



**SAN MIGUEL COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR & GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

Ashley Sangster, President      John Green, Vice-President  
 Brendin Beatty, Director      Rod Smiley, Director      Owen Davis, Director

**REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS & GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY MINUTES**

**6:00 P.M. Opened Session  
 SMCS D Boardroom 01-23-2025**

1. **Call to Order:**  
 At: 6:01 P.M.
2. **Roll Call:** *Ashley Sangster, Brendin Beatty, John Green, Owen Davis, Rod Smiley*
3. **Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda:**  
 Director Green asked to move Board Comment (item 10) before adjourning to the San Miguel Community Services District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (item 9) due to not being able to stay to the end of the Meeting.

**Motion By:** John Green

**Second By:** Ashley Sangster

**Motion:** To Approve Moving agenda item 10 to item 9

Board Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
John Green	X			
Ashley Sangster	X			
Owen Davis	X			
Brendin Beatty		X		
Rod Smiley		X		

**Motion By:** Ashley Sangster

**Second By:** John Green

**Motion:** To Approve agenda as amended

Board Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Brendin Beatty	X			
John Green	X			
Rod Smiley	X			
Ashley Sangster	X			

Owen Davis	X			
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**4. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Lead by Director Sangster

**5. Public Comment and Communications for items not on the agenda:**

Greg Grewal a Creston resident gave information about Paso Groundwater Basin, and gave a timeline of 2002-2023 for the Paso Basin.

**6. Non- District Reports:**

**1. San Luis Obispo County Organizations (Pg. 5)**

Verbal/Report

None

**2. Community Service Organizations (Pg. 6)**

Verbal

Scott Young President of the San Miguel Firefighters Association (SMFA) updated the Board that the Christmas Parade was well attended, Mercy Air landing was successful and educational. Mr. Young explained that "Santa" was able to meet with over 343 children. SMFA is sponsoring 1 cadet at Fire Academy. The Sagebrush Day's are being scheduled and will be working with the San Miguel Library to combined the El Dia de los Ninos and Sagebrush Days events this year.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster asked about the date for the Sagebrush Day's. Mr. Young explained that it will be in May and will let them know when the date if finalized.

**Public Comment:** None

**3. Camp Roberts—Army National Guard (Pg.7)**

Verbal

None

**7. Staff & Committee Reports - Receive & File:**

**1. General Manager (Pg. 8)**

Receive report

General Manager Kelly Dodds reminded the New Board that there is required training due within the first six months of taking office.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster asked about login to California Special District Association (CSDA) for training.

**Public Comment:** None

**2. District Counsel (Pg. 9)**

Receive verbal report

Deputy General Counsel Pritchard had nothing to report

**Board Comment:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**3. District Utilities (Pg. 10-12)**

Receive and file

General Manager Kelly Dodds submitted report as written and informed the Board that the State Water Board has added the Wastewater Treatment Facility expansion to the Funded

List for this fiscal year.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster expressed that it was good news and asked some clarifying questions on the Water Board's board meetings and cost.

**Public Comment:** None

**4. Fire Chief Report (Pg. 13-84)**

Receive and File

Fire Chief Scott Young submitted report as written, and clarified for the Board that his packet was large do to the end of year reports. Fire Chief Young explained that he is participating in the San Luis Obsipo multi-jurisdictional Hazardous Mitigation plan, and that there is a survey that everyone is being asked to participate in the link to the survey is on the District Website.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster asked if anyone in the County could participate. Chief Young explained that it is being encouraged that all County residents participate.

Director Sangster asked if this would be benefiting San Miguel. Fire Chief Scott Young explained that participating in this planning is a way for San Miguel to express our concerns with hazards in the community, giving examples of flooding and fire. Fire Chief Young explained that this is a requirement by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to receive any FEMA funds in the future. Fire Chief Scott Young also updated the Board that new construction is starting at the Wellsona-101 area, and that the San Miguel Fire Department will be responding if needed. Discussion ensued on the Wellsona project.

**Public Comment:** None

**8. Board Action Items:**

**1. Monthly claim detail and investment reports for December 2024 (Recommend receive and file claim detail and investment report by Board consensus) (Pg. 85-139)**

*When ancillary reports are provided they are for reference only and are subject to change.*

Review, Receive and File the attached claim detail and investment reports.

