



# CACHUMA CONSERVATION RELEASE BOARD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT

Board Conference Room

4699 Hollister Avenue

Goleta, CA 93110

and

REEF HOUSE

Crown Point, Bequia Island

St. Vincent and the Grenadines VC400

West Indies

February 6, 2026

10:00 AM

City of Santa Barbara (Kristen Sneddon, Pres.)

Goleta Water District (Lauren Hanson, Dir.)

Montecito Water District (Charles Tobe Plough, Dir.)

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Members of the Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB) Board of Directors (Board) intend to attend this meeting in person, absent an exception allowed under the Brown Act. It is the practice of CCRB to also present its meetings using Zoom videoconferencing as an accommodation to staff and members of the public. Members of the public may attend the meeting in person or participate by Zoom. CCRB cannot guarantee that Zoom will function or that all discussions of the Board can be heard on Zoom. Therefore, members of the public are advised to attend in person if they wish to ensure they can observe the meeting. The remote conferencing link for Zoom is as follows:

**Join by videoconference:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83311184910>

**Join by teleconference:**

Call-in Number: 1.669.900.6833

Meeting ID: 833 1118 4910

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Any member of the public may address the Board on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Board. The President of the Board will determine the total time for public comments. The Board is not responsible for the content or accuracy of statements made by members of the public, and no action will be taken by the Board on any Public Comment item. Those observing the meeting by video may comment during the designated public comment period using the “raise hand” feature of the video software. Commenters will be required to unmute their microphone when commenting. Those participating by telephone may comment

during the designated public comment period by pressing \*9 on the keypad to indicate such interest. Commenters will be prompted to press \*6 to unmute their telephone when called upon to speak. CCRB will use best efforts to swiftly resolve requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will resolve any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Matters listed here comprise a consent agenda that may be acted upon by a single roll call vote of the Board.

#### **CA-1) Meeting Minutes**

Approval of minutes of the Board of Directors' December 4, 2025 meeting.

#### **CA-2) Unaudited Interim Financial Reports for the Periods Ending November 30 and December 31, 2025**

Receive and file unaudited interim financial reports for the periods ending November 30 and December 31, 2025.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **RA-1) Consider Adopting a Resolution to Increase Flexibility Under the Brown Act**

Consider adopting a resolution that may allow CCRB increased flexibility under the Brown Act.

#### **RA-2) Water Board Order and Federal Consultation Process Update**

Receive a status update and potentially give direction regarding State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Order 2019-0148 and the Consultation process underway with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and National Marine Fisheries Service. (Est. time: 10 min.)

#### **RA-3) Executive Director's Report**

This section of the agenda is reserved for the Executive Director to share updates and other relevant information with the Board and the general public. This is for informational items only; no decisions will be made. From time to time, the Executive Director may seek informal feedback from the Board members and the general public on issues within the Executive Director's authority, but no Board action will be taken. (Est. time: 5 min.)

### **CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**

#### **CS-1) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing and Anticipated Litigation**

- Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1) (Existing case: City of Solvang Petition to Change Water Rights Permit 15878 before the State Water Resources Control Board Administrative Hearing Office)
- Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4) (Anticipated litigation: two potential cases).

**Reconvene in open session and report on any actions taken in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1.**

**RA-4) Directors' Requests for Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings**

**RA-5) Set Next CCRB Meeting for 2:00 pm March 5, 2025 (location TBD), and Adjourn**

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC**

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Cachuma Conservation Release Board representative ([pcantle@ccrb-board.org](mailto:pcantle@ccrb-board.org)) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Board to make reasonable arrangements.

[This Agenda was posted to the CCRB website and delivered in accordance with Sections 54954.1 and 54956 of the Government Code.]

**MINUTES OF A MEETING**  
**of the**  
**CACHUMA CONSERVATION RELEASE BOARD**  
**Held at the Montecito Water District Board Conference Room**

**December 4, 2025, 2:00 pm**

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**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by President Kristen Sneddon. Those attending the meeting were:

**Directors Present:**

Kristen Sneddon	City of Santa Barbara
Tobe Plough	Montecito Water District
Lauren Hanson	Goleta Water District

**Also Present:**

Ryan Drake	Dana Hoffenberg
Dakota Corey	Nick Turner
Peter Cantle	Scott Shapiro
Joel Mulder	Ali Taghavi

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the general public attended or sought to comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Plough moved, and Director Hanson seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 3-0 by roll call vote.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**RA-1, Water Board and Consultation Update.** Regarding the Water Rights Order, executive director Cantle advised the board that Reclamation has the Local Interests' coordinated comments on the State Water Board's conditional approval of Reclamation's Term 20 plan under review. Reclamation will develop a response letter; CCRB has offered assistance in doing so.

