

**MINUTES OF  
THE SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 16, 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	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
City of Salinas	Jose Luis Barajas

**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
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 (6:01)**

**Board Discussion:** None

**Public Comment:** None

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

**Votes:** Motion carried 7,0

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

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Barajas, Lopez

**GENERAL MANAGER/CAO COMMENTS**

(6:02) General Manager/CAO Zuñiga commented on the following:

- The sale of the Sun Street property, noting an agreement has been reached between Monterey-Salinas Transit and the Authority, and the property has entered escrow.
- The five-year renewal of the lease agreement with The GEO Group, Inc for the 128 Sun Street office in Salinas.
- A Zoom meeting with Rob Shaw, CEO of 3CE, regarding current projects and potential future partnership opportunities.
- His and the Finance Manager's participation in Career Day at San Vicente Elementary school.
- A recap video of the Trashion Show, which was presented to the Board.

### **DEPARTMENT MANAGER COMMENTS**

(6:05) Asst. General Manager/Resource Recovery Manager Brooks wished everyone a happy Earth Day and Month, offered Authority reusable bags to anyone interested, and announced an upcoming composting workshop.

Finance and Administration Manager Hendricks reported that the Authority's Experience Modification Factor for Workers' Compensation Insurance decreased from 147% to 129% for next fiscal year, reflecting positive progress.

Engineering and Compliance Manager Kennedy reported that the Module VIII Construction Project is underway, with excavation approximately three weeks in progress.

Operations Manager Camacho reported on the March 21 landfill fire at the Johnson Canyon Landfill and explained the extent of the damage and staff's decision to purchase a monitoring system to reduce the impact of future fires.

### **GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL COMMENTS**

(6:07) None

### **BOARD DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

(6:08) Director Garcia reported on the ongoing concerns in the City of Greenfield related to electric bikes, scooters, and off leash dogs. She commented on the success of the April 11 community cleanup event.

Director Donohue commented on the safe routes program from the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC). He acknowledged Republic Services rollout of new, clearly labeled garbage carts for Salinas residents. However, he expressed concern about the implementation of fines after a single warning for improper sorting, stating that additional time and public outreach are needed before penalizing customers.

Director Bañuelos commented on the launch of "El Mercadito," a partnership between the City of Soledad Economic Development and the Monterey County Business Council. She also noted that the Soledad Education Foundation is hosting the annual carnival at the Frank Ledesma School. Additionally, she highlighted the upcoming community events, including "Touching Tractors and Trucks" event taking place on April 25 and a Career Day at Gabilan Elementary School on May 22, and the weekly Farmers Market.

Director Cullen thanked the Authority and Waste Management for their support at the King City cleanup event.

Alternate Vice President De La Rosa commented on local soccer fields, the Friday night farmers market, and the kickoff of the Relay for Life event.

President Silva noted the California Coastal Commission meeting in Gonzales, emphasized the need for more education on e-bike and scooter use, and highlighted the upcoming Salinas Valley Fair in May in King City.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

(6:23) None

### **CONSENT AGENDA (6:24)**

1. Minutes of the March 19, 2026, Meeting.
2. February 2026 Claims and Financial Report.

3. Receive the Member and Interagency Activities Report for March 2026.
4. Receive the March 2026 Quarterly Investment Report.
5. Resolution 2026-14 Establishing the Investment Policy.
6. Resolution 2026-15 Approving Amendment No. 1 Authorizing a Two-Year Extension to the Professional Service Agreement with Social Vocational Services Inc. for Materials Processing and Litter Abatement at the Johnson Canyon Landfill.
7. Resolution 2026-16 Approving an Adjustment to the Capital Improvement Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26.
8. Resolution 2026-17 Awarding the Purchase of One Used 2022 Caterpillar 938M Loader to Quinn Company for an Amount of \$341,406.25.
9. Resolution 2026-18 Awarding the Purchase of One Used 2023 Caterpillar 950M Loader to Drummond Machinery Inc. for an Amount of \$396,937.50.
10. Receive the 2025-26 Strategic Plan Goals and Priorities Quarterly Progress Report.
11. Resolution 2026-19 Approving a Contract with Frank's Industrial Services, Inc. for Landfill Gas Flare Control System Upgrades at Johnson Canyon Landfill in the Amount of \$197,800.

**Public Comment:** None

**Board Discussion:** None

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

**Votes:** Motion carried 7,0

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barajas, Lopez

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**12. SECOND 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**

(6:25) 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 reviewed the additional recommended targeted revisions by staff 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 6:32 p.m. No public comment was received. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:33 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 7,0

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

**PRESENTATION**

**13. SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WAST AUTHORITY COMPOSTING PROGRAM UPDATE**

(6:33) Resource Recovery Manager Brooks introduced representatives from Circular Services, which acquired Atlas Organics in 2025 and operates the composting program at the Johnson Canyon Landfill. The Board received an update on the facility that has been operating since July 2022 and is currently processing approximately 50,000 tons of organic waste annually from the Authority's six member agencies. The recent site infrastructure upgrades supporting compliance with SB 1383 were detailed.

**Public Comment:** None  
**Board Discussion:** The Board discussed the presentation.  
**Motion:** None; Informational Only

**CONSIDERATION**

**14. BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION**

(6:59) General Manager/CAO Zuñiga discussed the recommendation by the Executive Committee for the release of a Request for Proposals for a facilitator to conduct a fall workshop to evaluate and refine the goals and objectives created and expanded between 2022 and 2025.

**Public Comment:** None  
**Board Discussion:** The Board discussed the presentation providing input on potential dates for the workshop.  
**Motion:** By consensus, the Board directed staff to conduct a Doodle poll to finalize the workshop date, release the Request for Proposals, and have the Executive Committee select the facilitator.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (7:15)**

**15. AGENDA ITEMS – VIEW AHEAD SCHEDULE**

General Manager/CAO Zuñiga reviewed the view ahead.

**ADJOURNED**

(7:19) Director Bañuelos made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Donohue seconded the motion. President Silva adjourned the meeting.

Signed by:  
*Erika J. Trujillo*  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 087ACDEB22A74E6  
 Erika J. Trujillo, Clerk of the Board

Signed by:  
*Liz Silva*  
 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Elizabeth Silva, President