



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

6:00 P.M. Opened Session

SMCSD Boardroom 06-25-2026

1. Call to Order:

2. Roll Call: *Ashley Sangster, Rod Smiley, Brendin Beatty, Owen Davis*

3. Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda:

moved Item 7.1 to before Item 5.

Motion By: Ashley Sangster

Second By: Brendin Beatty

Motion: To Approve as Amended Move item 7.1 to before item 5

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance:

Lead by Director Davis

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

Joash Peckham a San Miguel resident with his father made a presentation the the San Miguel CSD Board of Directors about wanting to start a community garden in the Jazzy Town development area of the District.

Greg Grewal a Creston resident spoke about the Steinbeck litigation and explained that the District should get out of the lawsuit. Mr. Grewal also spoke about about priority rights, and up coming court proceedings.

Murray Powell a Templeton resident spoke about not hearing from the San Miguel Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Prop 26 and fees that are trying to be charged by the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA). Mr. Powell also spoke about the 2016 Community Plan and the Rivers Edge development in San Miguel.

General Manager Kelly Dodds read written public comment aloud from Shaunna P.

6. **Special Presentations/Public Hearings/Other:**

1. **Presentation and acceptance of the San Miguel CSD Fiscal Year 2024-25 Financial Audit report from Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, LLP (Recommend approve resolution and accept audit by 3/5 Vote) (Pg. 4-62)**

Receive presentation by Travis Hole with Moss, Levy & Hartzheim, LLP regarding FY 2024-25 audit and accept audit report by approval of attached resolution.

Chris Padilla, CPA from Moss, Levy, Hartzheim presented to the Board of Directors the San Miguel CSD FY2024-25 Audit. Mr. Padilla explained the process of reviewing the District Financials. The Auditor's "Opinion" of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 is unmodified opinion, which is the best kind of opinion. An Unmodified Opinion means that through all of the Auditors testing they are confident in the numbers that are provided in the financial statement and that they agree with those numbers. Mr. Padilla presented all the sections of the Audit Report and asked for any questions.

Board Comment: Director Davis asked questions about the FY2023-24 Audit findings. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained the findings, and how they are used in the FY 2024-25 Audit Report. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment: General Manager Kelly Dodds read written public comment aloud from Shaunna P.

Clay Barnett a San Miguel resident asked about the Employee file, and if all the personnel records were there. General Manager Kelly Dodds responded yes, all the hire paperwork is in employee file.

Motion By: Rod Smiley

Second By: Brendin Beatty

Motion: To Approve Fiscal Year 2024-25 Audit

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

2. **Public Hearing: Presentation on the status of staffing, vacancies, and recruitment, pursuant to AB2561 and associated amendments to the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (Government code section 3502.3). (Pg. 63-64)**

Public Hearing: Conduct the statutorily required public hearing regarding San Miguel Community Services District current workforce vacancy status and receive and file the below report.

Item was presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds explaining that this item is regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 2561, which was introduced to address the issue of job vacancies in local government, which adversely affects the delivery of public services and employee workload. AB 2561 is reviewed annually and requires public agencies to hold at least one public hearing per fiscal year to discuss vacancies, recruitment, and retention efforts. The public hearing should be conducted before final adoption of the agency's annual budget. To the extent there are any recognized employee organizations, such organizations are permitted to make presentations during the hearing regarding the vacancies, retention, and recruitment efforts. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that the District currently has nine budgeted full-time positions, and no permanent part-time positions, listing out current

filled positions. It was explained that the District has two vacant positions currently for the Utilities Department. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained the obstacles in hiring; finding qualified personnel because of the low market pay, agency size and job licensing requirements. The difficulty in hiring does not stem from policies or procedures, when someone applies the hire time is relatively short. The District is currently experiencing high retention rates for administrative staff and low retention rates for licensed positions. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that this was predominantly a result of hiring 'new to industry' persons for licensed positions providing them training and licensure. Once licensed, these people have a high propensity to seek higher paying positions at surrounding agencies. The District strives to retain personnel through providing advanced training to those who are interested. Additionally, to the extent possible, the District encourages promotion from within for qualified persons interested in advancing to higher level open positions. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that there was no response from SEIU for represented employees.

Board Comment: Director Davis said that he thinks that it is the same problem and asked about requiring that new hires sign a contract; that they have to stay for a certain amount of time if the District trains them. Discussion ensued. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that it would be a legal question. Legal Counsel Remlinger stated that he would have to look into it and that he has not seen that being done anywhere else. Requested by Director Davis and Director Sangster

Director Sangster suggested that the District look into having alternate benefits, like a 10-80 schedule.

Director Davis said that he feels that giving more money is not the answer. Discussion ensued.

Director Smiley explained that he has experience with other volunteer Fire Departments and his business stating that you can not require people to sign a contract to stay on because you trained them.