*When ancillary reports are provided they are for reference only and are subject to change.*

Item was presented by Financial Officer Michelle Hido, making reference to graphs on page 119 for Revenue, and page 124 for Expenditures. Financial Officer Michelle Hido explained that this is the middle of the Fiscal Year and a good time to look at where the District stands. Financial Officer Michelle Hido also pointed out that the Staff Report list all current projects statuses, where they are at, and how much has been spent monthly and year to date.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster voiced that all the funds look relatively close to halfway, and asked if there was a reason why Fire was short in Revenue. Financial Officer Michelle Hido clarified that the Fire Funds revenue is primarily based on property taxes and that the second installment was just paid by property owners, those should be in the January Financial Reports.

**Public Comment:** None.

*Consensus of the Board is to receive and file December 2024 Claims Detail and Investment reports.*

**2. Adopt Mid-Year Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Budget adjustments by RESOLUTION 2025-02 (Recommend approval by 3/5 vote) (Pg. 140-163)**

Review and approve Mid-Year Budget adjustments for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25

Item was presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds explaining that this item was to bring minor changes to the budget and is generally brought to the Board annually in December or January. There are changes being proposed that are through other action and are listed in the report with approved resolution numbers. General Manager Kelly Dodds referenced page 142 of the Board Packet, showing the breakdown of the revenue changes and expense changes for each department. General Manager Kelly Dodds provided comments on the changes due to the recycled waterline being cancelled, and how that affected the report.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster asked for clarification on the reduction amounts, for Revenue and Expenses. General Manager Kelly Dodds clarified that the reduction in Revenue was -\$719,031 and that the overall reduction in Expenses overall was -\$457,900. Discussion ensued on releasing the SIGMA grant and how that affected the fund numbers. Director Davis stated that he was looking at Water and Solid Waste, but has no questions at this time.

**Public Comment:** Murrey Powell a Templeton resident asked about the 700k SIGMA grant.

**Motion By:** Ashley Sangster

**Second By:** Brendin Beatty

**Motion:** To Approve Resolution 2025-02

Board Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Brendin Beatty	X			
John Green	X			
Rod Smiley	X			
Ashley Sangster	X			
Owen Davis	X			

**3. Review proposal for Certified Public Accountant (CPA) services and authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott LLP by RESOLUTION 2025-01 (Recommend approve by 3/5 vote) (Pg. 164-221)**

Authorize the General Manager to prepare and implement a professional services agreement with Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott LLP by Resolution 2025-01

Item was presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that in October 2024 the Board authorized the release of an Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a new Certified Public Accountant (CPA), and that two proposals where received. General Manager explained that his recommendation is to contract with Roger, Anderson, Malody and Scott, LLP due to their experience with small Districts.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster asked who was the current CPA was. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that it was Eide Bailly, LLP, but they have had some reduction in staff at their firm and will no longer be available to serve us.

Director Sangster asked if these services requested where only for accounting services, and not auditor services. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that the service being requested are direct services to assist the District to ensure that our accounting, reporting is correct, and provides outside oversight for our financials, and not auditing services.

Director Sangster asked about billing and termination of the agreement. General Manager

Kelly Dodds explained that it is billed monthly, net 30 day term. The termination is 30 day notice and regular San Miguel Terms and Conditions apply. Discussion ensued.

Director Green asked if travel would be necessary, and where Rogers, Anderson, Malody, and Scott LLP are located. General Manager Kelly Dodds clarified that they are in San Bernardino and does not see travel being necessary.

Director Sangster asked about the cost for this service in the last year. General Manager Kelly Dodds looked it up with the mid-year budget adjustment reports, and explained that it was around \$10,000.

Director Davis voiced that he felt that Vasquez + Company would be better than Rogers, Anderson, Malody, and Scott LLP because one of the Accountants has had associations with the City Los Angeles.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion By:** Brendin Beatty

**Second By:** Rod Smiley

**Motion:** To Approve Resolution 2025-01

Board Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Brendin Beatty	X			
John Green	X			
Rod Smiley	X			
Ashley Sangster	X			
Owen Davis		X		

**4. SAFER Grant Applicant Approval by RESOLUTION 2025-03 (Recommend approve by 3/5 vote) (Pg. 222-223)**

Review and approve Resolution 2025-03 appointing the District Fire Chief as the representative in all matters relating to the SAFER Grant process.