Regarding federal Consultation, Cantle advised the board that Reclamation's acting Area Manager reaffirmed the agency's interest in a collaborative process to complete and finalize the Cachuma Project Biological Assessment. A final BA is necessary to initiate formal Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. CCRB and other stakeholders identified their respective partici-

pants in the BA review and development process, with CCRB providing management and coordination assistance to Reclamation's staff. Reclamation also distributed to Local Interests the latest existing draft chapters of the BA, which will be brought current to reflect Cachuma Project operations and status.

**RA-2, Executive Director's Report.** There was no Director's Report.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The board went into closed session at 2:19 pm. The board came out of closed session at 3:29 pm with no reportable actions.

**REGULAR AGENDA – CONT.**

**RA-3, Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings.** President Sneddon requested that a future agenda include discussion of CCRB policies, in particular how issues are elevated and who is to speak on CCRB's behalf.

**RA-4, Confirm Next Meeting(s) and Adjourn.** The next meeting of the CCRB board was set for 2 pm Thursday, January 8, 2026 at the Goleta Water District, with the potential to cancel and defer the next meeting to February 6 at the Goleta Water District.

President Sneddon then adjourned the meeting at 3:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Carter", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Secretary to the Board



Cachuma Conservation  
Release Board  
**Board of Directors**

City of Santa Barbara  
Goleta Water District  
Montecito Water District

**For Agenda Of:** February 6, 2025  
**Estimated Time:** (Consent)  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board Members  
**FROM:** Peter Cantle, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** CA-2: Unaudited Interim Financial Report for Period Ending November 30, 2025

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**Legal Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions**

Receive and file an unaudited interim Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2025.

**Discussion**

The Board of Directors approves the CCRB budget each fiscal year. Upon subsequent approval by each Member Agency's governing body, it becomes CCRB's operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Through the fiscal year, the Board receives monthly unaudited financial reports to compare fiscal performance against the adopted budget. This report addresses the period ending November 30, 2025.

**Fiscal Analysis**

The approved FY25/26 budget is \$1,455,000.00. CCRB Member Agencies are billed quarterly for their pro-rata contributions to the approved budget. Total income through November 30, 2025 was \$727,500.00, reflecting receipt of first-quarter and second-quarter payments from each Member Agency. Total expenditures of \$209,619.79 through November 30, 2025 reflect costs incurred for legal, technical, management and administrative services.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: Unaudited Interim Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2025

**Authored by**

Peter Cantle, Executive Director

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**UNAUDITED INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE  
PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

**Cachuma Conservation Release Board**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expense- Budget vs. Actual**  
**July through November 2025**

	<u>Jul - Nov 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4200 · Income</b>	727,500.00	1,455,000.00	-727,500.00	50.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>727,500.00</b>	1,455,000.00	-727,500.00	50.0%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>5050 · Office Lease</b>	4,174.50	5,000.00	-825.50	83.5%
<b>5100 · Audit</b>	14,000.00	15,000.00	-1,000.00	93.3%
<b>5200 · Liability Insurance</b>	1,850.38	7,000.00	-5,149.62	26.4%
<b>5301 · Managers Salary</b>				
5301.01 · Managers Gross Wages	82,500.00			
5301.02 · Employer Tax Expense	6,373.65			
5301 · Managers Salary - Other	0.00	210,000.00	-210,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5301 · Managers Salary</b>	88,873.65	210,000.00	-121,126.35	42.3%
<b>5304 · Administrative Support</b>	2,921.18	16,000.00	-13,078.82	18.3%
<b>5312 · Misc Admin Expense</b>	1,274.00	4,000.00	-2,726.00	31.9%
<b>5313 · Communications/Computer</b>	1,292.13	8,000.00	-6,707.87	16.2%
<b>5316 · Admin Fixed Assets</b>	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%
<b>5330 · Admin Travel Expense</b>	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%
<b>5331 · Travel Federal &amp; State Meetings</b>	0.00	12,000.00	-12,000.00	0.0%
<b>5332 · Transportation</b>	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
<b>6500 · Contingency</b>	0.00	51,000.00	-51,000.00	0.0%
<b>7000 · Legal</b>	4,940.00	75,000.00	-70,060.00	6.6%
<b>7001 · BO Reconsultation Legal Support</b>	60,161.25	447,000.00	-386,838.75	13.5%
<b>7002 · SWRCB Water Rights</b>	30,132.70	501,000.00	-470,867.30	6.0%
<b>7100 · SWRCB Support</b>				
7200 · SWRCB Proceedings Support	0.00	44,000.00	-44,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 7100 · SWRCB Support</b>	0.00	44,000.00	-44,000.00	0.0%
<b>7500 · Hydrologic Technical Support</b>	0.00	51,000.00	-51,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>209,619.79</b>	1,455,000.00	-1,245,380.21	14.4%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	517,880.21	0.00	517,880.21	100.0%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>517,880.21</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>517,880.21</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

