

**MINUTES OF
THE SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 19, 2026**
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	Jose Luis Barajas
City of Salinas	Dennis Donohue
City of Gonzales	Elizabeth Silva, <i>President</i>
City of Soledad	Evarista Bañuelos
City of Greenfield	Belen Garcia
City of King	Robert Cullen

Absent

County of Monterey	Christopher M. Lopez
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Staff Member Present

Cesar Zuñiga, General Manager/CAO
Mandy Brooks, Asst. General Manager/Resource Recovery Manager
Ray Hendricks, Finance and Administration Manager
Brian Kennedy, Engineering and Compliance Manager
Juan Camacho, Operations Manager
Janna Faulk, Recycling Coordinator
Elia Zavala, Contract and Grants Analyst
Roy C. Santos, General Legal Counsel (Virtually)
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 (6:02)

Staff Comments: Clerk of the Board Trujillo stated that there was a clerical error on the title of item numbered nine on the agenda, the staff report title, and the title of the draft ordinance, but it is stated correctly within the body of both the staff report and the draft ordinance. Section 3.01.030(a) being amended in entitled “Authority of the Chief Administrative Officer” not “Exception to Competitive Bidding Requirements.

Board Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Motion: Director Bañuelos made a motion to approve the agenda as with the corrections on item numbered nine stated by the Clerk of the Board. Director Barajas seconded the motion.

Votes: Motion carried 8,0
Ayes: Bañuelos, Barajas, Cullen, Church, De La Rosa, Donohue, Garcia, Silva
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Lopez

GENERAL MANAGER/CAO COMMENTS

(6:04) General Manager/CAO Zuñiga commented on the following items.

- The Annual Environmental Class presentation was conducted at California State University, Monterey Bay.
- El Alma de la Tierra Mural unveiling event in Greenfield Patriate Park.
- The Trashion Show event that took place earlier in the day in King City.
- The promotion of Juan Camacho from Field Supervisor to the new Operation Manager.
- The appointment of the new Assistant General Manager Mandy Brooks, who currently also holds the Resource Recovery Management position.

DEPARTMENT MANAGER COMMENTS

(6:06) Asst. General Manager/Resource Recovery Manager Brooks commented on the following items.

- The Tire Amnesty event will be taking place from March 28, through June 30th.
- The Composting Workshop event to be held at Natividad Park on March 21.
- The partnership between the Illegal Dumping Litter Abatement Task Force and the County that has led Monterey County to have officially been named a Clean California Community by the Caltrans Clean CA initiative.

Engineering and Environmental Compliance Manager Kennedy provided an update on the North Monterey County Recycling and Transfer Station project.

Operations Manager Camacho extended his appreciation to General Manager Zuñiga for his promotion and expressed his enthusiasm for working with the management team and Board.

GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL COMMENTS

(6:08) General Legal Counsel Santos reported he was unable to attend in person due to car issues. He noted an increase in ADA compliance requests for both Council and Board meetings and indicated he will be working with staff to address any issues that might arise.

BOARD DIRECTOR COMMENTS

(6:10) Director Garcia commented on the event for the unveiling of the mural in Greenfield and noted the City of Greenfield designating March as the Red Cross Month.

Director Bañuelos commented on multiple events occurring in the City of Soledad.

Director Barajas recognizing the women in the agency and the Board as part of the Women's Month and mentioned the El Mercadito Event taking place in Soledad on April 4.

Director Cullen and Vice President Church congratulated Mr. Camacho and Mrs. Brooks on their promotions.

Alternate Vice President De La Rosa commented on the events taking place in the City of Salinas for the Easter Holiday and other activities she is participating in.

