

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY STATE WATER CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, APRIL 9, 2026:**

*A regular meeting of the Commissioners of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association was held Thursday, April 9, 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 Kellerman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2) Roll Call.**

**Attendance:**

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair  
Gary Van Dam, Vice Chair  
Leo Thibault, Treasurer  
Barbara Hogan, Commissioner  
Keith Dyas, Commissioner  
Scott Kellerman, Alt. Commissioner

**Others Present (In-person & via Zoom):**

Tom Barnes, General Manager  
James Chaisson, Assistant General Manager  
Viri Iguaran, Controller  
Pam Clark, PWD Resource & Analytics Supervisor  
Matthew Knudson, AVEK General Manager  
Jay Tremblay, AVEK Board Director  
Angel Fitzpatrick, AVEK Executive Assistant  
Trisha Guerrero, PWD Management Analyst  
0 members of the public

EXCUSED ABSENCE --  
Don Wilson, Secretary

**3) Adoption of Agenda.**

It was moved by Commissioner Van Dam, seconded by Commissioner Kellerman, 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 Van Dam – aye  
Alternate Commissioner Kellerman – aye

**4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.**

There were no public comments.

**5) Consideration and Possible Action on Minutes of Regular Meeting Held February 12, 2026.**

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 minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 12, 2026, as written:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Commissioner Hogan – aye  
Commissioner Thibault – aye  
Commissioner Dyas – aye  
Commissioner Van Dam – aye  
Alternate Commissioner Kellerman – aye

**6) Payment of Bills.**

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 received from Streamline in the amount of \$1,323.00 for annual website hosting services, and from Palmdale Water District in the amount of \$2,087.24 for staff labor charges:

Chair Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Commissioner Hogan – aye  
Commissioner Thibault – aye  
Commissioner Dyas – aye  
Commissioner Van Dam – aye  
Alternate Commissioner Kellerman – aye

**7) Presentation – An Overview of the State Water Contractors. (General Manager Barnes)**

General Manager Barnes presented an overview of the State Water Contractors (SWC), including its history, objectives and committee structure, followed by a brief discussion regarding future Board presentations by SWC staff and a tour of the Edmonston Pumping Plant for the Board of Commissioners.

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

Assistant General Manager Chaisson provided a brief update on the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project, the status on the AV Watermaster's application for Water Storage and Recovery Agreement and reviewed an updated map of the Littlerock Recharge Project Facilities.

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

**a) Legislative Tour of Antelope Valley Water Facilities Update.**

Pam Clark (PWD) presented an overview of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Legislative Tour of Antelope Valley Water Facilities held on April 1, 2026, noting attendance of legislative representatives from the offices of Congressman Whitesides, Senator Valladares, and Assemblymembers Lackey and Carrillo and Commissioners Mac Laren-Gomez, Hogan and Kellerman, with key presentations on water-related issues provided by herself, General Manager Barnes, Assistant General Manager Chaisson and Manny Bahia of the State Water Contractors, and stated that the next tour may include media outreach and a press release.

**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 as of February 28, 2026.

**11) Report of General Manager.**

**a) Status Updates:**

**1) Replacement Water Request and Plan.**

General Manager Barnes provided an overview of the 2019 Agreement between the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association and the AV Watermaster for a Replacement Water Plan involving Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK), Palmdale Water District (PWD), and Littlerock Creek Irrigation District (LCID), and stated that the AV Watermaster has requested replacement water totaling \$327,697.25, that a Replacement Water Plan was submitted to the AV Watermaster Engineer for review and consideration on April 22, 2026, and that upon approval the AV Watermaster will issue payments of \$319,132.72 to AVEK, \$8,564.53 to PWD, and \$0 to LCID due to no over-pumping in that area.

**2) Future Agenda Items.**

He then stated that future agenda items include updates on the Littlerock Creek Project and Groundwater Storage Agreement with the AV Watermaster, and a State Water Contractors presentation on the 2026 Policy Platform, legislative efforts, energy roadmap, subsidence or the invasive golden mussels, and the approval of the Association's annual budget.

**12) Reports of Commissioners.**

Commissioner Van Dam announced that the 74<sup>th</sup> Almond Blossom Festival will be held April 12, 2026 will be attended by Assemblymember Lackey as the Grand Marshall with the Community Grand Marshall being AVEK President George Lane and family, and that the Van Dam family will provide two antique cars for the car show portion of the festival, and that the Poppy Festival will be held April 17 through 19 at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds.

Commissioners Thibault and Van Dam expressed their concerns about ground water banking and subsidence and agreed that stronger strategic planning is needed to ensure a sustainable water supply for families and farmers in the Antelope Valley in the years ahead.

**13) Report of Attorney.**

No Attorney was present at the meeting.

**14) Commission Members' Request for Future Agenda Items.**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**15) Consideration and Possible Action on Scheduling the Next Association Meeting on June 11, 2026.**

It was determined that the next Regular Meeting of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association will be held on June 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

**16) 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 6:54 p.m.

  
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Secretary