

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY STATE WATER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 13, 2026:

A regular meeting of the Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was held Thursday, August 13, 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, Vice-Chair Van Dam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Roll Call.

Attendance:

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair
Gary Van Dam, Vice-Chair
Don Wilson, Secretary
Leo Thibault, Treasurer
Barbara Hogan, Commissioner
Keith Dyas, Commissioner

Others Present (In-person & via Zoom):

Tom Barnes, General Manager
James Chaisson, Assistant General Manager
Viridiana Iguaran, Controller
Paul Early, General Counsel
Pam Clark, PWD Resource & Analytics Supervisor
Joe Marcinko, PWD Operations Manager
Scott Kellerman, Alternate Commissioner
Matthew Knudson, AVEK General Manager
Angel Fitzpatrick, AVEK Executive Assistant
Trisha Guerrero, PWD Management Analyst
Manny Bahia, SWC Infrastructure Manager
Jared Solmonsens, Nigro & Nigro Audit Partner
4 members of the public

3) Adoption of Agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Commissioner Van Dam, 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
Vice-Chair Van Dam – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye

4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments.

5) Special Presentation – Golden Mussel Update.

a) SWP Golden Mussel Infestation. (Manny Bahia – Infrastructure Manager, State Water Contractors)

Manny Bahia, Infrastructure Manager for the State Water Contractors, provided a detailed overview of the golden mussel infestation, including its initial detection in October 2024, the formation of two Golden Mussel Support Teams in 2025 and 2026, and the Department of Water Resources' Three-Pronged Strategy to Combat Golden Mussels, followed by a discussion of eradication methods and the benefits and limitations of response measures aimed at protecting State Water Project supplies, preventing juvenile veligers from maturing into adults and further colonizing, and developing long-term management strategies for golden mussels.

b) Local Golden Mussel Impacts. (Joe Marcinko – Operations Manager, Palmdale Water District)

PWD Operations Manager Marcinko provided a brief overview of PWD's response to golden mussel concerns, including weekly monitoring and the treatment of aqueduct water with EarthTec QZ prior to entering Lake Palmdale, and stated that PWD is working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on creating a Mussel Monitoring and Control Plan in addition to its Mussel Prevention Plan.

General Manager Barnes then provided a brief update on AVEK's efforts to address golden mussel concerns, noting that staff continues to coordinate with the State Water Contractors to evaluate and implement mitigation strategies, and assess potential treatment options to help prevent and manage future impacts.

6) Consideration and Possible Action on Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 11, 2026.

It was moved by Commissioner Hogan, seconded by Commissioner Van Dam, and carried 5-0-1 by the 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 June 11, 2026, as written:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – abstain
Vice-Chair Van Dam – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye

7) Ratification of Payment of Bills.

8) Payment of Bills.

After clarification that the payment of \$7,000.00 for the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project was previously approved, 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 ratification of payment to AV Watermaster in the amount of \$7,000.00 for the submittal of the storage application and payment to Nigro & Nigro in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the 2025 audit, to AVEK in the amount of \$319,132.72 for replacement water, and to PWD in the amounts of \$8,564.53 for replacement water, \$895.00 for staff labor charges, \$492.93 for reimbursement of AVSWCA Legislative Tour expenses and agenda postage costs, and \$587,577.60 for reimbursement from INV# 9 for pass-through grant funds:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Vice-Chair Van Dam – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye

9) Consideration and Possible Action on Accepting and Filing the Audit for the Year Ending June 30, 2025. (Controller Iguaran)

Jared Solmons, Audit Partner, of Nigro & Nigro was introduced by Controller Iguaran, and provided a detailed overview of the Association's audit for the year ending June 30, 2025, after which it was moved by Commissioner Van Dam, 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 accept and file the Association's audit for the year ending June 30, 2025:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye
Vice-Chair Van Dam – aye
Commissioner Hogan – aye
Commissioner Thibault – aye
Commissioner Dyas – aye
Commissioner Wilson – aye

10) Littlerock Creek Recharge Project Update. (Assistant General Manager Chaisson)

Assistant General Manager Chaisson reported that the application for the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project Storage Agreement has been drafted for review and creek operations are proceeding smoothly with flows of approximately 150 acre-feet per week.

11) Report on Water Resources and Activities. (Pam Clark – Resource & Analytics Supervisor, Palmdale Water District)

a) WaterSMART Grant Opportunity.

Resource & Analytics Supervisor Clark provided an overview of the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Enhancing Water Resources Project grant program, including available grant funding and potential project eligibility, and stated that staff will return the item to the Board of Commissioners after meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation to confirm eligible projects and application timeline.

12) 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 as of June 30, 2026, followed by a discussion on potential investment options for Association funds.

b) Update on Association Investment Options.

Controller Iguaran recommended that the Association develop a formal investment policy to establish clear guidelines for managing available funds, and stated that once the policy is adopted, the Board of Commissioners will be presented with investment options to consider.

13) Report of General Manager.

a) Status Updates:

1) Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding with the Antelope Valley Regional Water Management Group.

General Manager Barnes reported that future agenda items include the approval and filing of the Association's audit, the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Antelope Valley Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), which currently ends on January 1, 2027, and the preparation of an updated professional service agreement for Engineering & Integrated Regional Water Management Planning, and then stated that the topics for future presentations include an update on the Department of Water Resources Delta Conveyance Project, aqueduct subsidence, golden mussel invasion, the State Water Contractors 2026 Policy Platform, and State Water Project legislative efforts.

2) Antelope Valley Fair Water Conservation Gardens.

He then provided an update on the Association's ongoing support of the Antelope Valley Fair Conservation Gardens, noting that the Association has provided annual funding of \$5,000.00 to promote drought-tolerant landscaping, in addition to its initial \$25,000.00 contribution in 2018

to support the La Plaza and Grand Oasis gardens, and that a \$5,000 contribution remains available through 2026 if requested by the AV Fairgrounds.

14) Reports of Commissioners.

There were no reports of Commissioners.

15) Report of Attorney.

There was no report from the attorney.

16) Commission Members' Request for Future Agenda Items.

There were no requests for future agenda items.

17) Consideration and Possible Action on Scheduling the Next Association Meeting on October 8, 2026.

It was determined that the next Regular Meeting of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association will be held on October 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

18) 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 7:12 p.m.



Secretary