President Silva commented on the Greenfield mural unveiling, the opening of library in the City of Gonzales. She welcomed Mr. Camacho to his new leadership role, and congratulated Mrs. Brooks on her new position. She commented on her attendance at the Trashion Show.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(6:19) Liz Hall commented on her participation in the 2026 Trashion Show as the Betsy Ross model for the Authority and her great experience working the staff during the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT AGENDA (6:20)

1. Minutes of the February 19, 2026, Meeting.
2. January 2026 Claims and Financial Report.
3. Receive Member and Interagency Activities Report for February 2026.
4. Resolution No. 2026-09 Approving a Job Description for the New Equipment Maintenance Worker Classification.
5. Resolution No. 2026-10 Approving Amendment No. 2 to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority and the Salinas Valley Recycles Field Operations Unit.
6. Resolution No. 2026-11 Approving a Salary Schedule Effective July 1, 2026.
7. Resolution No. 2026-12 Approving a Supplemental Appropriation of \$239,839 for two Grants from Monterey Bay Air Resources District FY 2024-25 Diesel Engine & Equipment Replacement Program.
8. Resolution No. 2026-13 Authorizing Investment of Monies at Mechanics Bank.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: None

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

Votes: Motion carried 8,0

Ayes: Bañuelos, Barajas, Cullen, Church, De La Rosa, Donohue, Garcia, Silva

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lopez

PUBLIC HEARING

9. **INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY, OF ORDINANCE NO. 13 AMENDING THE AUTHORITY CODE SECTION 1.01.050 (A) ENTITLED, “DEFINITIONS”, ESTABLISHING ARTICLE 2.09 ENTITLED “CODE OF CONDUCT”, SECTIONS 2.09.010 THRU 2.09.090, AMENDING SECTION 2.03.150 ENTITLED “CLERK OF THE BOARD”, AMENDING SECTION 3.01.030 (A) ENTITLED “AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER”, AMENDING SECTION 3.01.100 ENTITLED “RECYCLED MATERIALS”, AND AMENDING SECTION 3.01.130 (A) ENTITLED “EXCEPTION TO COMPETITIVE BIDDING REQUIREMENT” OF THE SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY CODE**

(6:24) General Manager/CAO Zuñiga explained that the changes to the Code brought forward are needed to comply with the Board’s request from their August 21, 2025, Strategic Planning Session to adopt an Ethics Code. He indicated that staff also completed a review of the Code and recommended targeted revisions to ensure alignment with the progression of a standalone agency and to rectify sections of the Code that have been identified as deficient. He provided a summary for each amendment being considered.

Public Hearing: The Public Hearing was opened for public comment at 6:28 p.m. No public comment was received. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:29 p.m.

Board Discussion The Board discussed the proposed changes to the Code.

Motion: Director Cullen made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 13. Director Bañuelos seconded the motion.

Votes: Motion carried 8,0

Ayes: Bañuelos, Barajas, Cullen, Church, De La Rosa, Donohue, Garcia, Silva

Noes: None

Abstain: None
Absent: Lopez

PRESENTATION

10. WASTE HAULER’S PERFORMANCE REPORT 2025

(6:29) Contract and Grants Analyst Zavala presented the 2025 annual hauler performance review. A three-year comparison showed a slight decline in trash collection alongside a significant increase in diversion rates from both haulers. She noted that the haulers continue to actively assist commercial businesses to comply with state mandates AB 341, AB 1826, and SB1383; mandatory commercial recycling and organics recycling. Overall, the regional diversion rate continues to rise, and the two haulers fulfilled their contract obligations.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board discussed the presentation.

Motion: None; Informational Only

11. CENTRAL COAST RECYCLING MEDIA COALITION

(6:48) Recycling Coordinator Faulk presented the Central Coast Recycling Media Coalition (CCRMC) current accomplishments and future goals. She highlighted the 2024 Protect Your Central Coast campaign, a collaborative effort to encourage waste reduction, reuse, and recycling across Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties in support of more sustainable lifestyles. Mrs. Faulk noted that the coalition’s success is driven by strong cross-jurisdictional collaboration, diverse outreach channels, and consistent messaging. Moving forward, CCRMC plans to build on its progress by enhancing collaboration, refreshing messaging, expanding its digital presence, and improving impact tracking.

Public Comment: None

Board Discussion: The Board discussed the presentation.

Motion: None; Informational Only

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:59)

12. AGENDA ITEMS – VIEW AHEAD SCHEDULE

General Manager/CAO Zuñiga reviewed the view ahead.

ADJOURNED

(7:01) Director Bañuelos made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Barajas seconded the motion. President Silva adjourned the meeting.

Signed by:
Erika J. Trujillo
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Attest: _____
Erika J. Trujillo, Clerk of the Board

Signed by:
Liz Silva
8DC517F53795435...
APPROVED: _____
Elizabeth Silva, President