

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY STATE WATER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, FEBRUARY 12, 2026.

A regular meeting of the Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was held Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 6450 West Avenue N, Palmdale, CA 93551, at 2856 Owens Way, Rosamond, CA 93560, and via teleconference. Chair Mac Laren-Gomez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1) Pledge of Allegiance.

At the request of Chair Mac Laren-Gomez, Alternate Commissioner Mercy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Roll Call.

Attendance:

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair
Don Wilson, Secretary
Leo Thibault, Treasurer
Keith Dyas, Commissioner
Barbara Hogan, Commissioner
Drew Mercy, Alt. Commissioner

Others Present (In-person & via Zoom):

Tom Barnes, General Manager
James Chaisson, Assistant General Manager
Viridiana Iguaran, Controller
Pam Clark, Resource & Analytics Supervisor, PWD
Scott Kellerman, Alternate Commissioner
Matthew Knudson, General Manager, AVEK
Angel Fitzpatrick, Executive Assistant, AVEK
Trisha Guerrero, Management Analyst, PWD
4 members of the public

EXCUSED ABSENCE --

Gary Van Dam, Vice Chair

3) Adoption of Agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Commissioner Thibault, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to adopt the agenda, as written:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye
Alternate Commissioner Mercy – aye

4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments.

5) Consideration and Possible Action on Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on December 11, 2025.

It was moved by Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 11, 2025, as written:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye
Alternate Commissioner Mercy – aye

6) Payment of Bills.

Commissioner Thibault announced the items included in the Payment of Bills, and after clarification from Controller Iguaran that the \$33.00 returned check fee from the Los Angeles County Registrar/County Clerk's office was due to a re-issuing of a check subsequent to the establishment of a new bank account, it was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Hogan, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to approve the Payment of Bills.

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye
Alternate Commissioner Mercy – aye

7) Consideration and Possible Action on Election of Officers. (General Manager Barnes)

It was moved by Commissioner Thibault, seconded by Commissioner Hogan, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Commissioners present at the meeting to retain the existing slate of officers as follows:

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair
Gary Van Dam, Vice Chair
Don Wilson, Secretary
Leo Thibault, Treasurer-Auditor

Keith Dyas, Commissioner
Barbara Hogan, Commissioner
Drew Mercy, Alternate Commissioner
Scott Kellerman, Alternate Commissioner
John Tenerelli, Alternate Commissioner
Tim Clark, Alternate Commissioner

8) Littlerock Creek Recharge Project Update. (General Manager Barnes / Assistant General Manager Chaisson)

General Manager Barnes provided a detailed update on the development, budget status, and timeline of the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project, including a State Water Project agreement with the Department of Water Resources regarding a change in the point of water delivery for AVEK and Palmdale Water District, and the status of a water storage banking and recovery application required by the Antelope Valley Watermaster.

Assistant General Manager Chaisson then provided a detailed presentation on the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project area map and discussed the impact of the flooding caused by the severe rain in January and efforts underway to evaluate future flood-prevention measures.

9) Report on Water Resources and Activities. (Pam Clark, PWD)

a) Legislative Tour Update.

Pam Clark (PWD) provided an update on the Spring Legislative Tour being held on April 1, 2026 and stated that staff are working on sending out invitations to legislators and finalizing the itinerary and agenda topics for the tour. She added that agenda topics include subsidence for the aqueduct, flood risk mitigation, water security, and issues related to invasive golden mussels.

b) Culverts Project Update.

She then provided a brief overview of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Recharge and Roadway Creek Passage and Improvement's Project (Culverts Project) and stated that the Culverts Project was proposed to construct culverts in the Amargosa Creek, Littlerock Creek Recharge Project and Big Rock Creek for stormwater flood mitigation in roadways and added that Los Angeles County has indicated its intent to work with the Association on preparing a new grant application for the Bureau of Reclamation's Water SMART Response Program.

10) Report of Controller.

a) Update on Revenue, Expenses, and Change in Net Position.

Controller Iguaran provided a brief update on the Association's revenue, expenses and change in net position and stated that the Association remains financially stable heading into the next reporting period.

11) Report of General Manager.

a) Status Updates:

1) Antelope Valley Watermaster Meetings.

General Manager Barnes reported that the Watermaster Board approved the 2026 budget, application fees schedule and replacement water assessment rates, and stated that workshops will be held on March 4, covering topics such as revisions, key issues and policy tension between basin protection and pumpers' rights.

2) Future Agenda Items.

He then stated that future agenda items include discussions on changing the Association's meeting time and frequency and attorney rotations.

3) AVSWCA Staff Transition.

He then reported the changes in the Association's administrative staff as follows:

General Manager – Tom Barnes
Assistant General Manager – James Chaisson
Controller – Viridiana (Viri) Iguaran
Management Analyst – Trisha Guerrero

12) Reports of Commissioners.

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez reported that she attended the ACWA Legislative Symposium in Sacramento and met with Senator Susan Valladares and representatives from Assemblymember Lackey's office where they discussed statewide water challenges and the need for continued coordination between Northern and Southern California.

13) Report of Attorney.

No attorney was present at the meeting.

14) Commission Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.

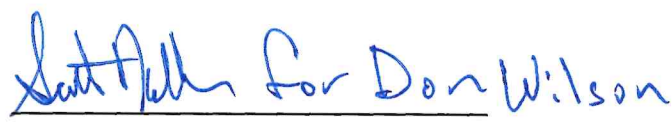
There were no requests for future agenda items.

15) Consideration and Possible Action on Scheduling the Next Association Meeting on April 9, 2026.

It was determined that the next Regular Meeting of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association will be held on April 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

17) Adjournment.

With no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, the Regular Meeting of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.


Secretary