Item was presented by Fire Chief Scott Young who provided comments on the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) process, and explained that this is to approve authorizing the Fire Chief to start the grant application with the contracted grant writer.

**Board Comment:** Director Green asked if the District has ever received anything through the SAFER Grant and what would be the cost. Fire Chief Scott Young explained how the SAFER Grant would help staffing for the San Miguel Fire Department. "The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities" per safer grant website. The Fire Chief Scott Young explained that the estimated grant for the positions would be around \$1.4 Million, with no matching funds.

Director Green asked how much the contracted grant writer would cost. Fire Chief Scott Young explained that the grant writer was very modest in cost, and has had good luck with other grants. Discussion ensued with information about positions.

Director Sangster voiced that he feels that grant writers are invaluable, and is hoping for the best.

Director Davis asked if this had anything to do with expansion of the Fire Department. Fire Chief Scott Young explained that this does not have to do with that but that this grant is for

a three year window, and would need an succession plan for the future. Discussion ensued on a succession plan.

**Public Comment:** None

**Motion By:** John Green

**Second By:** Ashley Sangster

**Motion:** To Approve Resolution 2025-03

Board Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Brendin Beatty	X			
John Green	X			
Rod Smiley	X			
Ashley Sangster	X			
Owen Davis	X			

**5. San Miguel Community Services District 2022-2027 Strategic plan one year review (Review and provide direction to staff thru consensus) (Pg. 224-335)**

Review and discuss the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, provide direction to staff as appropriate for any revisions or updates by the Board. Revisions or updates will be agendized for approval at a future meeting.

General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that he would like to ask that this item be tabled to the February 27th Board Meeting, because a projector is needed, and that the information will not change.

**Board Comment:** Director Green asked if the information has been updated from last years review. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that the statues have been updated in the PowerPoint.

**Public Comment:** Murray Powell a Templeton resident spoke about the title of the agenda.

**Motion By:** Ashley Sangster

**Second By:** Owen Davis

**Motion:** To Table to the February 27th Board Meeting

Board Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Brendin Beatty	X			
John Green	X			
Rod Smiley	X			
Ashley Sangster	X			
Owen Davis	X			

**6. Discuss Board Handbook Chapter 5 (C)(2) regarding printing Board Packets. (Discuss and provide direction to the General Manager) (Pg. 336-339)**

Discuss Chapter 5 of the Board Handbook and options for the dissemination of Board Packets and other materials to Directors. Provide direction to the General Manager.

Item presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that at the December 2024 Board meeting, Directors Green and Sangster requested a discussion on printed packets for Board members. The Board Handbook, Chapter 5 (C)(2) Correspondence to Board Members, states 'Board packets will be provided to the Board through District email. Paper copies of Board Packets and other information will not be provided unless an exception is

granted by the Board President or General Manager'. This policy was implemented to reduce the cost of printing and preparing Board packets, as well as the waste that occurs when the packets are discarded. The Board should discuss whether or not to; allow printing of packets for Board Members, authorize purchase of tablets for Board Members, or provide some other avenues to ensure that Board members have access to Board Packets and other requested information. General Manager Kelly Dodds recommendation was to have the District purchase laptops for all the Directors to use.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster voiced that he agreed with the recommendation, and feels that it would be beneficial to have all District business on a District device. Director Davis agreed, and for CSD business only.

Director Green commented on public records, and voiced that he was personally not taking a paid stipend; and that the District could use those funds to purchase the equipment needed.

**Public Comment:** None

*Board consensus is to direct staff to bring back a quote for five laptops for Board Member use, with Director Smiley dissenting.*

**7. Process for appointing persons to vacant Board of Director seats. (Discuss and provide direction to General Manager or Legal Counsel) (Pg. 400-403)**

Discuss the process for appointing new Directors to vacant seats.

Item presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that at the December 2024 Board meeting, Directors Green and Sangster requested information on District Policy on appointment of persons to fill vacant Board of Director seats. The District does not have a specific policy addressing the vacancies on the Board, though specific State requirements do apply. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that Director Green specifically asked about the questions that are asked of applicants, and in his research he found that the questions seem to be the same over the years. It was explained that currently when a vacancy exists, the Board can fill it by appointment or by special election at the District's expense; to complete the current term of the vacancy. If the Board chooses not to fill the vacancy, then the County Board of Supervisors will fill the position. In any case the position will be permanently filled by election at the next regularly scheduled general election. The District must take action within 60 days of the vacancy being created.

