's efforts to meet permitting requirements and thanked Director Carolina Hernandez for her assistance in expediting a necessary flood control permit, allowing work to begin in early January.

Item 6: No items were requested for future agendas.

Item 7: The meeting adjourned at 1:53 P.M.

Signed by:
Eunie Kang
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Eunie Kang, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signed by:
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Vice President of the Board