Director Sangster opened the Public Hearing

Public Comment: None

Director Sangster closed the Public Hearing

Consensus of the Board is to receive report pursuant to AB2561

3. Public Hearing: Consider adopting the San Miguel Community Service District Fiscal Year 2026-27 SMCSO Operation and Maintenance and Capital Improvement Project Budgets by Resolution (Approve by 3/5 vote) (Pg. 65-87)

Hold a Public Hearing regarding the DRAFT FINAL Fiscal Year 2026-27 Annual Budget; after Public Hearing approve a resolution of the Board adopting Districts Operation and Maintenance, and Capital Improvement Project Budgets for FY 2026-27.

Item was presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds who explained that this is the second reading after special meeting workshop that was held on June 11th, 2026. It was explained that there were no changes from that meeting and this is the final opportunity to discuss and/or approve the Final FY 26-27 Budget. General Manager Kelly Dodds reviewed the funds, and the final numbers and asked for any questions or changes from the Board.

Board Comments: None

Director Sangster opened the Public Hearing

Public Comment: General Manager Kelly Dodds read written public comment aloud from Shaunna P.

Director Sangster closed the Public Hearing

Board Comment: Director Sangster thanked General Manager Kelly Dodds for the workshop, stating that he found it very helpful.

Director Davis said that he would like to request that the General Manager Kelly Dodds tell him the number of employees that he has and the number of employees Fire Chief Scott Young has, and what their salaries are, because employees change all the time. General Manager Kelly Dodds explained that the Utilities Department has a total of eight employees including administrative staff, and if he would like to know salaries, anyone can go on Transparent California (<https://transparentcalifornia.com/>) and you can see the prior years of any government employee. General Manager Kelly Dodds also told Director Davis that he can come speak to him in person about personnel questions, but that some information is privileged/confidential.

Motion By: Rod Smiley

Second By: Ashley Sangster

Motion: To Approve

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

4. Public Hearing: Authorize delinquent Water and Sewer service charges to be collected on the 2026-27 County Tax Roll by Resolution (Approve by 3/5 vote) (Pg. 88-91)

Hold Public Hearing regarding the 2026 report of delinquent Water and Sewer charges; after Public Hearing approve Resolution authorizing the collection of delinquent charges on the County Tax Roll.

General Manager Kelly Dodds updated the Directors that this item was resolved but, since it was on the agenda the Board would still need to take any public comment on the item.

Public Comment: None

5. Public Hearing: Confirm the 2026 Weed Abatement Cost Report and authorizing collection of the charges on the San Luis Obispo County Tax Roll by Resolution. (Approve by 3/5 vote) (Pg. 92-96)

After holding a Public Hearing and making any appropriate modifications to the Cost Report. Request for the Board to approve the attached resolution confirming the Cost Report and authorizing the collection of the charges on the San Luis Obispo County Tax Rolls.

Director Sangster opened the Public Hearing relating to the District's proposed approval, confirming the 2026 Weed Abatement Cost Report, and authorize the collection of the charges through the County tax rolls. Director Sangster explained that staff would be providing a general presentation regarding the 2026 Weed Abatement Cost Report. Fire Chief Scott Young explained that he is recommending that the cost incurred by the District to abate weeds from properties where the property owners have failed to do so, be placed on the County Tax Roll for collection. San Miguel Fire Department has complied with all noticing of a Public Hearing. Fire Chief Scott Young explained that the Union Pacific Railroad will be invoiced separately for any abatement done by the District. Director Sangster opened the Public Comment for the Public Hearing.

Public Comment: Gregory Campbell a San Miguel resident asked who does the weed abatement for the District, and if the contract was allowed for bid. Fire Chief Scott Young explained what the process is, and the District's to announcements are for anybody interested who meets the criteria to apply, and there is a time period for applications to be submitted .

Director Sangster closed the Public Hearing.

Board Comment: None

Motion By: Rod Smiley

Second By: Brendin Beatty

Motion: To Approve

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

7. Non- District Reports:

1. San Luis Obispo County Organizations

Verbal/Report

Item was heard before Item 5

San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Commander Arauza provided the May 2026 Calls For Service report for San Miguel. There was one report of a Scam, and one report for Suspicious Circumstances. There were no reports filed for Battery, Disturbances, Burglary, Theft, Vandalism, or Trespassing. Commander Arauza also spoke about the upcoming Fourth of July, and increased staffing. It was explained that there will be a dedicated reporting phone number on the Sheriff website.

Board Comment: None

Public Comment: Gregory Campbell a San Miguel resident spoke out from the the audience and asking if all fireworks will be treated as illegal in San Miguel.

2. Community Service Organizations

Verbal

Board Comment: None

Public Comment: None

**3. Camp Roberts—Army National Guard Contact information: Keba Baird PIO CA
Camp Roberts/Camp San Luis - Email: keba.m.baird.nfg@army.mil Phone: 805-238-8286 Mobile: 805-610-6742**

none

Board Comment: None

Public Comment: None

8. Staff & Committee Reports - Receive & File:

1. General Manager (Pg. 97)

Receive report.

Item presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds who included that Director Davis is still behind on his required training.

Board Comment: None

Public Comment: None

2. District Counsel

Receive verbal report

District Counsel Remlinger had nothing to report but thanked the Board for letting him sit in for Deputy General Counsel Pritchard.

Board Comment: None

Public Comment: Gregory Campbell a San Miguel resident asked Counsel if all fireworks in San Miguel are illegal, asking for clarification on Safe and Sane Firework. Counsel Remlinger explained that it depends on the local jurisdiction.

3. District Utilities (Pg. 98-101)

Receive and file

Item presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds who explained his report was submitted as written and asked if there was any questions.

Board Comment: None

Public Comment: None

4. Fire Chief Report (Pg. 102-121)

Receive and File

Item presented by Fire Chief Scott Young who explained his report was submitted as written and explained that he would like to point out page 115. The HAAS activation alert system that was grant funded and the technology that alerts drivers when there are emergency responders on the road during an emergency. Fire Chief Scott Young explained that in May they were able to alert 1170 drivers that emergency personnel were on the road. Discussion ensued on how the HAAS technology worked. Fire Chief Scott Young also stated that he has pushed out a press release that states that any fireworks in San Miguel are prohibited and explained the section in the Fire Code that states that there were no dates for sales or use.

Board Comment: Director Sangster asked about how drivers are notified with the HAAS system. Fire Chief Scott Young explained how the system works with Waze, Google Maps, and other navigation systems.

Public Comment: Gregory Campbell a San Miguel resident spoke about the statement from the Fire Chief that all fireworks are illegal in San Miguel, and that he would like information from District Legal Counsel on the Fire Code section stated.

Board Comment: Director Davis stated what the rules on Fireworks in Templeton were. Director Davis also asked about the "sign" that was taken down.

Fire Chief Scott Young explained that the sign was there before 2006, then in 2013 it was replaced. The sign made it until 2026 when someone tried to climb on it and broke it. Fire Chief Scott Young explained that now that the District controls the property and the District is liable for activities on that property, it was in the best interest from his prospective of public safety to take the sign down. Discussion ensued concerning the District Use Policy and Counsel asked for this to be discussed during Board Comment.

Public Comment: General Manager Kelly Dodds read written public comment aloud from Shaunna P.

9. Board Action Items:

- 1. Monthly claim detail and investment reports for May 2026 (Recommend receive and file by Board consensus)**

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

(Pg. 122-164)

Please *Review, Receive and File* the claim detail and investment reports.

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

Item was presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds submitting report as written and recommending the Board receive and file claims detail and investment report for May 2026.

Board Comment: None

Public Comment: None

Consensus of the Board is to receive and file May 2026 Financials

- 2. 2026 California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Board of Director Election . (Discuss and provide direction to General Manager by consensus) (Pg. 165-172)**

Review candidates and vote to elect no more than one (1) candidate by Board consensus and authorize the General Manager to vote electronically on behalf of the District.

Item was presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds who explained that the Board can review candidates and vote to elect no more than one (1) candidate by Board consensus and authorize the General Manager to vote electronically on behalf of the District. The candidates are listed in the Board packet and there needs to be a consensus of the Board on who to vote for.

Board Comment: None

Public Comment: None

Motion By: Owen Davis

Second By: Ashley Sangster

Motion: To Approve vote for Vincent Ferrante, Commissioner, Moss Landing Harbor District

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

- 3. Approval of a rate increase from \$6.04 per HCF to \$6.35 per HCF for construction hydrant meter usage to be effective July 16th, 2026 by resolution (Pg. 173-175)**

Approve a Board resolution approving a rate increase for construction hydrant meters to be effective July 16th, 2026

Item was presented by General Manager Kelly Dodds explaining that this item is brought to the Board annually. The Construction Hydrant Meters where not included in the Rate Study, but the District charges the same as user rates for water. It was explained that the

rate is going from \$6.04 per Hundred Cubic Feet (HCF) to \$6.35 per HCF. The cost per month is still one-hundred dollars not pro rated and the deposit is still \$750.00.

Board Comment: None

Public Comment: None

Motion By: Ashley Sangster

Second By: Brendin Beatty

Motion: To Approve

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

10. Board Comment:

Director Davis asked about the sign that was removed and explained that he has people that want to rebuild at no cost to the District. Discussion ensued with item being requested for discussion by Director Davis, seconded by Director Sangster. General Manager Kelly Dodds asked the Board to send him any information they had for discussion on that item.

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

Public Comment: None

At : 7:26 PM

- 1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL 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***
Discussion

12. Report out of Closed Session::

No reportable action

13. Adjournment to Next Regular Meeting:

At: 7:49 PM

As per Chapter 10.9 of the SMCSD Board Member Handbook, meeting minutes reflect actions taken and are not a complete record. Please visit the SMCSD website:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sanmiguelcsd/playlists> to view full recordings of meetings.