Appointment by the Board (Pursuant to Government Code section 1780, subdivision (d)) The Board will direct Staff to post a Notice of Vacancy, the notice will be posted for a minimum of 15 days prior to Board Action to appoint. After discussion and review of the information it is recommended that the Board provide direction to the General Manager and/or Legal Counsel on policy development for appointments.

**Board Comment:** Director Green voiced that during the process that he was last involved in; candidates were requested to put in a letter of intent and/or qualifications. Discussion ensued about candidates and how the policy needed more information about candidates qualifications. Director Green spoke about one of the candidates having the interview questions, and voiced that he feels that it was handled inappropriately, due to an employee giving questions out and harassing the individual applying.

Deputy General Counsel Pritchard explained that these issues could be resolved by implementation of a policy change; the Board can direct staff to bring back something specific or form an Ad-Hoc Committee to come up with a policy that could be brought back to the Board for approval.

Director Sangster voiced that if there is an opening and we have people interested in filling a vacant seat, we would want the process to be transparent and fair for all the people that show an interest.

Deputy General Counsel explained that most places have an actual application that is given to the candidates to complete, it includes questions that they fill out, and then the public interviews follow at the next Board Meeting.

Director Sangster asked if the policy was amended to include a requirement that they fill out an application, could there be questions from the Board that were not released beforehand. Deputy General Counsel explained that it would be appropriate to also add a specific directive that the Board not share their questions beforehand in the policy.

Director Green asked Counsel about a civil legal matter, if an employee was harassing someone on company time. Deputy General Counsel provided comments on the issue.

Fire Chief Scott Young stated that the Board is asking somebody to submit qualifications to fill a vacancy for whatever reason, but to be elected or appointed in lieu of an election there are no qualifications. Discussion ensued on running for a Board seat in an election and how the policy could be changed.

Director Green voiced that he would still like to have an investigation on who was involved in releasing the interview questions, actionable or not.

General Manager Kelly Dodds spoke about the questions that are used to gauge somebody's level of interest, and that the only way to be able to even make a decision on appointments is to ask questions. In an election, the public is able to ask their questions of the candidates for months; and feels that establishing a fixed policy with a candidate informational page or application is the most consistent way to move forward.

Director Sangster asked Counsel if some other agencies are very controlling over the questions that are asked in interview settings, and those questions can be restrictive. Director Sangster wanted to know if the Board would be restricted in any way to ask other questions about the candidates experience or knowledge about their role as incoming Director. Deputy General Counsel explained that there are no restrictions as long as your questions aren't discriminatory in nature.

**Public Comment:** Greg Grewal a Creston resident asked if this is specifically for Board Members vacancies, or employees, or anyone appointed by the District.

Discussion ensued about Directors and whether they are being considered employees or not.

**Board Comment:** Director Green voiced that the policy needs to be changed and it should have the same qualifications as if candidates were running in an election.

General Manager Kelly Dodds voiced that he would advise the Board to direct Staff to bring back a proposed policy for review. Discussion on legal review ensued.

Director Green motioned to draft a policy without legal review and spoke about the qualifications needed to run to be an Elected Official.

Director Smiley asked to speak after Director Green was done.

Director Smiley explained that the reason why the District has legal counsel review items, is to keep the District complaint with all legal matters.

Director Smiley spoke about Director Green using derogatory remarks, being angry, hostile and raising his voice to Counsel all night.

Director Sangster call point of order due to the conversation becoming heated and personal between Director Green and Director Smiley

Discussion ensued on legal review, and the motion on the table.

Director Green rescinded his motion to not have legal review of the policy changes.

*Consensus of the Board is to direct Staff to bring back a revised policy on appointments.*

**8. Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Special District Representative nomination - one candidate (Provide nomination by Board 3/5 Vote) (Pg. 404-407)**

Authorize the General Manager to submit a nomination on behalf of the Board.



Item presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds informing the Board that the San Miguel Community Services District was notified that there is one seat available on the Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Board of Directors, for a term ending in 2028. This Board can elect to nominate one San Miguel CSD Director to the IWMA Board seat, if there is any interest.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster asked if Director Davis or any other Director was interested in the nomination.

Director Davis asked clarifying questions, and voiced that he was not interested in the nomination.

No other Director had interest.