3:08 PM

12/10/25

**Cachuma Conservation Release Board**  
**Reconciliation Summary**  
1020 · CWB - Chkg #7204, Period Ending 11/30/2025

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	<u>Nov 30, 25</u>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	412,775.40
<b>Cleared Transactions</b>	
Checks and Payments - 7 items	-30,684.81
Deposits and Credits - 2 items	215,049.00
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	<u>184,364.19</u>
<b>Cleared Balance</b>	<u><u>597,139.59</u></u>
<b>Uncleared Transactions</b>	
Checks and Payments - 5 items	-81,556.92
<b>Total Uncleared Transactions</b>	<u>-81,556.92</u>
<b>Register Balance as of 11/30/2025</b>	<u><u>515,582.67</u></u>
<b>New Transactions</b>	
Checks and Payments - 1 item	-7,703.96
<b>Total New Transactions</b>	<u>-7,703.96</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<u><u>507,878.71</u></u>



OK

Dec 17, 2025

**Cachuma Conservation Release Board**  
**Reconciliation Detail**  
**1020 · CWB - Chkg #7204, Period Ending 11/30/2025**

Type	Date	Num	Name	Clr	Amount	Balance
<b>Beginning Balance</b>						412,775.40
<b>Cleared Transactions</b>						
<b>Checks and Payments - 7 items</b>						
Bill Pmt -Check	10/28/2025		Downey Brand Attor...	X	-12,001.25	-12,001.25
Bill Pmt -Check	10/28/2025		California Special Di...	X	-1,872.00	-13,873.25
Bill Pmt -Check	10/28/2025		AccountabilityPlus, Inc	X	-438.42	-14,311.67
Bill Pmt -Check	10/28/2025		Peter Cattle	X	-291.32	-14,602.99
Bill Pmt -Check	10/28/2025		CIO Solutions LP	X	-25.00	-14,627.99
General Journal	11/12/2025			X	-8,149.31	-22,777.30
General Journal	11/26/2025			X	-7,907.51	-30,684.81
Total Checks and Payments					-30,684.81	-30,684.81
<b>Deposits and Credits - 2 items</b>						
Payment	11/04/2025		Goleta Water District	X	167,434.00	167,434.00
Payment	11/20/2025		Montecito Water Dist...	X	47,615.00	215,049.00
Total Deposits and Credits					215,049.00	215,049.00
Total Cleared Transactions					184,364.19	184,364.19
Cleared Balance					184,364.19	597,139.59
<b>Uncleared Transactions</b>						
<b>Checks and Payments - 5 items</b>						
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		Downey Brand Attor...		-66,572.70	-66,572.70
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		Nasif Hicks Harris & ...		-14,000.00	-80,572.70
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		AccountabilityPlus, Inc		-725.80	-81,298.50
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		Peter Cattle		-233.42	-81,531.92
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		CIO Solutions LP		-25.00	-81,556.92
Total Checks and Payments					-81,556.92	-81,556.92
Total Uncleared Transactions					-81,556.92	-81,556.92
Register Balance as of 11/30/2025					102,807.27	515,582.67
<b>New Transactions</b>						
<b>Checks and Payments - 1 item</b>						
General Journal	12/10/2025				-7,703.96	-7,703.96
Total Checks and Payments					-7,703.96	-7,703.96
Total New Transactions					-7,703.96	-7,703.96
<b>Ending Balance</b>					<b>95,103.31</b>	<b>507,878.71</b>



**OK**  
**Dec 17, 2025**



Cachuma Conservation  
Release Board  
**Board of Directors**

City of Santa Barbara  
Goleta Water District  
Montecito Water District

**For Agenda Of:** February 6, 2025  
**Estimated Time:** (Consent)  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board Members  
**FROM:** Peter Cantle, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** CA-2: Unaudited Interim Financial Report for Period Ending December 31, 2025

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**Legal Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions**

Receive and file an unaudited interim Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2025.

