

**ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 15, 2025 NBWRA BOARD MINUTES**

**Action Requested:**

Approval of Minutes.

**North Bay Water Reuse Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 15, 2025**

**FINAL**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair David Rabbit called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025. This meeting was a Zoom only meeting. Meeting participants and the public participated via the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87256632888>.

**2. Roll Call**

**PRESENT:**

David Rabbit, Chair	Sonoma Water
Larry Russell, Vice Chair	Marin Municipal Water District
Amber Manfree	Napa County
Belia Ramos	Napa County
Kevin Booker	Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District
Gary Robards	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitation District
Dennis Rodoni	Marin County
Scott Sedgley	Napa Sanitation District
John Shribbs	City of Petaluma
Mark Joseph	American Canyon

**ABSENT:**

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:**

Rene Guillen	Brown & Caldwell
Seema Cheval	Brown & Caldwell
Brad Elliott	Sonoma Water
Abe Byun	Sonoma Water
Judd Goodman	Marin County
Oriana Hart	City of Petaluma
Mark Millan	Data Instincts
Jim O'Toole	ESA
Curtis Paxton	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitation District
Chelsea Thompson	City of Petaluma
Tony Williams	North Marin Water District
Mary Robart	North Marin Water District
Paul Sellier	Marin Municipal Water District
Andrew Damron	Napa San District

### **3. Public Comments**

There were no members of the public.

### **4. Introductions**

Board Members and staff made introductions. NMWD General Manager Tony Williams provided a brief overview of the NMWD Administration Building Remodel.

### **5. Board Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2025**

The minutes of June 30, 2025 were reviewed, Director Gary Robards motioned to approve the minutes. Director Jack Baker seconded the motion. The motion was then approved unanimously by the Board by voice vote.

### **6. Report from the Chair**

Chair Rabbitt moved to reports from the Technical Advisor Committee, Item No. 6.a and Consultant Progress Reports, Item No. 6.b.

#### **6.a Report from the Technical Advisory Committee**

TAC Chair Kevin Booker provided an overview of plans to update the MOU, which has not been updated since 2017. Kevin indicated that the TAC was reviewing potential modifications to the MOU, and it was anticipated that a revised MOU would be brought back to the NBWRA Board with a target for the September 2026 board meeting. Kevin referred Board Members to the TAC meeting minutes, which are included in the agenda packet.

#### **6.b Consultant Progress Reports**

The consultant progress reports were included in the packet. This was an information item requiring no action by the Board.

### **7. Financial Reports for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 and June 30, 2026.**

Program Manager Jim O'Toole referred the Board to summary documents provided by Sonoma Water for fiscal year 2026/27. Brad Elliot of Sonoma Water introduced Abe Byun as the new financial analyst for the NBWRA.

### **8. Status of Phase 2, Financial Capability Analysis Report, and NEPA Process**

Rene Guillen, Brown and Caldwell provided an overview of the status of NBWRA's Title XIV funding, indicating that the focus has been on identifying funding opportunities for projects identified in the Feasibility Study. \$6.9 million was awarded to the City of Petaluma, and agreements are in place with Reclamation for that funding. Rene indicated that the team continues to track pending WaterSMART grant application process, and is also reviewing Proposition 4 opportunities and referenced a presentation on funding later in the agenda.

### **9. Resilience Arena Projects Status Reports**

Rene Guillen provided an overview of the resilience arenas; for the Recycled Water Arena, Rene referenced the Item 8 discussion regarding pursuit of recycled water opportunities. For the Drought Contingency Arena, Rene provided an overview of the teams approach to leveraging previous work conducted by Sonoma Water and others to align with Reclamation's Drought Contingency Program, including preparation of a gap analysis and executive summary to position for DCP funding. For the Sea Level Rise Arena, Program Manager Jim O'Toole provided an overview of current status, indicating the team was working with the City of Petaluma to address comments regarding the downtown area. Jim

indicated that Sonoma County was moving forward with a Sub-Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (SSAP), and that the City of Petaluma would be participating in that County-led process. Jim provided an overview of discussions with American Canyon regarding participation in the NBWRA SLR Vision Process, and indicated that American Canyon would be pursuing their own SLR planning, likely in coordination with Napa County. Jim O'Toole discussed the potential for an Operational Landscape Unit (OLU) approach to SLR planning as a potential fit for NBWRA as an organization. Director Shribbs noted that the City of Petaluma had collected drone footage and photographic view points of recent king tide events along the Petaluma River, and that the North Bay Watershed Association was also in discussions regarding sea level rise.

## **10. Funding Opportunities**

Brown and Caldwell's Seema Chevan provided an overview of funding opportunities at the Federal State and local level that align with NBWRA's four resiliency arenas. Seema provided an overview of current federal and state funding opportunities, focusing on executive orders and their impact on funding priorities. She explained that while some funding programs may be paused or reduced, others remain available and are being redefined to align with the administration's priorities, such as emphasizing resiliency over climate change. Seema also discussed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding and potential risks to IRA dollars, noting increased interest at the state level. Finally, she highlighted California's Proposition 4, which provides \$10 billion over 10 years, with a focus on clean water, drinking water, and climate resiliency funding.

The group discussed Prop 4 funding, which appropriates \$3.3 billion for FY25-26, with specific allocations for water resiliency, coastal protection, and clean energy projects. Jim emphasized the importance of targeting lower-income communities and areas at high environmental risk, while Mark suggested leveraging their regional approach and unique characteristics to secure funding. They noted that while some programs are ready to release funds, the slow rollout is due to agencies developing guidelines and metrics. The group agreed to advocate for their projects with funding agencies and consider legislative advocacy in Sacramento.

The meeting discussed various funding opportunities for water recycling and sea level rise adaptation projects. Seema Chevan provided an overview of the Water Recycling Fund, which has \$386 million available, with \$150 million to be released this year. Seema emphasized that funding is on a first-come, first-served basis, with grants ranging from \$2 million to \$15 million. The group also discussed Coastal Conservancy grants, which range from \$100,000 to \$5 million, and the OPC program for sea level rise adaptation planning. On the federal side, Seema reported that while some Bureau of Reclamation programs may face funding challenges, the Title 16 WIN program is expected to receive \$30-40 million in the upcoming year, with project caps potentially increasing to \$40 million.

Seema discussed various federal and state programs available for funding water projects, including the California HMGP program and the BRIC program, which is currently under review due to litigation. She emphasized the importance of understanding these programs and identifying key benefits to present to decision-makers, particularly at DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board. Jim O'Toole and Mark Millan agreed that lobbying efforts should focus on advocating for smaller, regional projects and highlighting the severity of the water issues being addressed. They also touched on the success of the Soquel Creek Water District project in obtaining significant funding for its seawater intrusion mitigation project.

Program Manager Jim O'Toole indicated that identification of lobbying targets would be a good collective goal for the NBWRA and Board Member Maier indicated she would be interested in supporting lobbying efforts.

Rene Guillen indicated that funding opportunities are coming out in 2026, and Member Agencies should be reviewing projects and identifying those that are ready to move forward for Title XIV and Proposition 4 grant opportunities.

### **11. FY 2026-2027 Budget Consideration and Approval**

Program Manager Jim O'Toole provided an overview of the FY2026-2027 Budget, including funds for the consulting team, Program Management and Sonoma Water Administration. On a motion by Director Ramos and seconded by Director Roblard, the unanimously approved the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget and work program contingent upon approval of Member Agency's individual budgets.

### **12. Contract with ESA to Support MOU Revision**

TAC Chair Kevin Booker provided an overview of the anticipated process to update the NBWRA Memorandum of Understanding, which has not been revised since 2017, using discretionary funds. On a motion by Director Ramos, and seconded by Director Maier, the board unanimously approved the contract with ESA to support updating the MOU.

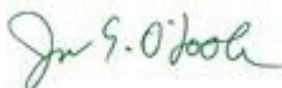
### **13. Comments from the Chair, Board and Member Agencies**

Mark Mullan mentioned several upcoming conferences and events related to water reuse and watershed management. Supervisor Rabbit indicated he attended the ACWA conference and will be on the ACWA Region 1 Board. Mark Mullan discussed several projects and cost increases being experienced, as well as recent governor's Mark Mullan also.

Director Shribbs indicated that the North Bay Watershed Association recently completed its small grants program distribution, totaling approximately \$120,000, distributed as \$5-10,000 grants to support educational programs for watersheds.

There being no further business, Chair Rabbitt adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.

Minutes approved by the Board \_\_\_\_\_ **FINAL** \_\_\_\_\_.



Jim O'Toole  
Program Manager