

APPROVED

**SOMIS CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 19
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2026, MEETING**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Mishler-Chair,
Keith Huss, Debra Tosh, Tyler Cobb
Hayden Scott McIntyre-Zoom

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: none

COMMITTEE VACANCY: none

STAFF: Art Aseo, Deputy Director
Paul Chan, Director, Water & Sanitation
Gregg Strakaluse, Director Public Works
Jean Fontayne, Staff Services Manager
Homer Arrendondo, Senior Engineering Mgr.
Bradley Farlow, Senior Accountant-zoom
Maryann Ranallo, Management Asst. III
Vimie Alvarez, Fiscal Supervisor-zoom

GUESTS: Jeff Gorell, Dist. 2 Supervisor BOD
Israel Rodriguez, Supervisor's Asst.
Lynette Buchanan-Roth
Kathy Janowski
Waldemar Janowski
Rick Keiter
Doug Coats
Margaret Tolberg
Daryl Smith
Deborah Faneros-zoom
Peggy Wellman-zoom

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1. CALL TO ORDER 3:31 PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2025, MEETING

Motion to adopt the minutes was made by Michael Mishler.

Vote: Nay 0, Yea 4. Minutes adopted.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Janowski spoke and said she thought that some members of the CAC should not be on the CAC. Specifically, anyone who does not live in the Somis area and Tyler Cobb, because she believes he has missed too many CAC Meetings. (*This is a personal public comment and not reflective of what everyone wants.*)

4. DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION ITEMS-Provides the opportunity for the Director to present items that are not within the subject matter of the District Staff Report

A. WATER RATE PROPOSAL PRESENTATION

- Investment Strategy, need to invest in infrastructure and distribution.
- Water usage. Well 4 is the main source, project completed
- Three variable rate loans
- Net Results-11.9% could help recover operating expenses.
- Goal-financial goal to meet 2030. Looking at the CAC for best way forward.
- There is a concern that there is no discussion on the financials. What happened to the Farm Workers Housing funds? Kathy Janowski wants a review of the financials before next year for the next increase. 11.9% does not include any projects but concerned about the financials.
- Board of Supervisor, Jeff Gorell spoke up and concurred with the review of the financials, so that the CAC and public are comfortable with the financials.
- Rick Keiter is recommending that we raise the taxes or some other avenue to raise the rates. The farmers are being hit hard with costs to farm and put food on your tables.

It was suggested to go ahead with the 11.5% water rate increase. A vote was taken voting Yea 4, Nay 0.

5. DISTRICT STAFF REPORT

A. LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER-An update on decisions and/or rulings by the LPV Watermaster and LPV Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees.

B. CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT/ METROPOLITAN WATER

C. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REVIEW-An update on the budget and financial status of the District

D. O&M UPDATE

- Water Efficiency. Total water consumed.
- Well Production. Well 2 offline, Well 3 reduced (water quality complaints), Well 4 is the main producing well now.
- Well Water Produced vs Allocation- Down.
- Water Quality Pressure Control Complaints: Color and odor complaints 35, pressure is 6 due to Well 2 on color and odor.
- Notification Level and Manganese-only a problem in Well 3. It does not have Manganese removal facilities.
- PFOS, we have 6 raw causes we test for.

Minutes of the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 19
Citizens' Advisory Committee
Meeting for January 15, 2026

- Mainline leaks-one, on hwy 118 and Balcom Canyon. Crack that formed and cracked the pipe.

E. CAPITAL PROJECTS REVIEW-The Capital Project Status Report provides regular reporting on the status of active capital projects within the District.

F. BOARD LETTER TRACKER – AN UPDATE ON VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEMS RELATED TO THE DISTRICT

G. AVENUES OF PUBLIC OUTREACH

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned at 3:14 PM

The next meeting is April 16, 2025.