**Discussion**

The Board of Directors approves the CCRB budget each fiscal year. Upon subsequent approval by each Member Agency's governing body, it becomes CCRB's operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Through the fiscal year, the Board receives monthly unaudited financial reports to compare fiscal performance against the adopted budget. This report addresses the period ending December 31, 2025.

**Fiscal Analysis**

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**Attachments**

Attachment 1: Unaudited Interim Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2025

**Authored by**

Peter Cantle, Executive Director

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**UNAUDITED INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE  
PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025**

**Cachuma Conservation Release Board**  
**Statement of Revenue and Expense- Budget vs. Actual**  
**July through December 2025**

	<u>Jul - Dec 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4200 · Income</b>	727,500.00	1,455,000.00	-727,500.00	50.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>727,500.00</b>	1,455,000.00	-727,500.00	50.0%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>5050 · Office Lease</b>	4,174.50	5,000.00	-825.50	83.5%
<b>5100 · Audit</b>	14,000.00	15,000.00	-1,000.00	93.3%
<b>5200 · Liability Insurance</b>	1,850.38	7,000.00	-5,149.62	26.4%
<b>5301 · Managers Salary</b>				
<b>5301.01 · Managers Gross Wages</b>	97,500.00			
<b>5301.02 · Employer Tax Expense</b>	6,630.45			
<b>5301 · Managers Salary - Other</b>	0.00	210,000.00	-210,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5301 · Managers Salary</b>	104,130.45	210,000.00	-105,869.55	49.6%
<b>5304 · Administrative Support</b>	3,280.18	16,000.00	-12,719.82	20.5%
<b>5312 · Misc Admin Expense</b>	1,483.02	4,000.00	-2,516.98	37.1%
<b>5313 · Communications/Computer</b>	1,550.55	8,000.00	-6,449.45	19.4%
<b>5316 · Admin Fixed Assets</b>	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%
<b>5330 · Admin Travel Expense</b>	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%
<b>5331 · Travel Federal &amp; State Meetings</b>	0.00	12,000.00	-12,000.00	0.0%
<b>5332 · Transportation</b>	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
<b>6500 · Contingency</b>	0.00	51,000.00	-51,000.00	0.0%
<b>7000 · Legal</b>	5,915.00	75,000.00	-69,085.00	7.9%
<b>7001 · BO Reconsultation Legal Support</b>	66,532.50	447,000.00	-380,467.50	14.9%
<b>7002 · SWRCB Water Rights</b>	43,907.70	501,000.00	-457,092.30	8.8%
<b>7100 · SWRCB Support</b>				
<b>7200 · SWRCB Proceedings Support</b>	0.00	44,000.00	-44,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 7100 · SWRCB Support</b>	0.00	44,000.00	-44,000.00	0.0%
<b>7500 · Hydrologic Technical Support</b>	0.00	51,000.00	-51,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>246,824.28</b>	1,455,000.00	-1,208,175.72	17.0%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	480,675.72	0.00	480,675.72	100.0%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>480,675.72</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>480,675.72</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

3:32 PM

01/21/26

**Cachuma Conservation Release Board**  
**Reconciliation Summary**  
1020 · CWB - Chkg #7204, Period Ending 12/31/2025

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	<u>Dec 31, 25</u>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	597,139.59
<b>Cleared Transactions</b>	
Checks and Payments - 9 items	-97,615.16
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	-97,615.16
<b>Cleared Balance</b>	<u><u>499,524.43</u></u>
<b>Uncleared Transactions</b>	
Checks and Payments - 2 items	-21,146.25
<b>Total Uncleared Transactions</b>	-21,146.25
<b>Register Balance as of 12/31/2025</b>	<u><u>478,378.18</u></u>
<b>New Transactions</b>	
Checks and Payments - 2 items	-8,484.52
<b>Total New Transactions</b>	-8,484.52
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<u><u>469,893.66</u></u>



