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

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

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.

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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 Martin	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.

Signed by:
Eunie Kang
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Eunie Kang, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signed by:
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President of the Board