

**MINUTES OF
THE SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**
117 Fourth Street, Gonzales, CA 93926

CALL TO ORDER

President Silva called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Directors

County of Monterey	Glenn Church, <i>Vice President</i>
City of Salinas	Gloria De La Rosa, <i>Alternate Vice President</i>
City of Salinas	Andrew Sandoval (<i>departed at 7:07pm</i>)
City of Salinas	Jose Luis Barajas (<i>virtual</i>)
City of Gonzales	Elizabeth Silva, <i>President</i>
City of Soledad	Evarista Bañuelos

Absent

County of Monterey	Christopher M. Lopez
City of Greenfield	Marcy Jones
City of King	Robert Cullen

Staff Member Present

Patrick Mathews, General Manager/CAO
Cesar Zuñiga, Assistant General Manager/Operations Manager
Mandy Brooks, Resource Recovery Manager
Brian Kennedy, Engineering and Environmental Compliance Manager
Ray Hendricks, Finance and Administration Manager
Monica Zuniga, Human Resource Supervisor
Roy C. Santos, General Legal Counsel
Rosie Ramirez, Administrative Assistant
Erika J. Trujillo, Clerk of the Board

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

(6:01) Clerk of the Board Trujillo announced the availability of translation services via Zoom and in person. No members of the public requested the service.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (6:02)

Staff Comments: None

Board Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Motion: Director Bañuelos made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alternate Vice President De La Rosa seconded the motion.

Votes: Motion carried 6,0

Ayes: Barajas, Bañuelos, Church, De La Rosa, Sandoval, Silva

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cullen, Lopez, Jones

GENERAL MANAGER/CAO COMMENTS

(6:03) General Manger/CAO Mathews commented on the status for the Surplus Lands Act as it relates to the Sun Street property and required future steps. He provided an update on the recruitment process for the General Manager position.

DEPARTMENT MANAGER COMMENTS

(6:04) Assistant General Manager/Operation Manger Zuñiga thanked the Board Directors who attended the annual employee communications meeting. Finance and Administration Manager Hendricks also thanked the Board Directors for attending annual employee communications meeting. He reported that the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is almost finalized and is expected to be presented to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors at the October meetings. Engineering and Environmental Compliance Manager Kennedy commented on an incident that took place at Jolon Road Transfer Station two weeks after the Fire Rover was installed. He presented a video of the occurrence. Resource Recovery Manager Brooks reported on the record number of attendees at the composting workshop held on September 13 at Natividad Creek Park. She reminded everyone that the last cleanup event will be held in Soledad on Saturday, September 27.

GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL COMMENTS

(6:09) None

BOARD DIRECTOR COMMENTS

(6:09) Director Bañuelos commented on her attendance of the annual employee communication meeting, the Prisoner of War Missing in Action Ceremony taking place Friday, September 19, as well as the ribbon cutting of the Tractor Supply Company store on Saturday, September 20. Director Sandoval commended Baltazar Serrato, Employee of the Year and commented on the composting workshop that took place at the Natividad Creek Park. Alternate Vice President De La Rosa commented on the Annual Employee Communication meeting. President Silva commented on the great staff morale within the agency. She commented on the new fire engine purchased by the City of Gonzales.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(6:10) Mr. Brown, member of the public, commented on his project during the summer of reducing his trash by composting and eco bricks. He commented on the lack of outlets to recycle single use plastic. He indicated the website has some outdated information and the recycling application does not work.

RECOGNITION**A. 2025 Employee of the Year**

(6:21) Assistant General Manager/Operation Manager Zuñiga recognized Baltazar Serrato, Diversion Worker II, as the 2025 Employee of the Year. Mr. Serrato has been with the Authority since March of 2009 and was selected by his peers for his unwavering commitment to safety, environmental responsibility, strong work ethic, friendly smile, and outstanding service to the Salinas Valley every single day.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board commended Mr. Serrato for his hard work and dedication to the agency.

Motion: None; Informational Only

CONSENT AGENDA (6:25)

1. Minutes of the August 21, 2025, Meeting.
2. July 2025 Claims and Financial Report.
3. Member and Interagency Activities Report for August 2025.

4. Resolution No. 2025-52 Approving the Grants and Capital Improvement Projects Budget for 2025-26.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

Motion: Vice President Church made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Alternate Vice President De La Rosa seconded the motion.