OK  
Jan 22, 2026

**Cachuma Conservation Release Board**  
**Reconciliation Detail**  
1020 · CWB - Chkg #7204, Period Ending 12/31/2025

Type	Date	Num	Name	Clr	Amount	Balance
<b>Beginning Balance</b>						597,139.59
<b>Cleared Transactions</b>						
<b>Checks and Payments - 9 items</b>						
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		Downey Brand Attor...	X	-66,572.70	-66,572.70
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		Nasif Hicks Harris & ...	X	-14,000.00	-80,572.70
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		AccountabilityPlus, Inc	X	-725.80	-81,298.50
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		Peter Cattle	X	-233.42	-81,531.92
Bill Pmt -Check	11/20/2025		CIO Solutions LP	X	-25.00	-81,556.92
General Journal	12/10/2025			X	-7,703.96	-89,260.88
Bill Pmt -Check	12/19/2025		AccountabilityPlus, Inc	X	-359.00	-89,619.88
Bill Pmt -Check	12/19/2025		Peter Cattle	X	-291.32	-89,911.20
General Journal	12/24/2025			X	-7,703.96	-97,615.16
Total Checks and Payments					-97,615.16	-97,615.16
Total Cleared Transactions					-97,615.16	-97,615.16
Cleared Balance					-97,615.16	499,524.43
<b>Uncleared Transactions</b>						
<b>Checks and Payments - 2 items</b>						
Bill Pmt -Check	12/19/2025		Downey Brand Attor...		-21,121.25	-21,121.25
Bill Pmt -Check	12/19/2025		CIO Solutions LP		-25.00	-21,146.25
Total Checks and Payments					-21,146.25	-21,146.25
Total Uncleared Transactions					-21,146.25	-21,146.25
Register Balance as of 12/31/2025					-118,761.41	478,378.18
<b>New Transactions</b>						
<b>Checks and Payments - 2 items</b>						
General Journal	01/07/2026				-7,317.21	-7,317.21
Check	01/09/2026		CalPERS 457 Plan		-1,167.31	-8,484.52
Total Checks and Payments					-8,484.52	-8,484.52
Total New Transactions					-8,484.52	-8,484.52
<b>Ending Balance</b>					<b>-127,245.93</b>	<b>469,893.66</b>

*MC*  
OK

Jan 22, 2026



Cachuma Conservation  
Release Board  
Agenda Letter

**Board of Directors**

City of Santa Barbara

Goleta Water District

Montecito Water District

**For Agenda Of:** February 6, 2026

**Estimated Time :** 10 minutes

**Continued Item:** No

**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board Members  
**FROM:** Peter Cantle, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Item RA-1: Consider Adopting a Resolution to Increase Flexibility Under the Brown Act

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**Legal Concurrence**

As to form: Yes.

**Recommended Actions**

Consider adopting a resolution that may allow CCRB increased flexibility under the Brown Act.

**Summary**

On October 3, 2025, Governor Newsom signed SB707 into law. The Bill makes substantial changes to the Brown Act for certain kinds of public agencies, as well as some more modest changes for joint powers agencies such as CCRB. By adopting a resolution opting in to the legislative changes, CCRB may have more flexibility in the noticing and holding of future meetings.

**Discussion**

The Ralph M. Brown Act was enacted to make public agency meetings more open and transparent. The Act requires that meetings be noticed for the public; that, with rare exceptions, they be held in an open manner so that the public may attend; and, that all Board members attend in person with a quorum of the agency sitting together in one place. Recent legislative changes, designed to recognize the public's ability to participate in virtual meetings, offer slightly more flexibility in how certain public agencies hold those meetings. While the changes in SB707 are extensive for certain agencies, the changes are more modest for CCRB as a JPA.

By adopting a resolution opting in to those changes, CCRB will have slightly more flexibility in how it complies with the Brown Act going forward. Here is a summary of SB707 changes:

- For all meetings of the Board members, a quorum of Board members must be in person at public meetings at one or more locations within the boundaries of the JPA. Thus, as written, CCRB could elect to hold its public meetings in multiple locations (e.g., Goleta and Montecito) with some Board members in each location. This could create additional flexibility by not requiring all Board members to travel to a single, common location.
- Less than the quorum of Board members may participate remotely if the agenda says who they are and if they use audio and video. (This is different from the current requirement for remote participation,

where you need to include on the meeting notice the address at which the remote Board member will be attending and make that location available to the public.)

- A remote location is *not* acceptable if it is within 20 miles, one way, of one of the public meetings. While this is a new limitation, it may not have much practical impact as it is unlikely a Board member would participate remotely from such a close distance.
- Remote participation of Board members may only be used a limited number of times a year. For CCRB, which typically meets monthly, this limit is twice per year per Board member.
- Any Board member who is separately compensated for sitting on the Joint Powers Agency Board is limited in their ability to participate in a remote meeting.
- These new provisions sunset on January 1, 2030 unless extended by the Legislature.

As a practical matter, this section is not a radical change to the Brown Act. A significant benefit is that a remote-attending Board member no longer has to post his/her address and host the public at that remote location. However, the remote location must be at least 20 miles from a public meeting and the option may only be used twice per year per Board member. Another benefit is that a Board meeting may be held in multiple locations, although it is not clear how relevant that will be for CCRB. Opting in with the attached resolution creates little, if any, downside, and the approval creates the potential flexibility to use these new provisions in the event that special meeting arrangements are needed on a case-by-case basis.

These new provisions are in addition to the “good cause” exceptions for remote participation due to illness, childcare, and official travel, as allowed under Government Code section 54953.8.3. This section was also extended to expire on January 1, 2030.

### **Fiscal Analysis**

No significant fiscal impacts are anticipated from adoption of this resolution or implementation of related noticing and meeting practices.

### **Attachments:**

Draft Resolution 2026-1, Approving The Use of Special Brown Act Provisions Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8.7

### **Authored by:**

Scott Shapiro, Downey Brand law firm; with input from Peter Cantle, Executive Director

**ATTACHMENT 1**

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2026-1, APPROVING THE USE OF  
SPECIAL BROWN ACT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO  
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953.8.7

**CACHUMA CONSERVATION RELEASE BOARD**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE USE OF SPECIAL BROWN ACT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953.8.7**

WHEREAS, the Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB) is a multijurisdictional Joint Powers Agency providing services that benefit multiple member agencies; and

WHEREAS, CCRB is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act that helps to ensure open and transparent government; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature approved and the Governor signed AB 707 (2025) which creates alternative provisions, some of which are applicable to Joint Powers Agencies covered by the Brown Act; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953.8.7 has special provisions that can be adopted by a Joint Powers Agency such as CCRB; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution will allow CCRB to use the new alternative provisions of the Brown Act contained in Government Code section 54953.8.7 which will create additional flexibility for CCRB while not reducing CCRB's commitment to remaining open and transparent to the public; and

WHEREAS, by this Resolution CCRB desires to authorize the use of the teleconferencing provisions allowed under Government Code section 54953.8.7;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CCRB BOARD OF DIRECTORS DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Agency authorizes the use of the teleconferencing provisions allowed under Government Code section 54953.8.7.
2. Agency staff shall utilize the procedures allowed under Government Code section 54953.8.7 as appropriate to maximize involvement by the Board of Directors while still ensuring that CCRB meetings remain open and transparent.

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was approved at a duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cachuma Conservation Release Board held on February 6, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Kristen Sneddon, President of the Board

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Peter Cantle, Exec. Director & Board Secretary



Cachuma Conservation  
Release Board

Board of Directors

City of Santa Barbara

Goleta Water District

Montecito Water District

**For Agenda Of:** February 6, 2026

**Estimated Time :** 10 minutes

**Continued Item:** No

**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board Members

**FROM:** Peter Cattle, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Item RA-2: State Water Board Order and Federal Consultation Process Update

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**Legal Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions**

Receive a status update and potentially give direction regarding State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Order 2019-0148 and the federal consultation process underway with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and National Marine Fisheries Service.

**Discussion**

*Changes to the status of the regulatory actions in which CCRB is involved have occurred since the Board's last briefing. Updated information presented below is shown in underlined and italicized text.*

***State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Order.*** The Water Board approved Water Rights Order 2019-0148 (the Order) on September 17, 2019. The Order requires Reclamation, as permit holder, to: a) release additional water from Cachuma reservoir during wetter-than-normal years; and, b) develop plans and conduct studies to assess, among other things, the possibility of steelhead passage around Bradbury Dam, the benefits of the increased flows, other opportunities for habitat enhancement, and reduction of predatory invasive species in the watershed.

In October 2019, Reclamation petitioned the Water Board to reconsider two conditions imposed in the Order: 1) the requirement to consider a NMFS draft 2016 Biological Opinion in the plans and studies that the Order requires of Reclamation; and, 2) the steelhead passage study noted above. On June 18, 2024, the Water Board denied Reclamation's petition and required Reclamation to comply with the steelhead passage study requirement specified in the Order's Term 24(a). The Board's ruling directed Reclamation to produce: a passage study plan by mid-September 2024; quarterly progress reports beginning October 2024; and, a passage study report within 24 months of the June 18 decision. In September 2024, Reclamation timely submitted a passage study plan to the Water Board, and undertook a Value Planning Study (VPS) to identify possible passage options. CCRB and other stakeholders provided biological technical support to this effort. The final draft VPS report, including editorial input from stakeholders, is currently under review by Reclamation.

