MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD

held at

3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Monday, September 28, 2026
1:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Directors Present:
Patrick O'Connor, Carpinteria Valley Water District
Kristen Sneddon, City of Santa Barbara
Lauren Hanson, Goleta Water District

Directors Absent:
Cori Hayman, Montecito Water District

General Counsel Present:
William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

Staff Present:

Janet Gingras, General Manager	Shane King, Ops Supervisor/Chief Distribution Operator
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager / CFO	Elijah Papen, Water Resources Analyst II
Tim Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager	Rosey Bishop, Administrative Assistant II
Joel Degner, Engineer/Ops Division Manager	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Others Present:

Dakota Corey, City of Santa Barbara	David Linville, Goleta Water District
Dana Hoffenberg, City of Santa Barbara	Michael Miller, Member of the Public

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes of August 24, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
b. Investment of Funds
   - Financial Reports
   - Investment Reports
c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras introduced the Consent Agenda first advising the Board that an error in the Minutes had occurred and been corrected. She deferred to Mr. Lyons to discuss the financial reports.

Mr. Lyons reviewed revenues received and drew attention to several paid claims, including remittances to Rincon Consultants, Earth Systems, Madera Ford, Hydratech Engineered Products, and Van Sande Structural Consultants.

Director O'Connor motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as presented with the correction to the Minutes, followed by a second from Director Hanson. With the correction to the Minutes as noted, the motion carried with a vote of five in favor.

Ayes: Hanson, O'Connor, Sneddon
Nays:
Absent: Hayman
Abstain:

4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

- Operations Committee Meeting – September 23, 2026

President Sneddon summarized the Operations Committee meeting, noting that two topics were to be addressed as Items 5 and 6, following. She also mentioned that further information had arisen late regarding one of the discussion points so it was being deferred to allow for further work.

5. SHEFFIELD CONTROL STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT – PHASE I CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT ADDENDUM

Mr. Degner initiated a discussion to add Phase II, using the current contractor, to the Sheffield Control Station project by providing background information about the project and its status. He described the plans for rehabilitation and noted that there is planned budget to cover the proposed work.

Director O'Connor provided the motion to approve the contract addendum. Director Hanson seconded it and the motion carried with a vote of five in favor.

Ayes: Hanson, O'Connor, Sneddon
Nays:
Absent: Hayman
Abstain:

6. PILOT TECOLOTE TUNNEL UNCREWED VESSEL INSPECTION

Mr. Degner presented the proposal to contract with Ballard Marine to build and deploy an uncrewed floating vessel equipped with cameras and video to inspect the Tecolote Tunnel, as required every eight years. Reclamation and COMB both view this as a safer method than sending in personnel and recognize the additional advantage of having a video and photo record of conditions. Mr. Degner described his research identifying the proposed contractor as one qualified and capable of meeting the project requirements.

Director O'Connor motioned to approve the project. Director Hanson seconded and the motion carried with a vote of five in favor.

Ayes: Hanson, O'Connor, Sneddon
Nays:
Absent: Hayman
Abstain:

7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- Training

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report, advising that the 3rd Amendatory Transfer of O&M Contract had been forwarded to Reclamation for signature and should be fully executed soon. She reported that staff had participated in Defensive Driver training and congratulated Mr. Waller on achieving his Cross Connection Control Specialist certification.

8. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Winter Storm Preparations
- Lake Elevation Projections
- 2026 Watershed Sanitary Survey
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Degner introduced the Engineer's report with a short review of climate impacts. He stated the El Niño is 75% certain to be the highest on record according to the NWS Climate Prediction Center. As the El Niño may cause flooding, Mr. Degner discussed options that Reclamation might implement to keep flooding under control, should the reservoir fill to capacity. Additionally, he is preparing maintenance records that FEMA will require, in case of need. Mr. Degner also advised that the 2026 Watershed Sanitary survey had been completed and that grant applications and follow-up continue for both the Lauro Reservoir Bypass Channel and the Sheffield Tunnel projects. He fielded questions from the Board.

9. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King reported on Operations Division activities. Staff has focused on annual structure maintenance and preparation for El Niño. He advised that debris basins had been cleared, as well as drains and culverts, with staff documenting their efforts with before and after photos. Among other routine or miscellaneous tasks, Mr. King provided an update on the welding project at Glen Anne. He fielded questions from the Board.

10. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

- LSYR Steelhead Monitoring Elements
- Surcharge Water Accounting
- Reporting/Outreach/Training

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries report. He reviewed target flow data, noting they remained above required flows and discussed the status of releases from Cachuma Dam. As well, Mr. Robinson provided information regarding State Water deliveries and State Water Board Orders, Terms 18 and 25. Staff has begun snorkel surveys. Finally, Mr. Robinson reported that staff had attended the Southern Steelhead Symposium sponsored by Cal Trout during which he presented COMB's successes in steelhead support.

11. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS

a. Cachuma Water Reports
b. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions
c. Lake Cachuma Quagga Survey

Ms. Gingras referenced the Cachuma Project reports and noted they were routine.

12. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no requests from directors.

13. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Regular Board Meeting – October 26, 2026 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website** www.cachuma-board.org

14. COMB ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	***Approved***
	Unapproved

APPROVED:

Kristen W. Sneddon, President of the Board