



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (SABGSA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Tuesday, June 17, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Randy Sharer at 6:00pm at the Los Alamos Community Services District, located at 82 St. Joseph Street, Los Alamos, CA. Members of the public had the option to participate virtually or in-person.

Board of Directors Present: Tom Durant, Barbara Landon, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather.

Directors Absent: Dan Chabot, Kenny Pata

Alternates present, but not acting on behalf of a Director: Jim Stollberg

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

No public comment.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

a. **Minutes from May 20, 2025, SABGSA Board Meeting**

Motion by Director Durant, second by Director Landon to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025 Board meeting, as presented.

Ayes: Tom Durant, Barbara Landon, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Dan Chabot, Kenny Pata; **Abstain:** None

b. **Agency Finances, Budgeting, and Training**

Motion by Director Wrather, second by Director Merrill to approve the financial report dated May 31, 2025, as presented.

Ayes: Tom Durant, Barbara Landon, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Dan Chabot, Kenny Pata; **Abstain:** None

5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

a. **SABGSA Executive Director Updates**

- Landowner Communication Regarding Ordinance 25-001 (Well Metering & Groundwater Extraction Reporting): During the month, SABGSA received five inquiries from landowners. Two landowners requested a list of companies that provide meter installation and calibration services. Two others inquired about specific flow meter requirements. One landowner sought clarification on the definition of an "inactive well." In response, staff is preparing a resource list, which will be presented at the July 15th Board meeting.
- The Q2 2025 Monitoring Event took place June 3-4, 2025. The Q2 2025 Quarterly Groundwater Level Monitoring Report will be reviewed at the July 15th Board meeting.
- The SABGSA submitted a funding request to the SABWD on June 12, 2025 for \$18,220.50 to cover invoices received this month.
- SABGSA's Audit for FY 2023-24 was completed by Moss, Levy & Hartzheim and is posted on SABGSA's website.

- The 2024-25 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report titled “Water Management in Santa Barbara, Keep Up the Good Work” was released on June 13, 2025. The SABGSA is required to respond to Findings #1 and #2 within 90 days. SABGSA Legal Counsel will draft a response for review.

b. San Antonio Basin Water District (SABWD) Update

Executive Director Donna Glass reported that the San Antonio Basin Water District (SABWD) Board of Directors met on June 17, 2025.

- The SABWD Board approved an amendment to the Policy for Evaluating Requests for Assessment Changes
- The SABWD Board approved the property change order requests from landowners for FY 25-26. The total irrigated acres for FY 25-26 is 13,837, an increase of 436.53 irrigated acres
- The SABWD Board approved past change verification and assessment back charges in the amount of \$77,820 for three (3) landowners.
- The SABWD approved a fund request from the SABGSA for \$18,220.50 to cover invoices received this month
- The SABWD Board reviewed and approved the preliminary operating budget for FY 25-26. The final budget will be approved at the July meeting
- The SABWD Board designated 100% of their FY net income to their reserves, approximately \$333,496.
- The delinquent assessments for FY 24-25 totaling \$41,009 were approved to be placed on the County’s property tax roll. The previous fiscal years delinquent assessments on the County’s property tax roll have all been paid, except for \$1,554.
- There are two SABWD Board members with terms expiring at the end of November 2025. The SABWD passed a resolution announcing the November 2025 district election and related procedures for the two open positions.

c. Advisory Committee Updates

- The Advisory Committee did not meet in June 2025.

d. Board Member Updates

- None.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Presentation from Geoff Cromwell, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Regarding the Simulated Effects of Future Water Availability and Protected Species Habitat in the San Antonio Creek Valley Watershed

Geoff Cromwell (USGS) presented findings from a climate study evaluating future water availability in Barka Slough and potential impacts on five federally protected species. The study extended a hydrologic model of the San Antonio Creek Valley Watershed through 2051 under two climate scenarios: repeated historical climate and a 2070-centered Drier Extreme Warming (DEW) scenario.

Both models showed groundwater storage decline, with the 2070 DEW scenario projecting warmer temperatures and less frequent but more intense storms. Results suggest Barka Slough could shift from a perennial to an ephemeral wetland. Streamflow, stream disconnection, and groundwater depth—key habitat metrics—are more likely to be negatively impacted under the 2070 DEW scenario, potentially affecting species such as the unarmored threespine stickleback, tidewater goby, Gambel’s watercress, and La Graciosa thistle. The hydrologic model has been made available to the SABGSA. The model could be used to inform future groundwater management decisions.

b. Presentation from Matt Scrudato, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, Regarding the Well Metering Assistance Program

Matt Scrudato from the Santa Barbara County Water Agency provided an overview of the Well Metering Assistance Program (WMA). The WMA offers a \$500 rebate for qualifying flow meters.

When a completed application is received for a qualifying meter, a Notice to Proceed will be provided to the applicant within 21 days of submittal. Eligibility is limited to one (1) meter per applicant. Funding is limited and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. More information and the application can be found at: <https://www.countyofsb.org/2568/Well-Metering-Assistance-Program-WMAP>

c. Consider Adoption of SABGSA Priorities and Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26

At the May 20, 2025 Board meeting, SABGSA staff presented the draft priorities and proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025–26, reviewing each line item in detail. The draft budget was subsequently posted on SABGSA’s website for public access and review. Since the May 20th meeting, no revisions have been made.

Motion by *Director Merrill*, second by *Director Mosby* to adopt the priorities and budget for fiscal year 2025-26, as presented.

Ayes: Tom Durant, Barbara Landon, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather.

Nos: None; **Absent:** Dan Chabot, Kenny Pata; **Abstain:** None

7. NEXT MEETING: July 15, 2025 at 6pm at Los Alamos Community Services District.

8. ADJOURN – 7:10pm