**Public Comment:** None

*Consensus of the Board is to have no nominations for the IWMA Board seat.*

**9. Mission Street Landscape irrigation replacement (Discuss and provide direction to General Manager) (Pg.408-409)**

Discuss Mission Street irrigation and previously approved repairs.

Item was presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds and explained that at the December 2024 Board Meeting Director Green, seconded by Director Sangster, requested to review the previously approved repairs to the Mission Street Landscape irrigation system. General Manager Kelly Dodds gave a brief history of the landscaping on Mission Street, the drought tolerant plants that were planted and discussed repairs needed. It was explained that back in February 2024 the Board approved repairs and/or replacement of the irrigation system at a cost of a not to exceed \$20,000 by Resolution 2024-06.

**Board Comment:** Director Green gave his opinion that the Mission Street merchants should be taking care of the portion in front of their storefronts. Director Green explained that he wants to turn off all irrigation, and plant only drought resistant plant in the area, but not water them.

Director Sangster asked if anyone has talked to the County about offsetting some of the cost or shared cost for the repairs that have been identified. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that the conversations with the County about this have been unsuccessful, and they fell back on the agreement that was signed by the District. Discussion ensued on the funds that Supervisor Peschong contributed when the Chamber was taking care of the landscaping, and the merchants in the area.

Director Sangster asked if any grants were available. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that he could look into it.

Director Davis explained that he feels that none of the sidewalks should be dug up, and to leave those areas alone.

Director Green voiced that the District should not be wasting water on landscaping, and explained that he would like to direct staff to bring back the resolution to undo it. Director Green continued to discuss telling people not to use water, but the District waters the plants in the landscaping area.

**Public Comment:** None

*Consensus of the Board is to direct Staff to bring back alternative fund sources with options to turn off the landscaping water, and rescind resolution 2024-06, with Director Smiley dissenting.*

**Adjourn to the San Miguel Community Services District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA):**

Director Green left at 8:02 P.M. after Board Comment (agenda item 10)

At: 8:03 P.M.

**9. GSA Board Action Items:**

**1. Update from January 22, 2024 Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) meeting. (Pg. 410-412)**

Discuss on action taken at recent PBCC meeting.

No action to be taken at this time. Direction may be given to the General Manager to agendaize for a future meeting.

Item was presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds explaining that the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Meeting (PBCC) Board Packet was provided by email to all the Directors and asked if anyone had any specific questions. The meeting was mostly updates on various reports that are being done. The MILR program has not moved forward, and that Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EPC GSA) and Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJ GSA) proposed changes to help facilitate it moving forward. The Monitoring Project is moving forward and they have some properties that have agreed to have equipment at their wells. San Miguel monitoring was discussed. General Manager Kelly Dodds also explained that there was a discussion at the meeting about the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) Annual Report and the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement. The December 16th, 2024 Town Hall meeting was discussed, and it was considered a success with a lot of constructive comments. It was pointed out that in the PBCC packet there are rates discussed/proposed and encourage everyone to review them.

**Public Comment:** Murray Powell a Templeton resident provided a printout to the Clerk for the Board to review and spoke about the State Water Project, rates and the City of Paso Robles blended water project.

Greg Grewal a Creston resident spoke about the State Water Project, the City of Paso Robles blended water project, and about the people he feels are running the basin.

*Informational item only*

**2. CONTINUATION from December 19th 2024 Board Meeting  
Discuss and appoint San Miguel CSD GSA representation to the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) (Discuss and appoint a member and/or alternate by 3/5 vote) (Pg. 413)**

Discuss policy requiring appointment Board member(s) to the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) as the Member and/or Alternate. By minute action, update the policy to allow non-Board members to serve on the PBCC, if desired. Provide direction to the General Manager.

Item presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds explaining that this item is to appoint somebody to the the Member position and/or the Alternate position must be a Director or employee of the District. At the December 19th Board meeting, the Board discussed retaining Mr. Baker as the Member. He has been contacted and is willing to fill the Member role for the District at least until the point where the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) changes to a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). Per District Legal Counsel the Board is able to appoint a person who is not a Board member or employee to the Member or Alternate position only after the Board takes action to allow such an appointment. If the Board wishes to appoint a sitting Director to the Member and/or Alternate position, then that can be done at this time by nominating a person, and holding a consensus vote. If the Board wishes to appoint Mr. Baker to the Member position, as indicated at the December Board meeting then the Board will need to first vote to allow a

person who is not a sitting Director or employee to fill that role for the District, and then hold a vote to appoint Mr. Baker to that position.

