



SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

SHANDON-SAN JUAN GSA

UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES August 13, 2025 Special Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD) and Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) held a special meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 9:00am at the Illy Lodge at Illy Sunnyslope Farms located at 3385 Truesdale Rd., Shandon, CA 93461. As a courtesy, virtual options were made available for public participation. The agenda and all supporting documents were posted at <https://www.ssjwd.org/agendas-minutes>.

I. Call to Order

Vice President Sinton called the meeting to order at 9:04am on Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

II. Roll Call

Directors Present: Marshall Miller
 Ray Shady
 Steve Sinton
 Matt Turrentine

Directors Absent: Willy Cunha

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Consent Agenda

The following motion was made by Director Turrentine, seconded by Director Shady, and passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

MOTION – Approve the minutes from the June 27, 2025 Board meeting and the Secretary/Treasurer’s Report dated August 8, 2025, as presented.

V. SSJWD Board Elections Update

Three candidates—Marshall Miller, Ray Shady, and Steve Sinton—have filed Declarations of Candidacy for the three elective offices to be filled at the upcoming general district election. As no petition requesting that an election be held has been filed with the District, the Secretary of the Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD), pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 10515 of the California Elections Code, will request that the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors appoint the three candidates to the office of Director prior to December 1, 2025, in lieu of conducting a general district election.

VI. Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) & SGMA Implementation Updates

On August 1, 2025, the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority’s (PRAGA) Board of Directors held a public hearing to consider the Proposed Groundwater Management Charge Program. The tabulated results indicated a majority protest, preventing implementation under Proposition 218. The PRAGA Board will evaluate alternative funding mechanisms and at a special meeting on August 18, 2025 at 1pm.

SSJWD Board Discussion – Key Concepts and Potential Next Steps for PRAGA:

- Budget/Operational Funds – It is anticipated that PRAGA will request gap funding from member GSAs to continue operations through the end of calendar year 2025. These interim contributions are critical to maintaining essential operations, including SGMA compliance activities, technical support, and administrative functions. The SSJWD Board suggested that PRAGA should refine its operational and SGMA compliance budget through the end of FY 2025–26 for clarity and planning.
- Leadership Structure – The Board discussed the need for a clearly defined structure outlining roles and responsibilities for the PRAGA Board, PRAGA staff, and member GSAs. Director Sinton suggested forming an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of representatives from SSJWD, EPCWD, and members of the public to help solicit feedback and develop recommendations.
- Community Outreach – There is a strong need for a clearly defined and robust communications plan. The SSJWD Board noted that PRAGA and its member GSAs would benefit from a cohesive and unified message that engages the community and communicates current status and future steps.
- MILR Program – For the initial phase, consider providing a way for irrigators to voluntarily enroll land that they plan to fallow and /or not irrigate into the MILR Program Registry.
- GSP Implementation Grant – The SSJWD Board expressed uncertainty regarding the status of GSP implementation grant funds, including what has been committed and spent to date. There are also questions regarding the status of specific grant-funded projects, including the MILR Program, Groundwater Level Monitoring Network Expansion, and the Domestic Well Mitigation Program. Director Turrentine will request that PRAGA staff present an update at a future PRAGA Board meeting to provide clarification.

VII. Discuss Potential Revisions to Approved SSJWD Budget for FY 2025-26

The approved SSJWD budget for FY 2025–26 does not currently include any financial contributions to the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA). It is anticipated that PRAGA will request gap funding from member GSAs to support continued operations through the end of the calendar year. A special PRAGA meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2025, at which this funding request may be discussed. No action was taken by the Board on this matter.

VIII. Consider Approval of Resolution 25-003 Authorizing Levy and Collection of 2025 Assessments

Vice President Sinton reviewed Resolution 25-003 authorizing the levy and collection of the District's Assessment for fiscal year 2025-26. SSJWD's assessment levels remain the same as the prior fiscal year: \$35 per acre for irrigated lands; \$0.11 per acre for non-irrigated lands; and \$7.50 for residences. The District's "de minimis" level is \$25.00. "De minimis" is defined as any parcel (or in the case of a landowner owning multiple parcels the collective parcels owned) where the total amount levied is less than \$25.00. The following motion was made by Director Miller, seconded by Director Turrentine, and passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

MOTION – Adopt Resolution 25-003 Authorizing Levy and Collection of Assessments for FY 2025-26, as presented.

IX. Consider Approval of First Amendment to Agreement between Tripepi Smith & Associates and the Shandon-San Juan Water District for Community Outreach/General Communications Support

On July 25, 2024, SSJWD approved a professional services agreement with Tripepi Smith & Associates for public outreach and communications services through July 24, 2025. SSJWD proposes extending the agreement through October 31, 2025. Director Turrentine reviewed the First Amendment to the Agreement. The original scope of services and monthly retainer remain unchanged. The following motion was made by Director Turrentine, seconded by Director Shady, and passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

MOTION – Approve the First Amendment to the Agreement between Tripepi Smith & Associates and the Shandon-San Juan Water District for General Communications Support, as presented.

X. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 8am.

XI. Adjourn

Vice President Sinton adjourned the meeting at 10:51am.

Accepted:

Stephanie Bertoux, Secretary
September 24, 2025