

THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF
CASTROVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

April 21, 2026

President Ron Stefani called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Directors Present: Vice President Greg MacMillan, Director Glenn Oania, Director James Cochran, Director Cosme Padilla, and President Ron Stefani

Absent:

General Manager: James Derbin

Secretary to the Board: Lidia Santos

Staff Present:

Guest: Jackson Ho, Caltrans Project Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Ron Stefani led the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

General Manager James Derbin advised the Board of an additions to the agenda that will require the Board, by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting to determine that there is a need to take immediate action on the item regarding the Arsenic Media Change Out project at the Well 5 Arsenic Treatment Plant which came to the attention of the agency subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. A motion was made by Greg MacMillan and seconded by James Cochran to approve this addition to the agenda under new business, item #1. Items currently listed as number 1 will be 2 and so forth. The motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES:	5	Directors:	MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, Padilla, and Stefani
NOES:	0	Directors:	
ABSENT/NOT PARTICIPATING:	0	Directors:	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. The motion was made by Greg MacMillan and seconded by James Cochran to approve the draft minutes of March 17, 2026, Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting. The motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES:	5	Directors:	MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, Padilla, and Stefani
NOES:	0	Directors:	
ABSENT/NOT PARTICIPATING:	0	Directors:	

Consent Calendar accepted as presented

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter of support for SB 1153 (Caballero) to Chair Josh Baker, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee regarding clarification on water system capacity in wildfire events

Correspondence Calendar accepted as presented

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. *Publication of the California Special Districts Association, Volume 21, Issue 2 – Legal Brief: A Supreme Court CPRA Decision with Practical Consequences for Public Agencies*

Informational items accepted as presented

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Merritt Street Improvements Project update – Jackson Ho, Caltrans Project Manager informed the Board that they are aiming to complete this project on Merritt Street by the end of this year 2026. Caltrans is aware the community is frustrated with the construction, and Caltrans has also done the best they can to maintain access to businesses on Merritt Street. In the past Castroville has been overlooked, and they want to make an impact with this project by adding improvements which include sidewalks and ADA standards. Once construction is complete, \$21 million will be invested in this project by Caltrans. In addition, many types of users will be able to enjoy these improvements. Mr. Ho wanted to thank Castroville CSD for being good neighbors and a gracious host.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider and approve authorizing the General Manager to execute a service agreement with the low bidder, Layne Christensen Company to change out the media at the Well 5 Arsenic Treatment Plant for a not-to-exceed amount of \$195,566.00 – After some discussion, Director Padilla stated that he wanted it noted on the record minutes that he was not comfortable with this addition to the agenda with less than 72-hour notice to the public and would like to abstain from taking any action on this item. A motion was made by Glenn Oania and seconded by Greg MacMillan to approve authorizing the General Manager to execute a service agreement with the low bidder, Layne Christensen Company to change out the media at the Well 5 Arsenic Treatment Plant for a not-to-exceed amount of \$195,566.00. The motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES:	4	Directors:	MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, and Stefani
NOES:	0	Directors:	
ABSENT/NOT PARTICIPATING:	1	Directors:	Padilla

2. Consider and approve authorizing the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. (RDN) for a Water/Sewer Rate Study for a not-to-exceed \$49,940 – General Manager James Derbin informed the Board that five rate consulting firms submitted proposals. He is recommending the Board select the lowest bidder, RDN. A motion was made by Glen Oania and seconded by Greg MacMillan to authorize the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. (RDN) for a Water/Sewer Rate Study for a not-to-exceed \$49,940. The motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES:	5	Directors:	MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, Padilla, and Stefani
NOES:	0	Directors:	
ABSENT/NOT PARTICIPATING:	0	Directors:	

3. Consider and approve authorizing the General Manager to execute contract change Order #1 with J. Johnson and Company Inc. for the Merritt Water Service Replacement Project in the amount of \$25,080 – General Manager James Derbin stated that the original contract amount was \$315,085 and with the

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addition of this change order the total contract amount will now be \$340,165 and increase of \$25,080. The change order is for the installation of two new water main gate valves for the Merritt Street Water Service Replacement Project. A motion was made by Cosme Padilla and seconded by Greg MacMillan to approve the contract change Order #1 with J. Johnson and Company Inc. The motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES: 5 Directors: MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, Padilla, and Stefani
NOES: 0 Directors:
ABSENT/NOT
PARTICIPATING: 0 Directors

4. Consider and approve authorizing the General Manager to register Operator II Varela to attend the California Rural Water Association Education and Exhibitor Expo in South Lake Tahoe, April 27-30, 2026 – General Manager James Derbin let the Board know that it is important to let staff routinely attend conferences and workshops to enhance their knowledge and to network with other executive professionals. In addition, the professional certifications staff maintain require continuing educatable units to be earned to qualify for recertification. A motion was made by Glenn Oania and seconded by James Cochran to approve authorizing the General Manager to register Operator II Varela to attend the California Rural Water Association Education and Exhibitor Expo in South Lake Tahoe, April 27-30, 2026. The motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES: 5 Directors: MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, Padilla, and Stefani
NOES: 0 Directors:
ABSENT/NOT
PARTICIPATING: 0 Directors

5. Consider and approve authorizing the General Manager to attend the CSDA General Manager Leadership Summit in Newport Beach, June 28-30, 2026 – General Manager James Derbin requested to attend the CSDA General Manager Leadership Summit in Newport Beach. As mentioned earlier, it is important to let staff routinely attend conferences and workshops to enhance their knowledge and to network with other executive professionals. Registration fees of \$890 will be covered by a scholarship provided by CSDA. A motion was made by Cosme Padilla and seconded by Greg MacMillan to authorize the General Manager to attend the CSDA General Manager Leadership Summit in Newport Beach, June 28-30, 2026. The motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES: 5 Directors: MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, Padilla, and Stefani
NOES: 0 Directors:
ABSENT/NOT
PARTICIPATING: 0 Directors

6. Select Annual Budget & Personnel Committee (two directors) – General Manager James Derbin let the Board know it is time again for the Annual Budget & Personnel Committee to meet. Last year it was Directors Stefani and Padilla. A motion was made by Greg MacMillan and seconded by Glenn Oania to select Directors Ron Stefani and Cosme Padilla as the Annual Budget & Personnel Committee for 2026/2027. The motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES: 5 Directors: MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, Padilla, and Stefani
NOES: 0 Directors:
ABSENT/NOT
PARTICIPATING: 0 Directors

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Update on Street Lighting for Castroville Zone1 and Moro Cojo Zone 2 – General Manager James Derbin

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stated that he continues to have monthly standing meetings with PG & E street light team. Staff is working with PG & E on creating a project to upgrade four remaining high pressure sodium vapor streetlights..

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION: When needed, this time is reserved for the Board of Directors to communicate activity, educational classes, and/or Committee reports.

1. Update on Monterey One Water meeting (M1W) – President Ron Stefani stated M1W will be going through a rate increase of revenue adjustments starting July 1, 2026, for a period of five years with maximum increases of 8%, 8%, 8%, 8%, and 9%. In addition, the Board approved changes to the Outfall.
2. Update on Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) meeting – President Ron Stefani announced SVBGSA is working on their budget. SVBGSA is also looking to increase fees next year.
3. Update on meetings or educational classes attended by the Directors – There were no meetings or educational classes attended by the Directors.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

1. General Manager's Report – Compliance update, current projects update, meetings/seminars update, staff update, suggestive projects discussions
2. Operations Report
 - a) Water – Pumpage & Usage Update, Water Testing Update, Current Installation
 - b) Water -Status Update, Current Contractor Work Update, Maintenance/Repair Update, Customer Service Update, Safety Issue
 - c) Sewer & Storm Drain – Jetting, Current Installation Status Update, Current Contractor Work Update, Maintenance/Repair Update, Customer Service Update, Safety Issues
3. Customer /Billing Reports – Water Sales, Water Usage, A/R Update, Customer Service Update
4. Financial Reports – Treasures L.A.I.F. Report, Internal Report, Administration Update

General Operations Reports were accepted as presented

CHECK LIST – March 2026. A motion was made by Glenn Oania and seconded by James Cochran to pay all bills presented. The motion carried by the following roll call votes:


AYES:	5	Directors:	MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, Padilla, and Stefani
NOES:	0	Directors:	
ABSENT/NOT PARTICIPATING:	0	Directors:	

There being no further business, a motion was made by Cosme Padilla and seconded by Greg MacMillan to adjourn to the next scheduled Board meeting; the motion carried by the following roll call votes:

AYES:	5	Directors:	MacMillan, Oania, Cochran, Padilla, and Stefani
NOES:	0	Directors:	
ABSENT/NOT PARTICIPATING:	0	Directors:	

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Lidia Santos
Secretary to the Board

Approved by,


Ron Stefani
President