

MINUTES
CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2026

Directors Present:

Jack Garamendi	President, District 2
Scott Ratterman	Vice-President, District 1
Jeff Robertson	Director, District 3
Russ Thomas	Director, District 4
Jeff Davidson	Director, District 5

Staff Present:

Michael Minkler	General Manager
Matt Weber, Esq.	General Counsel, Downey Brand
Rebecca Hitchcock	Clerk to the Board
Damon Wyckoff	Director of Operations
Stacey Lollar	Human Resources Manager
Kevin Williams	District Engineer
Pat Burkhardt	Construction and Maintenance Manager
Andrew Renshaw	Water Resources Manager
Kelly Gerkenmeyer	External Affairs Manager
Dylan Smith	Information Systems Administrator
Chase King	Civil Engineer
Kate Jesus	Human Resources Technician*
Kylie Muerterties	Accountant*
Sam Singh	Engineering Technician*
Haley Airola	Engineering Coordinator*
Bana Rousan-Gedese	Water Resources Specialist*
Caroline McCartney	Customer Service*
Rylie Hubbard	Customer Service*
Jared Gravette	Construction Inspector*
Jesse Hampton	Plant Operations Manager*
Ryan Sullivan	Utility Crew*

Others Present:

Approximately 90 members of the public were present
Approximately 49 members of the public attended virtually*

*Attended virtually

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ROLL CALL

President Garamendi called the Special Board Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Directors were present.

Approved February 11, 2026

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was provided by Mark Carter.

The meeting adjourned into the Closed Session at approximately 3:10 p.m.

3. CLOSED SESSION

- 3a Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(2) of Government Code section 54956.9 - three potential cases
- 3b Conference with Real Property Negotiators, (Government Code 54956.8) Property: 2461 Charmstone Way, Copperopolis, (APN 055-015-011-000); Agency Negotiators: Damon Wyckoff and Jessie Hampton; Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Lease.
- 3c Conference with Real Property Negotiators, (Government Code 54956.8) Property: Arnold, CA, (APN 025-004-037 and 025-004-040); Agency Negotiators: Michael Minkler and Kevin Williams; Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Lease.

4. REPORTABLE ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at approximately 5:30 p.m. There was no reportable action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A second opportunity for public comment was allotted and the following members of the public provided comments:

Sally Low
Christopher Butner
Patrick Roy
Roxanne Frietas-Souza provided a handout to the Board.
Francisco Arciga
Francisco de la Cruz
Dan Jackson
Valley Springs Resident
Katherine Gonzales
Carlos Stoughton

5. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Directors Davidson/Thomas-Moved to Approve Consent Agenda Items:5a, 5b, and 5c as presented.

- 5a Approval of the Minutes for the Board Meeting of January 14, 2026 (Rebecca Hitchcock, Clerk to the Board)
- 5b Report on the Monthly Investment Transactions for December 2025 (Michael Minkler, General Manager)

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was provided by Francisco de la Cruz.

AYES: Directors Davidson, Thomas, Robertson, Ratterman, and Garamendi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

6. NEW BUSINESS

6a [Discussion/Action Regarding Division 2 / West Point Acceptance and Final Completion of the West Point Wilseyville Wastewater Treatment Consolidation Project, CIP #15091](#)

(Kevin Williams, District Engineer)

RES 2026-08

MOTION: Director Ratterman/Robertson- Moved to Approve Resolution No. 2026-08 – Accepting the Final Completion of the West Point Wilseyville Wastewater Treatment Consolidation Project, CIP #15091

DISCUSSION: Kevin Williams described the consolidation of two aging wastewater treatment plants into a single modern facility in West Point, funded entirely by a \$9.93 million state grant, resulting in improved environmental compliance, operational efficiency, and cost savings; the board approved the final completion and notice of completion for the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was provided by Francisco de la Cruz and Carlos Stoughton.