Votes: Motion carried 6,0

Ayes: Bañuelos, Barajas, Church, De La Rosa, Sandoval, Silva

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cullen, Jones, Lopez

PRESENTATION

5. SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

(6:26) General Manager/CAO Mathews presented the annual report that highlights many of the programs and events that the Authority administers, outreach conducted via social media and in-person, paid media, newsletters, and reels to promote waste reduction, recycling, and conservation. The report also demonstrated accomplishments over the last year, statistics on diversion and sustainability, data on tonnage landfilled, and financial information for the past fiscal year.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board discussed the report commending staff for the production of the report.

Motion: None; Informational Only

6. UPDATE ON ASSEMBLY BILL 939 PROGRAMS AND ALLOCATIONS

(6:44) Resource Recovery Manager Brooks provided the history of Assembly Bill (AB) 939, an overview of the programs, and the reporting requirements for each of the five categories that the programs fall under. Mrs. Brooks explained the fee allocations of services for each member agency and estimated cost allocation breakdown by jurisdiction for FY 2024–25.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board discussed the report.

Motion: None; Informational Only

(7:07) Director Sandoval left the meeting.

7. ANNUAL TONNAGE, OPERATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR FY 2024-25

(7:10) Assistant General Manager/CAO Zuñiga presented the annual report that demonstrated the materials being processed and vehicle trips at all facilities continue to be steady. He detailed the historical landfilled tonnage since 2016 and presented the comparison report for each facility year over year since fiscal year 2015-16 of the trips and tonnage increases.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board discussed the report.

Motion: None; Informational Only

CONSIDERATION

8. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-53 APPROVING THE INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE NORTH COUNTY RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION

(7:26) Engineering and Compliance Manager Kennedy explained that as part of the process of the environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a study was completed to determine the proposed North County Transfer Station Project's possible environmental impacts. The study found no significant issues and a draft report was prepared and shared with the public and other agencies for feedback. Based on the findings, a "Negative Declaration" was issued determining the project won't create significant environmental impacts.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board discussed the report.

Motion: Vice President Church made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-53. Director Barajas seconded the motion.

Votes: Motion carried 5,0

Ayes: Bañuelos, Barajas, Church, De La Rosa, Silva

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cullen, Jones, Lopez, Sandoval

9. CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST TO INCLUDE A LEVINE ACT DISCLOSURE WITHIN THE AUTHORITY'S AGENDA

(7:42) General Legal Counsel Santos reported on the request received from Director Sandoval regarding the inclusion of Levine Act Disclosure within the Authority's agenda. He provided a detailed report on the Levine Act requirements.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board discussed the report and inquired about the implications this may have on the Board of Directors.

General Counsel: Mr. Santos explained there is no legal requirement to include this within the agenda as this is monitored by the Fair Political Practice Commission, and it is the responsibility of each individual not the agency.

Motion: Vice President Church made a motion to accept the report and direct staff to include the Levine Act disclosure only within the new Board of Directors onboarding packet not the Authority's agenda. Director Barreras seconded the motion.

Votes: Motion carried 5,0

Ayes: Bañuelos, Barajas, Church, De La Rosa, Silva

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Cullen, Jones, Lopez, Sandoval

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (8:15)

10. AGENDA ITEMS – VIEW AHEAD SCHEDULE

General Manager/CAO Mathews reviewed the view ahead.

CLOSED SESSION

(8:17) President Silva invited public comment related to items numbered 11.

11. Pursuant to **Government Code Section 54957** to confer with General Counsel Roy C. Santos, General Manager/CAO Patrick Mathews, Human Resource Supervisor Monica Zuniga, and Clerk of the Board Erika J. Trujillo concerning appointment of public agency employee: General Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(8:17) None

ADJOURNED

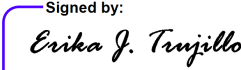
(8:18) President Silva adjourned the meeting to Closed Session.

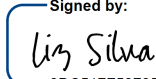
RECONVENE

(8:57) President Silva reconvened the meeting to Open Session. General Counsel Santos indicated that there were no reportable actions taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNED

(8:58) President Silva adjourned the meeting.

Attest: 
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Erika J. Trujillo, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED: 
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Elizabeth Silva, President