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EUNIE KANG

# SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
# SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

**Monday, November 2, 2026, at 1:00 PM**

**Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Administration Building**
**E. G. "Jerry Gladbach Water Treatment Plant Boardroom**
**27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

This meeting is conducted in person at the address listed above. As a convenience to the public, members of the public may also participate virtually by using the **Agency's Call-In Number 1-833-568-8864, Webinar ID: 165 338 1423 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link: scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1653381423**
Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Board using the call-in number or Zoom Webinar link above. However, in the event there is a disruption of service which prevents the Agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using either the call-in option or internet-based service, this meeting will not be postponed but will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is provided as a convenience to the public and is not required.

We request that the public submit any comments in writing if practicable, which can be sent to ekang@scvwa.org or mailed to Eunie Kang, Board Secretary, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 10:00 AM on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Board members and posted on the SCV-GSA website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 10:00 AM on the day of the meeting will be posted on the SCV-GSA website the following day.

## 1. REGULAR PROCEDURES

1.1 Call to Order

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Public Comments – Members of the public may comment as to items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency that are not on the agenda at this time. Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in this Agenda may do so now or at the time each item is considered. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Board's presiding officer, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.) To participate in public comment from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, click the "raise hand" feature in Zoom. You will be notified when it is your turn to speak, please unmute when requested. To participate in public comment via phone, dial *9 to raise your hand. When it is your turn to speak, dial *6 to unmute.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR**

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by the Board by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these matters prior to the time the Board votes unless any Board member, staff or the public requests specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.


| ITEMS | | | PAGE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2.1 | * | Approval of the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Held on August 31, 2026 | 5 |


**3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION AGENDA ITEMS**


| ITEMS | | | PAGE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3.1 | * | Appointment of General Counsel for the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency | 7 |
| 3.2 | | Summary of Public Comments Received on the Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation | |


**4. SCV-GSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**5. DIRECTOR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

*** Indicates attachment**
**♦ Indicates handout**

**NOTICES:**

Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by telephoning Eunie Kang, Secretary to the Board of Directors, at (661) 297-1600 or writing to Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. Requests must specify the nature of the disability, and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that Agency staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the Agency to provide the requested accommodation.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, located at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, California 91350, during

regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the Agency's Internet Website, accessible at scvgsa.org.

Posted on October 22, 2026

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DRAFT

ITEM NO. 2.1

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency – August 31, 2026

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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 Monday August 31, 2026.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President William Cooper, Jason Gibbs, Gary Martin Maria Gutzeit, Carolina Hernandez, and Jeff Ford - Alternate for Dirk Marks

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Vice President Dirk Marks and Director Gina Natoli

Also in attendance were SCV Water Agency Board Secretary April Jacobs, SCV-GSA Treasurer Rochelle Patterson, and General Counsel Tom Bunn, along with SCV Water Agency staff, including Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, Principal Water Resources Planner Rick Viergutz, Senior Water Resources Planner Sarfaraz Alam, and Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas. Participating virtually were SCV Water Agency Communications Manager Kevin Strauss, Katie Evans of Woodard & Curran, and Trevor Jones of INTERA.

President Cooper called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. A quorum was present.

Item 1.3: There was no public comment.

Item 1.4: There were no changes to August 31, 2026, Board Agenda and it was accepted as presented.

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Item 2.1: Upon a motion by Director Gutzeit, seconded by Director Hernandez, and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll-call votes:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| President Cooper | Yes | Director Hernandez | Yes |
| Director Martin | Abstain | Director Gibbs | Yes |
| Director Gutzeit | Yes | Director Ford | Abstain |

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Item 3.1: The Board received an overview of the August 11, 2026 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation Public Workshop. The hybrid evening workshop included five virtual public participants. Staff presented the Periodic Evaluation process, with a focus on the well impact analysis and proposed updates to minimum groundwater level thresholds. Participants indicated unanimous support for the proposed approach through a polling activity, and no additional resources were requested to support public review. Key groundwater management concerns identified by participants included drought, climate change, population growth, land use and environmental needs, new wells and infrastructure, and emerging contaminants. Staff also reviewed the upcoming public review process and opportunities for stakeholder participation.

Item 3.2: Upon a motion by Director Gibbs, seconded by Director Ford, and carried, the Board authorized the release of the Draft Periodic Evaluation for a 45-day public review and comment period beginning September 10, 2026. The Board also authorized holding a public hearing on the Draft Periodic Evaluation on December 7, 2026, with consideration of final approval scheduled for December 21, 2026, by the following roll-call votes:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| President Cooper | Yes | Director Hernandez | Yes |
| Director Marting | Yes | Director Gibbs | Yes |
| Director Gutzeit | Yes | Director Ford | Yes |

Item 3.3: The Board has initiated the appointment and reappointment process for the 2027-2029 SCV-GSA JPA term. Each Member agency shall provide written notice to the Board Secretary of any Director reappointments or changes in appointments, signed by an authorized representative. Members must also notify the Board Secretary of any subsequent changes to Director positions by October 31, 2026.

Item 4: The Board received an update on the Bouquet Canyon Creek Recovery Project, which is currently in the feasibility design phase. Project efforts include biological and habitat assessments, hydraulic and hydrologic analyses, and evaluation of creek conditions. Key objectives are to improve creek flow, enhance sediment management, support sensitive habitat areas, and reduce flood risk. The project team anticipates presenting the 30% design at a public meeting in early September.

Item 5: No items were requested for future agendas.

Item 6: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

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Eunie Kang, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

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President of the Board

**ITEM NO. 3.1**

# Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

**DATE:** November 2, 2026

**TO:** SCV-GSA Board of Directors

**FROM:** GSA Formation Work Group

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of General Counsel for the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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## PURPOSE

Appoint a new general counsel for the Santa Claria Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA) due to current counsel Tom Bunn's retirement.

## DISCUSSION

Tom Bunn currently serves as General Counsel to the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Mr. Bunn has announced his retirement following completion of the GSP Periodic Evaluation expected no later than early January 2027, which will create a vacancy in this critical role. Accordingly, the Agency must appoint a new General Counsel to ensure continuity of legal services and support for the Agency's ongoing regulatory responsibilities.

The General Counsel provides legal advice and representation to the Agency on a wide range of matters, including governance, compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Brown Act requirements, Public Records Act matters, contracts, policy development, regulatory issues, and other legal matters affecting the Agency.

Following a review of the Agency's legal service needs, Sam Johnson of Best, Best, & Krieger has been identified as qualified to serve as General Counsel. The selected counsel possesses experience in water law, groundwater sustainability planning, public agency governance, regulatory compliance, and related legal matters. Appointment of new General Counsel will ensure the Agency continues to receive timely and effective legal guidance in support of its mission and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. We plan for Sam Johnson to work with Tom Bunn as needed during the transition period to come up to speed with SCV GSA activities.

## FINANCIAL

Legal services will be provided in accordance with the Administrative Services Agreement between the SCV-GSA and SCV Water.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The SCV-GSA Board of Directors appoint Sam Johnson of Best, Best, & Krieger as General Counsel for the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency.