



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 19, 20206

General Manager/Chief Administrator Officer Appointment

The Board of Directors has appointed **CESAR ZUÑIGA** as General Manager and Chief Administrative Officer. With over 30 years in the solid waste industry, including 24 years with the Authority, Mr. Zuñiga brings distinctive institutional knowledge, proven leadership, and commitment to public service. Rising from frontline operations to executive leadership, he embodies a success story built on hands-on experience, dedication, and a thorough understanding of every level of the organization. We congratulate Mr. Zuñiga and look forward to many years of collaboration.



Recycling Recognition - Presented



SANTA LUCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in King City was recognized for its outstanding implementation of a comprehensive food waste recycling program, becoming the first school in King City to achieve compliance. The school trained 60 student Green Team members, recognized over the PA system for their leadership, and strengthened family engagement by sending letters home to parents celebrating student achievements. Through strong communication with teachers and administrators, effective coordination, and the flexibility to adapt on implementation day, Santa Lucia has established itself as a sustainability leader in South Monterey County.

Disposal and Service Fees Effective July 1, 2026, and the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 - Approved

The Board approved the Disposal and Service Fees effective July 1, 2026, following a public hearing on the rate adjustments needed to balance the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Operating Budget. Increases to Solid Waste, Organics, and Transportation Surcharge rates will fully fund ongoing programs and support two new positions: Equipment Maintenance Worker and Diversion Systems Maintenance Worker. The \$25,830,000 Operating Budget was also approved, reflecting projected revenues from the rate increases and accounting for higher expenditures, including insurance, payroll, and the two new staff positions. The five-year projections were discussed with a status quo budget.

Single-Use Plastic Bag Laws in California - Update

California updated its bag laws to reduce plastic pollution and improve recyclability by regulating the types of bags stores may provide and under what conditions. Beginning January 1, 2025, stores may offer only recycled paper or certified compostable pre-checkout bags for items like produce and bulk foods. Effective January 1, 2026, most grocery and retail stores may provide only recycled paper carryout bags during checkout for a minimum charge of \$0.10 per bag. This includes pick-up and delivery orders. By 2028, these bags must be accepted in statewide curbside recycling programs, properly labeled, and contain at least 50% post-consumer recycled material. Customers are encouraged to bring reusable bags. Certain bags, such as prescription pharmacy, protective non-handled, and garment bags, are exempt. Stores may use their existing inventory of pre-purchased bags. The law is enforced by local jurisdictions and the Attorney General, and violations may be reported to the City Attorney, District Attorney, or California Attorney General.

Building Better Systems: Solid Waste Technicians Driving Major Capital Improvements & Other Projects



Solid Waste Technicians **MIKE SILVA**, **FABIAN OREJEL**, and **OSCAR GARCIA** support the agency's operations and regulatory compliance through inspections, field work, construction support, environmental monitoring, and special projects. In 2025, they completed numerous projects, including the Johnson Canyon Landfill Partial Final Closure, landfill gas well and Fire Rover installations, solar and electrical connections for the office and Education Center, water and leachate tank systems, point-to-point internet setups, solar-powered controls, a solar heat pump, and liquid pump installations for gas wells and drains. In 2026, their focus will include relocation of a flare, painting of existing flair, and the Johnson Canyon Module VIII construction. Thank you to Mike, Fabian, and Oscar for their exceptional work and dedication!

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MONTH ENDED DECEMBER 2025 (50% OF THE FISCAL YEAR)

Revenue collected	\$ 15,204,520 (53.5% of Estimated Revenue of \$28,810,000)
Expenditures for operations	\$ 12,411,435 (50% of Operating Budget of \$24,985,000)
Cash balance	\$ 39,037,829

REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

"To manage Salinas Valley solid waste as a resource, promoting sustainable, environmentally sound and cost-effective practices through an integrated system of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, innovative technology, customer service, and education."