

**MINUTES OF
THE SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 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

City of Salinas	Gloria De La Rosa, <i>Alternate Vice President</i>
City of Salinas	Jose Luis Barajas
City of Salinas	Dennis Donohue (<i>departed at 6:25 p.m.</i>)
City of Gonzales	Elizabeth Silva, <i>President</i>
City of Soledad	Evarista Bañuelos
City of Greenfield	Belen Garcia (Alt)
City of King	Robert Cullen

Absent

County of Monterey	Christopher M. Lopez
County of Monterey	Glenn Church, <i>Vice President</i>
City of Greenfield	Marcy Jones

Staff Member Present

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

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

(6:02) 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 (6:03)

Staff Comments: None

Board Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Motion: Director Cullen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Director Bañuelos seconded the motion.

Votes: Motion carried 7,0

Ayes: Bañuelos, Barajas, Cullen, De La Rosa, Donohue, Garcia (Alt), Silva

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Church, Lopez, Jones

GENERAL MANAGER/CAO COMMENTS

(6:04) General Manager/CAO Mathews thanked the Board for their support and collaboration throughout the past 17 years.

DEPARTMENT MANAGER COMMENTS

(6:07) Department managers and staff expressed their appreciation to General Manager/CAO Mathews. They wished him well on all his future endeavors. Finance and Administration Manager informed the Board that the Budget cycle would begin at the January 2026 Board meeting.

GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL COMMENTS

(6:07) General Legal Counsel Santos thanked Mr. Mathews for all of his hard work and wished him well on his retirement. He thanked the Board for all of their collaboration throughout the year and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

BOARD DIRECTOR COMMENTS

(6:08) The Board of Directors thanked Mr. Mathews for his leadership, dedication, and outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship and public service.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(6:10) Andrew Brown, City of Gonzales resident, congratulated Mr. Mathews on his retirement and commented on the Walley Waste Not Birthday event he attended. He expressed his concern about unclear signage leading to the Atlas Organics area at the Johnson Canyon Landfill.

RECOGNITION

A. A PROCLAMATION HONORING R. PATRICK MATHEWS, GENERAL MANAGER/CAO SINCE 2008

President Silva presented General Manager/CAO Mathews with a proclamation honoring his extensive career, splendid leadership, and dedication to the agency.

Public Comment: None

Board Comments: The Board thanked Mr. Mathews for his service and commitment to the Authority, wishing him well in his retirement.

CONSENT AGENDA (6:24)

- 1a. Minutes of the November 14, 2025, Special Meeting.
- 1b. Minutes of the November 20, 2025 Regular Meeting.
- 2. October 2025 Claims and Financial Report.
- 3. Receive Member and Interagency Activities Report for October 2025.
- 4. Resolution No. 2025-61 Approving Amendment No. 2 Authorizing a One-and a Half Year Extension to the Professional Services Agreement with Pace Analytical Services LLC to Provide Environmental Laboratory Services in the Amount of \$299,290.
- 5. Resolution No. 2025-62 Approving Adopting the 2025-26 Strategic Plan Goals and Priorities.
- 6. Resolution No. 2025-63 Approving Amendment No. 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority and the Salinas Valley Recycles Field Operations Unit and the Revised Salary Schedule Effective July 1, 2026.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

Motion: Director Barajas made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Director Bañuelos seconded the motion.

Votes: Motion carried 7,0

Ayes: Bañuelos, Barajas, Cullen, De La Rosa, Donohue, Garcia (Alt), Silva
 Noes: None
 Abstain: None
 Absent: Church, Jones, Lopez

PRESENTATION

7. A FUTURE WITHOUT LANDFILLS

(6:24) General Manager/CAO Mathews presented an outline of the history of the Authority's accomplishments and long-term financial recovery. The presentation highlighted a major turnaround from financial challenges during the early years of the agency to a strong positive net position in 2025, the improved bond ratings, the diversified revenues with reduced reliance on landfill fees to fund recycling programs, and the limited debt with bonds expected to be paid off by 2031. Mrs. Mathews noted the sound financial management, long-term planning, and the combined efforts of the board, leadership, and staff in building a financially stable and environmentally responsible organization prepared for future needs.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board discussed the report and thanked Mr. Mathews for his dedication to advancing the agency during his leadership.

Motion: None; Informational Only

CONSIDERATION

8. CONSIDERATION ON THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM THE REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADVANCED ORGANICS RECOVERY TECHNOLOGY AT JOHNSON CANYON LANDFILL AND COMPOSTING FACILITY; AND CONSIDERATION OF THE RELEASE OF A FORMAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ADVANCED ORGANICS RECOVERY TECHNOLOGY AT JOHNSON CANYON LANDFILL AND COMPOSTING FACILITY

(6:43) Resource Recovery Manager Brooks provided a presentation on efforts at the Johnson Canyon Landfill to evaluate advanced organics recovery technologies to help meet goals of diverting at least 75% of waste and maintaining 50 years of landfill capacity. In August 2025, a Request for Expressions of Interest and Statement of Qualifications was released to identify vendors capable of recovering organic waste and converting it into useful products or energy. The solicitation received five proposals, all involving mechanical pre-processing and technologies such as anaerobic digestion, autoclaving, and composting. She indicated that all five proposals were deemed qualified and recommended inviting them to submit formal proposals through the release of a formal Request for Proposals process.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board discussed the report.

Motion: By consensus the Board directed staff to release the formal request for proposals.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:59)

9. AGENDA ITEMS – VIEW AHEAD SCHEDULE

General Manager/CAO Mathews reviewed the view ahead.

CLOSED SESSION

(7:00) President Silva invited public comment related to item numbered ten.

10. Pursuant to **Government Code Section 54956.8** to confer with General Counsel Roy C. Santos and real property negotiators General Manager/CAO Patrick Mathews, and Asst.

GM/Ops Manager Cesar Zuñiga, concerning the possible terms and conditions of acquisition, lease, exchange or sale of **1)** APNs 003-051-086 and 003-051-087.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(7:00) None

ADJOURNED

(7:01) President Silva adjourned the meeting to Closed Session.

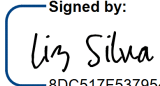
RECONVEN

(7:19) President Silva reconvened the meeting to open session. General Counsel Santos reported that the Board considered item number ten and has accepted the purchase offer from Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) District for the purchase of the properties APNs 003-051-086 and 003-051-087, contingent on the execution of a purchase of sale agreement to be negotiated by Interim General Manager/CAO Zuñiga and General Counsel Santos.

ADJOURNED

(7:20) Director Barajas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Bañuelos seconded the motion. 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