AYES: Directors Davidson, Thomas, Robertson, and Ratterman
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Director Garamendi

6b [Discussion/Action on Approving a Contract Amendment with HydroScience Engineers for Engineering Services at the Copper Cove Tertiary Treatment Plant \(CIP 15094T\)](#)

(Kevin Williams, District Engineer)

RES 2026-09

MOTION: Director Ratterman/Robertson- Moved to Approve a Contract Amendment with HydroScience Engineers for Engineering Services at the Copper Cove Tertiary Treatment Plant (CIP 15094T)

DISCUSSION: Kevin Williams discussed a contract amendment with Hydro Science Engineers to complete the design and provide engineering services for the Copper Cove Tertiary Treatment Plant, a project funded 75% by the Army Corps of Engineers under Section 219, with the district responsible for a 25% match; the project aims to improve water quality, reliability, and regulatory flexibility. He responded to questions from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was provided by Ralph Copeland, Francisco de la Cruz, Nancy Henderson, and Carlos Stoughton.

AYES: Directors Ratterman, Robertson, Davidson, Thomas, and Garamendi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

6c [Discussion/Action Regarding the Award of the Construction Contract for the Arnold Wastewater Treatment Facility Phase 1 Improvements Project, CIP No. 15095](#)
(Kevin Williams, District Engineer) **RES 2026-10**

MOTION: Director Ratterman/Robertson- Moved to Award of the Construction Contract for the Arnold Wastewater Treatment Facility Phase 1 Improvements Project, CIP No. 15095

DISCUSSION: Chase King reviewed the project details and bid outcomes. Staff recommended awarding the contract to KW Emerson to complete essential upgrades at the Arnold Wastewater Treatment Plant—including installing a new secondary clarifier, replacing electrical and control systems, and adding more digesters—using funds from a \$10.2 million USDA loan. The board approved the contract and emphasized the importance of redundancy and reducing risk.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was provided by Francisco de la Cruz.

AYES: Directors Ratterman, Robertson, Davidson, Thomas, and Garamendi

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

6d [Discussion/Action Regarding the Approval of the Purchase of Ten Stationary Standby Generators as part of the District's FEMA-Funded Critical Facility Standby Generator Implementation Project](#)
(Damon Wyckoff, Director of Operations) **RES 2026-11**

MOTION: Director Thomas/Davidson- Moved to Approve of the Purchase of Ten Stationary Standby Generators as part of the District's FEMA-Funded Critical Facility Standby Generator Implementation Project

DISCUSSION: Damon Wyckoff presented a proposal to buy 10 stationary standby generators for critical facilities, with 75% of the funding provided by FEMA hazard mitigation grants and the district covering the remaining 25%. He described the bids received, explained the procurement procedures, shared installation plans, and emphasized the significance of backup power for maintaining operational reliability. After questions from the board, the purchase was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was provided by Carlos Stoughton.

AYES: Directors Thomas, Davidson, Ratterman, Robertson, and Garamendi

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

6e [Presentation of 2025 District Accomplishments](#)
(Management Team)

DISCUSSION: Michael Minkler opened the discussion with a brief statement on rates. He stated the annual review would happen as normal during the budget development process, which re-evaluates the expenditures and revenues and the need for future rate increases.

CCWD department heads—including engineering, operations, human resources, finance, water resources, and IT—presented a comprehensive review of 2025 accomplishments, ongoing

projects, and future objectives, highlighting staff certifications, regulatory compliance, infrastructure upgrades, grant successes, and community outreach. The board and management expressing appreciation for staff efforts and outlining priorities for 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comments were provided by Francisco de la Cruz, Francisco Arciga, Carolyn Hernandez, Ralph Copeland, and Roxanne Freitas-Souza.

7. REPORTS

7a General Manager's Report
(Michael Minkler)

Mr. Minkler did not have any additional items to discuss.

8. BOARD REPORTS / INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Thomas provided remarks regarding the dedication demonstrated by the Board of Directors.

Director Davidson expressed appreciation to those attendees who remained for the duration of the meeting and demonstrated their commitment to understanding the District.

Director Robertson expressed satisfaction with the meeting's attendance and acknowledged the concerns raised by customers.

Director Ratterman had nothing additional to report.

Director Garamendi had nothing additional to report.

9. NEXT BOARD MEETINGS


- Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 1:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting
- Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 1:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:08 p.m.

By:

ATTEST:



Michael Minkler
General Manager



Rebecca Hitchcock
Clerk to the Board