**Board Comment:** Director Sangster thanked Mr. Baker for attending, and explained that in his opinion that if Mr. Baker is willing and with his experience and knowledge of that particular board, he would happily support him becoming the Member for San Miguel.

General Manager Kelly Dodds added that if the Board appoints Mr. Baker they would also need to establish what the Board's expectations are; whether it's reporting back to this Board, and what it looks like.

Director Sangster asked Mr. Baker what level of involvement he would be willing to accept?

Mr. Baker explained that as he sees the role as he would continue attending PBCC meetings, and coming back to report to this SMCSG GSA Board. Mr. Baker voiced that he feels that the SMCSG GSA Board of Directors need to get more involved. Mr. Baker explained that he always hears how Staff is doing things and that Directors aren't, and feels that anytime Staff meets they should have to report back on those Staff meetings so that Directors know more of what is going on.

Director Sangster asked if there was any action taken at these PBCC meetings, explaining that he feels that one Director should not be making decisions on behalf of a five member Board.

General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that there is action taken at the PBCC meetings but that generally the meetings consist of updates on reports that are in progress. The actions that are taken at those meeting are generally within the budget and the scope that have been previously approved by this Board, example being that the PBCC performs tasks that were within the PBCC budget that was approved by all the GSA Boards. General Manager Kelly Dodds also explained that the "Staff" in San Miguel consists of the District Engineer, District Counsel, and himself.

**Public Comment:** Greg Grewal a Creston resident gave his opinion about the MOA, AB245, the PBCC Budget, SIGMA Grant and a San Luis County Board of Supervisor.

Murray Powell a Templeton resident spoke about his approval of Mr. Baker, that San Miguel has 3% of the PBCC Budget that was approved, and the proposed PBCC Budget.

**Motion By:** Ashley Sangster

**Second By:** Rod Smiley

**Motion:** To Amend the policy to allow a non-Board Member to serve on the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) Board

Board Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Brendin Beatty	X			
Rod Smiley	X			
Ashley Sangster	X			
Owen Davis	X			
John Green			X	

**Motion By:** Ashley Sangster

**Second By:** Rod Smiley

**Motion:** To Approve appointment of Mr. Baker to the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Board as the Member, with the understanding that Mr. Baker will report back to the San Miguel GSA Board of Directors and the

District General Manager

Board Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Brendin Beatty	X			
Rod Smiley	X			
Ashley Sangster	X			
Owen Davis	X			
John Green			X	

**Motion By:** Owen Davis

**Second By:** Rod Smiley

**Motion:** To Approve appointment of Mr. Grewal to the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Board as the Alternate, with the understanding that Mr. Grewal will report back to the San Miguel GSA Board of Directors and the District General Manager

Board Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Brendin Beatty	X			
Rod Smiley	X			
Ashley Sangster	X			
Owen Davis	X			
John Green			X	

**3. Continuation from December 19th 2024**

**Review of DRAFT Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) for administration of The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Sub Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. (Provide recommended changes to the General Manager/ Legal Counsel and or approve the agreement by 3/5 vote and authorize the Board President to sign the agreement) (Pg. 414-436)**

Review, discuss and provide direction to staff regarding the DRAFT JPA for the administration of The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Sub Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Item was presented by Deputy General Counsel Pritchard voicing that this item was continued from the December 19th, 2024 Board Meeting. Counsel explained that since that time things have progressed primarily with the County of San Luis Obispo contemplating a four-party agreement for the proposed Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) and a new version of the JPA Agreement.

Discussion ensued on timeline for approving the JPA ensued.

Deputy General Counsel asked the Board if they have had time to review the JPA or the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), that's been provided and if they have questions and/or revisions to the draft JPA agreement.

**Board Comment:** Director Smiley explained that he did not like the budget how it stands, and how they are going about conceiving the budget.

Director Sangster explained that he feels that this has significant implications for District's resident's, and that they provided changes less than 24 hours before a meeting, and expecting us to be prepared to discuss and vote on it feels very shady. There is language in the JPA that is very concerning.

Director Davis explained that he is not in favor of participating in the JPA.