*Assistance with Plans Required by the Order.* At Reclamation’s request, CCRB has provided technical assistance in developing multiple plans required by the Order. This assistance is generally in the field of fisheries biology, with hydrology and legal regulatory input, as needed. To date, CCRB has worked with Reclamation primarily on plans required by Terms 20 and 24, which are closely linked within the Order. As a general matter, plans with which CCRB staff provides assistance are presented for CCRB board review before issuance to Reclamation.

Term 20 requires Reclamation to develop a plan for conducting multiple studies identified in Term 24 “and any other studies that may be necessary to determine the measures necessary to protect the public trust resources of the Santa Ynez River and keep the steelhead fishery in the Santa Ynez River in good condition at the individual, population and community level.” CCRB assisted Reclamation in drafting its Term 20 plan, which Reclamation submitted to the Water Board for review in March, 2020. The Water Board’s May 9, 2024 letter advised Reclamation that its response to the Term 20 plan would follow resolution of Reclamation’s reconsideration petition, which the Board denied on June 18, 2024, as noted above. Following the denial, Reclamation timely amended the Term 20 plan in September 2024, incorporating the VPS effort to evaluate passage [per Term 24(a)]. On August 4, 2025, the Water Board conditionally approved Reclamation’s amended Term 20 plan. In conditionally approving the Term 20 plan, the Water Board imposed several additional requirements that Reclamation must address, particularly relating to Terms 24(a)(passage), 24(b)(instream flow studies), and 24(c) (impacts of predation and non-native species on steelhead). CCRB convened with COMB and the downstream interests to coordinate review of the conditional approval, and took the lead in providing a coordinated response to Reclamation for its consideration. At this writing, Reclamation *has reviewed those comments and is developing a draft response* to the Water Board’s conditional approval.

In the fall of 2022, the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) installed a new stream gage on the Santa Ynez River upstream of the Highway 154 bridge, consistent with a Term 25 requirement, an action that was received positively by the Water Board. Reclamation incorporated use of the stream gage into a revised Term 18 plan (which addresses Reclamation’s compliance with the multiple flow requirements of the Order) and submitted the revised plan to California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and NMFS for review, as required by the Order. Reclamation received comments from both agencies and currently has draft responses to the agencies’ input under review. Additionally, the State Board’s May 9, 2024 letter requires the revised Term 18 plan to address CDFW’s asserted concerns about flow losses between the new gage location and a CDFW sampling location downstream of the bridge. CCRB and other interested parties provided Reclamation technical assistance, and on March 13, 2025, the State Board and CDFW received Reclamation’s letter responding to CDFW’s concerns. However, CDFW’s letter dated April 28, 2025 advised Reclamation that its stream loss concerns had not been sufficiently addressed. Reclamation has the matter under study and CCRB has again offered technical assistance. Submittal of a revised Term 18 plan that incorporates responses to NMFS and CDFW comments, including addressing CDFW’s flow loss concerns, will follow.

Storm events that began in January 2023 changed Cachuma reservoir’s Order-based water year classification from *below normal* to *wet*. This triggered the Order’s Term 19 requirement to evaluate the effectiveness of Table 2 flows at protecting public trust resources, as evaluated over five *wet* or *above normal* water years. At Reclamation’s request, COMB drafted a Term 19 framework and then worked collaboratively with CCRB and the downstream interests to create a draft Term 19 study plan. After review by personnel of all interested parties, the CCRB board considered the draft Term 19 study plan in October 2023. The plan was edited to address board input, reviewed by all interested parties and offered to Reclamation in December 2023. After engaging with CCRB and the downstream interests to update the study plan with newer information gained in

the watershed during the ongoing high flows, COMB submitted the updated plan to Reclamation in December 2024. Reclamation, COMB, CCRB and the downstream interests continue to engage in technical discussions to finalize a draft Term 19 plan for submittal and review by NMFS, CDFW and the Water Board.

