



SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

SHANDON-SAN JUAN GSA

UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES April 22, 2026 Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD) and Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 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 9:03am on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

II. Roll Call

Directors Present: Marshall Miller (arrived at 9:20am)
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 3-0 with a roll call vote. Director Miller arrived late and did not vote on this item.

MOTION – Approve the minutes from the February 4, 2026 Board meeting and the Secretary/Treasurer’s Report dated April 17, 2026, as presented.

V. Director’s Reports

A. No report.

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

- A. PRAGA held Stakeholder Workshops on March 12, 2026 to provide Basin landowners with the opportunity to get information on the Proposition 26 funding mechanism and provide feedback on fee structure and the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. Feedback from the workshop was shared at the March 25, 2026 PRAGA Board meeting.
- B. Key Discussions and Decisions at PRAGA’s March 25, 2026 Board meeting.
- Approval of PRAGA Budget for FY 2026-27
 - Direction to PRAGA Staff on Proposition 26 components and fee collection method
 - PRAGA will post the Draft Rate and Fee Study Report and a parcel-level list of proposed charges on its website on May 7, 2026
 - A Public Hearing is set for May 27, 2026 to consider fee adoption
 - Approval of GSP Annual Report for WY 2025

- C. Discussion of PRAGA Gap Funding: The Board discussed the potential for a six-month revenue gap if PRAGA elects to utilize the County tax roll method to collect fees in response to Proposition 26 requirements. While PRAGA has not made a formal request for additional funding from the GSAs, the Board discussed the potential funding shortfall and expressed a willingness to assist, if needed, to ensure continuity of PRAGA's operations and programs.
- D. Fallowed Land Registry: An update on the Fallowed Land Registry will be presented at the April 22, 2026 PRAGA Board meeting.
- E. The next PRAGA Board meeting is April 22, 2026 at 4pm.

VII. Overview of SSJGSA Groundwater Level Monitoring Network

Nate Page, Confluence Engineering Services, presented an overview of the SSJGSA Groundwater Level Monitoring Network. SSJGSA currently monitors 40 wells on a monthly basis, 14 of which are utilized by PRAGA to fill data gaps related to changes in groundwater in storage and the development of seasonal high and low groundwater contour maps (Spring and Fall).

Monthly groundwater level monitoring represents a significant line item in the SSJGSA budget. Mr. Page noted that wells within the monitoring network are currently measured four times during the month of August. Following discussion, the Board determined that measuring wells once during August is adequate.

The Board also expressed an interest in exploring potential opportunities to reduce groundwater level monitoring costs and optimize the monitoring network while continuing to address critical data gaps identified in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

VIII. SSJGSA/SSJWD Priorities and Draft Budget for FY 2026-27

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed priorities and draft budget for Fiscal Year 2026–27. Total proposed expenditures are \$195,646, including a 10% contingency. During the discussion, the Board expressed an interest in identifying grant opportunities, evaluating additional studies, and exploring potential recharge projects within the SSJGSA boundary. The Board directed staff to continue evaluating these opportunities as part of planning and budget development. The final Fiscal Year 2026–27 budget will be presented for consideration and approval at the June Board meeting.

IX. SSJWD Assessments for FY 2026-27

- A. SSJWD's assessment levels for Fiscal Year 2025–26 are \$35.00 per irrigated acre, \$0.11 per non-irrigated acre, and \$7.50 per residence. Based on the anticipated FY 2026–27 expense budget of approximately \$200,000 and the implementation of PRAGA's Proposition 26 fee, the Board expressed a desire to reduce assessment levels for Fiscal Year 2026–27.

Preliminary estimates indicate that an assessment rate of approximately \$18 to \$20 per irrigated acre could result in a balanced operating budget, with expenses funded entirely by current-year revenues, a modest surplus, and no draw on reserves. However, SSJWD does not currently have a projection of fallowed acreage within the District, which could impact assessment revenues. Agency-level accounts and reporting access to the Fallowed Land Registry are not yet available. The Assessment levels for FY 2026-27 will be discussed at the June Board meeting and levied at the July Board meeting.

- B. The Board discussed the potential procedures and assessment levels for fallowed acreage. While there was interest in establishing a separate assessment level for fallowed acreage, the Board acknowledged that, under SSJWD's existing Proposition 218 assessment structure, fallowed acreage would likely need to be classified as either irrigated or non-irrigated acreage for purposes of the Fiscal Year 2026–27 assessment levy. SSJWD will consult with legal counsel before making a final determination.

The Board also discussed documentation requirements for establishing fallowed status. SSJWD encourages

landowners to record fallowed acreage in the Fallowed Land Registry and would like to utilize the Registry as documentation and evidence of fallowing. If agency-level accounts and reporting access are not available, SSJWD may need to develop an acreage change request form and require supporting documentation to be submitted directly to the District. In that event, the Board discussed the potential need to develop a policy establishing the process, required documentation, and schedule for requesting acreage designation changes.

X. SSJGSA/SSJWD Board Vacancy

Director Cunha resigned from the SSJWD/SSJGSA Board effective March 25, 2026. The Board discussed the vacancy and expressed its intent to fill the position by appointment at a special meeting on May 13, 2026. Secretary Stephanie Bertoux will notify the County of SLO. A Notice of Vacancy will be posted in three locations throughout the District, on the District's website, and distributed via email to District landowners. District members interested in serving are encouraged to submit their name and resume to the District at admin@ssjwd.org no later than May 8, 2026.

XI. Appointment of SSJWD Officers

The Board discussed the officer positions of President and Vice President. Following the recent resignation of President Willy Cunha, Ray Shady was nominated to serve as President. Steve Sinton will continue to serve as Vice President. The following motion was made by Matt Turrentine, seconded by Steve Sinton, and passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

MOTION – Appoint Ray Shady as President and Steve Sinton as Vice President.

XII. Community Outreach

The Board discussed the importance of increasing SSJGSA's public outreach efforts and coordinating public relations and community engagement initiatives with PRAGA and other partner GSAs. Board members emphasized the value of consistent messaging, efficient use of resources, and a coordinated regional approach to stakeholder outreach and engagement.

No action was taken on this item.

XII. LAFCO Run Off Election

Two candidates are vying for the LAFCO Special District Alternate Seat – Owen Davis and John Joyce. Ballots are due May 29, 2026. No action was taken on this item.

XIV. Next Meeting

A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 9am.

XV. Adjourn

Vice President Sinton adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

Accepted:

Stephanie Bertoux, Secretary
June 18, 2026