General Manager Kelly Dodds clarified that there is information in the packet, just on a conceptual level of what would be required of San Miguel if the Board's choice is to no longer be part of the PBCC, or the JPA. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that there is language that was just added to the JPA agreement in section 6.8 is ridiculous and gives extra power to EPC, SSJ, and the County.

Discussion ensued about participating in the JPA, or what it would look like if the Board chooses not to participate.

Deputy General Counsel explained that this is not something to be rushed into, and did not expect a vote on this tonight but thought it was necessary to bring these changes to the Board as soon as possible. Counsel explained that it is important that the Board knows what the other entities are doing, and that they are willing to move forward with a four-part agreement without the San Miguel GSA.

Director Sangster thanked counsel for the information and explained that the new language is not desirable for San Miguel. The Board could elect to make amendments and suggest changes to the agreement, and asked the General Managers for their opinion.

General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that the way that the JPA is written today, is not beneficial to the San Miguel and would not advise the Board to approve it as is. San Miguel participating does have its benefits for shared cost, and the availability of future regional projects.

**Public Comment:** Murray Powell a Templeton resident asked for legal information about the JPA and MOA and votes from San Miguel Deputy General Counsel.

Greg Grewal a Creston resident spoke about the MOA, and how in his opinion San Miguel should not join with the JPA. Mr. Grewal also spoke about Supervisor Gibson, LAFCo, septic and feels that they just want to have more administration costs with the JPA.

Berkley Baker a San Miguel resident spoke about his experience as a PBCC Member he has learned that the vineyards are 100% responsible for the overdraft of the Basin, and know they want to get everyone else to pay for it. Mr. Baker also spoke about not needing another agency, and feels that the agreement as it stands is not acceptable and that San Miguel should revise the agreement or get out of it.

Discussion ensued.

*Consensus of the Board is to continue this item to the February 27th Board Meeting.*

## **Reconvene to the San Miguel Community Services District Board of Directors:**

AT: 9:05

### **10. Board Comment:**

Item was presented before item 9.

Director Smiley voiced that it is twice now that Director Green has gotten in his face and turned his chair around to try to intimidate, and will be turning the video over to Counsel. Director Smiley explained that if the intimidation continues by Director Green he will proceed with District Counsel.

Director Green asked for a list of property addresses that will be impacted by the Septic to Sewer project. General Manager Kelly Dodds, explained that as he explained last month Director Green is welcome to come down to the office, and the General Manager can show him what we have. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that the Septic to Sewer item will be brought to the February meeting to have an overall discussion on the project as a whole.

Director Green explained that he would like to get the addresses so that he can go get input from the property owners that will be affected, and will wait for the next meeting to get the

information.

Director Green voiced that he also asked at the last meeting to have a discussion on reducing legal fees, and feels that it got overlooked. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that it is on the list.

Director Green asked to add an item to a future agenda to discuss Fire Inspection fees, Will Serve, and Connection fees. Seconded by Director Sangster.

Director Green asked to add an item to a future agenda to take action on replacing the water meter at 1097 Mission Street. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that previously the Board directed staff to develop a policy for waterline replacement, and that is being worked on. Recommendation from the Deputy General Counsel and General Manager Kelly Dodds was to not take action on this particular property until that policy was approved.

Director Green voiced that he feels that if any customer that comes in and has a complaint of this nature the District should take it very seriously and should go out and fix it immediately. Director Green voiced that he does not want to wait for the policy on this one. Seconded by Director Sangster

Director Beatty asked for information on the complaint, Discussion ensued.

**11. Adjourn to Closed Session/Closed Session Agenda:**

**Public Comment:** Greg Grewal a Creston resident spoke about the City of Paso Robles Pueblo Rights for the Steinbeck litigation, and explained as a plaintiff, people are only trying to protect their land.

**1. CONFERENCE WITH DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL – Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1) Case: *Steinbeck v. City of Paso Robles, Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 1-14-CV-265039 and Case: Eidemiller v. City of Paso Robles, Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 1-14-CV-269212 (Pg. 437)***

Discussion

**12. Report out of Closed Session:**

Direction given to Staff

**13. Adjournment to Next Regular Meeting:**

At: 9:34 P.M.

*As per Chapter 10.9 of the SMCSO Board Member Handbook, meeting minutes reflect actions taken and are not a complete record. Please visit the SMCSO website: <https://www.sanmiguelcsd.org/> to view full recordings of meetings.*