As an outgrowth of the Term 19 plan development, CCRB staff analyzed Reclamation's modeled and actual water rights and fish releases as well as calculation methodologies of the reservoir's downstream water rights accounts. CCRB staff met with Reclamation, County Water Agency, COMB and Cachuma Member Unit representatives in November 2023 to present an analysis of the most recent four years of water releases from Cachuma reservoir. The essential finding of the analysis is that Reclamation is releasing significantly more reservoir water than is required to meet the downstream flow targets specified in WRO 2019-0148. Reclamation agreed with CCRB's analysis, and stated that "buffered" releases ensure the agency is never out of compliance with the Order's verbatim flow requirements. Reclamation committed to work to reduce the buffering as it gains more experience, particularly with the greater releases required under Table 2 flow conditions. In late September through November 2024, Reclamation incrementally reduced releases from the reservoir. As of February 15, 2025 due to drier hydrological conditions in the watershed, the Order's Table 1 flow requirements (5 cfs at Highway 154 gage; 1.5 cfs at Solvang gage) replaced the higher Table 2 requirements for reservoir releases. At this writing, significant recent precipitation has raised the reservoir elevation to its maximum capacity and Reclamation is releasing water to manage the lake level. Flows at the respective gages are considerably over the minimum requirements. Prior to these precipitation events, flows at the Highway 154 and Solvang gages were two to four times higher than required by Table 1 due to valve leakage, Reclamation's choice to buffer for compliance assurance, and a 4.3 cfs flow surcharge imposed by CDFW to account for that agency's assertion of stream flow losses in the vicinity of the Highway 154 gage (noted above). In mid-January, Reclamation replaced the 10" valve in Bradbury dam. The larger (30") valve replacement hardware is in the requisition process; valve replacement completion is targeted in 2027.

**Cachuma Project Section 7 Consultation Process.** In November 2019, Reclamation submitted to NMFS a Biological Assessment (BA) of a proposed action that CCRB and the downstream interests helped develop. NMFS responded to this BA in February 2020 with a detailed insufficiency letter. When Reclamation did not respond timely with information requested by the letter, NMFS terminated consultation on the proposed action.

On December 18, 2020, after working collaboratively with CCRB and the downstream interests, Reclamation submitted a revised BA to NMFS. This revised BA updated the November 2019 BA and used the Water Rights Order 2019-0148 flow regime, with some key modifications, as its basis. The BA is scoped to include other anticipated Reclamation actions, such as the long-term Master Service Contract and the COMB operations and maintenance contract. Reclamation tasked Stetson Engineering with producing hydrological modeling of specific scenarios in support of the revised BA. The modeling output was not ready by the submittal date; Reclamation thus submitted the BA to NMFS on December 18, 2020 without the hydrological modeling.

In early February through late April, 2021, CCRB staff and the downstream interests met with Reclamation and Stetson to review and understand the inputs and assumptions Stetson used to produce the hydrological modeling in support of Reclamation's revised BA.

On February 8, 2021, NMFS issued Reclamation an insufficiency letter identifying information NMFS would need to initiate formal consultation on the revised BA and its proposed action. NMFS required Reclamation to respond to the letter within 45 days. CCRB and the downstream interests assisted Reclamation with its March 18 response which addressed multiple issues identified in the letter. In addition to this March insufficiency letter response, Reclamation submitted to NMFS on April 30, 2021 an updated version of the BA addressing

insufficiency issues and incorporating the hydrological modeling discussed above. CCRB staff assisted Reclamation with updating the BA prior to its April 30, 2021 submittal.

Since submitting the updated BA in April 2021, Reclamation has continued to engage NMFS informally at a staff level regarding the BA and the proposed action prior to entering formal consultation under Section 7. CCRB has assisted Reclamation in refining project descriptions in the BA for which NMFS has requested additional detail. CCRB and Member Agency staff have also reviewed draft chapters 1-5 of the BA and provided editorial input to Reclamation.

In September 2025, Reclamation, CCRB and the downstream interests convened to identify what tasks, technical products and timelines would be needed to finalize and submit the BA to initiate formal consultation with NMFS. To assist this effort, CCRB provided a review and status summary to help focus new Reclamation staff on remaining BA tasks (e.g., the document's "effects analysis" will need to be redone), and reiterated an offer of assistance. Reclamation has stated that, due to recent staff reductions and workload, the agency will not complete the BA in the foreseeable future unless assistance from Cachuma interests is available. In October, 2025, Reclamation accepted CCRB's offer of project management support to help produce and finalize the BA so that the document may be submitted to initiate formal consultation. On November 18, Reclamation and Cachuma Local Interests met to arrive at a common understanding of current status and outstanding tasks and to initiate collaborative efforts to complete the BA. *At this writing, representatives from Reclamation and the Local Interests have been identified to work together to draft, complete and finalize the BA for submittal to initiate consultation, and the most recent draft chapters of the document have been distributed to these representatives for review.*

Reclamation has indicated it expects to seek continued technical assistance from CCRB and the downstream interests in responding to NMFS input once the BA is submitted and formal Section 7 is initiated.

Staff will continue to update the board with information as it becomes available on these regulatory matters.

### **Fiscal Analysis**

CCRB's budget covers staff and consulting support for the Water Rights Order and Consultation processes.

### **Attachments**

None.

### **Report authored by:**

Peter Cantle, Executive Director