

**MINUTES OF
THE SALINAS VALLEY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 7, 2026
126 Sun Street, Salinas, CA 93901**

CALL TO ORDER

President Silva called the meeting to order at 2:41 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

City of Gonzales	Elizabeth Silva, <i>President</i>
County of Monterey	Glenn Church, <i>Vice President</i>

ABSENT

City of Salinas	Gloria De La Rosa, <i>Alt. Vice President</i>
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Cesar Zuñiga, Interim General Manager/CAO
Ray Hendricks, Finance and Administration Manager
Mandy Brooks, Resource Recovery Manager
Brian Kennedy, Engineering and Environmental Compliance Manager
Roy C. Santos, General Counsel (<i>virtually</i>)
Monica Zuniga, Human Resources Supervisor
Erika J. Trujillo, Clerk of the Board
Rosie Ramirez, Administrative Assistant

INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT MANAGER COMMENTS

(2:42) Interim General Manager Zuñiga provided an update on the North County Recycling and Transfer Station project and the bid openings of the Johnson Canyon Landfill Module VIII Construction Project and Quality Control Services that will be taking place on January 8, 2026. Finance and Administration Manager Hendricks commented on the Workers Compensation dividend refund issued for 22% of the Agency's premium for the last fiscal year. He indicated that the cost for the current year is trending in the right direction.

GENERAL COUNSEL COMMENTS

(2:44) None

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

(2:44) President Silva commented on her attendance to the retirement party of Past General Manager/CAO Patrick Mathews.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(2:45) No members of the public were present in person or online and no emails were received.

CONSIDERATION ITEMS

(2:46)

1. Minutes of November 5, 2025 Meeting

Committee Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Committee Action: Vice President Church made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. President Silva seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously: 2-0

2. November 2025 Claims and Financial Reports

(2:47) Finance and Administration Manager Hendricks provided a report on the Agency's finances. He indicated that revenues are relatively flat compared to last year and expenditures are aligned with the budgeted amounts.

Committee Discussion: None

Public Comment: None

Committee Action: By consensus the Committee recommended forwarding this item to the Board for consideration.

3. Request for FY 2026-27 Preliminary Budget Direction

(2:49) Finance and Administration Manager Hendricks provided a report on the preliminary Operating and CIP budgets for fiscal year 2026-27, noting that no significant changes in operations are anticipated during FY 2026-27. The presentation highlighted proposed budget increases, which include the request for two new staff positions: Equipment Maintenance Worker and Diversion Systems Maintenance Worker. Mr. Hendricks also reviewed the proposed rate increases necessary to fully fund the proposed budget and the projected impacts to ratepayers.

Committee Discussion: The Committee discussed the presentation inquiring about the potential cost of the revisions to the Landfill Methane Regulation mandates.

Public Comment: None

Committee Action: By consensus the Committee recommended to forward to the Board for consideration including the information regarding the potential timeline and potential costs related to the revisions of the Landfill Methane regulation mandates.

PRESENTATION**4. 2025 Employee Survey**

(3:11) Human Resources Supervisor Zuniga presented the results of the annual survey with a three-year comparison on measured items such as morale, job attitude, and engagement. The report demonstrated increases in morale and in the engagement of the employees. Mrs. Zuniga reviewed the comments within the survey and explained the steps that will be taken to improve any challenges identified within the survey.

Committee Discussion: The Committee discussed the presentation.

Public Comment: None

Committee Action: None; Informational Only

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**5. Future Agenda Items – View Ahead Calendar**

(3:24) Interim General Manager/CAO Zuñiga reviewed the view ahead calendar.

Director Comments: Vice President Church reported on the increase of illegal disposal of tree stumps on County roads. He commented on the process and cost of disposal at ReGen. He inquired about the Authority's current process, cost at our facilities, and the expectations at the North County Recycling and Transfer Station.

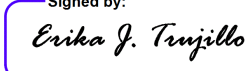
Staff Comments: Interim General Manager/CAO Zuñiga indicated that he is unsure of the tree stump rates at ReGen. He stated that the Authority currently

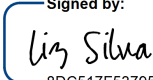
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accepts tree stumps and plans on accepting them at the North County Recycling and Transfer Station.

ADJOURNMENT

President Silva adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

ATTEST: 
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Erika J. Trujillo, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED: 
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Elizabeth Silva, President