



WATER COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026

MINUTES

Monday, April 27, 2026

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Hearing Room

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Don Langley called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

PRESENT: Vice Chair, Don Langley (Dist. I)
Regular Member, James Eklund (Dist. I) (remote)
Regular Member, Clark Hammelman (Dist. II)
Regular Member, Jim Maras (Dist. II)
Regular Member, Roger Hudson (Dist. III) (remote)
Regular Member, Harold Smethills (Dist. III)
Regular Member, Evan Ela (Dist. III)
Regular Member, Mickey Conway (Dist. III) (remote)
At-Large, Tricia Bernhardt
At-Large, Sean Tonner (remote)

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Don Langley asked for comments or a motion to approve the March 23 and March 30, 2026, Water Commission Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Approve the March 23, 2026 Water Commission Meeting Minutes and amend the March 30, 2026 Water Commission Meeting Minutes to include in the second paragraph under item a - "protection of upper aquifers to be reserved for rural water users".

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Harold Smethills

SECONDER: Tricia Bernhardt

AYES: James Eklund, Tricia Bernhardt, Jim Maras, Clark Hammelman, William Conway, Harold Smethills, Don Langley, Sean Tonner, Rodger Hudson

NAYS: none

ABSTAIN: none

3. Referral Items for Possible Consideration – a “No Comment” will be provided for any and all items unless the Commission indicates otherwise

a. SB2026-010 – Sterling Ranch Filing 9A

No comment.

- b. SB2026-014 – Sterling Ranch Filing 6A, 2nd Amendment

No comment.

- c. US2025-019 – Country Palace, 3rd Amendment, Lot 1A-1A, 6th Amendment

No comment.

4. Discussion and Action Items

- a. Officer Election

Officer elections were conducted due to the departure of the previous chair. Vice Chair, Don Langley was elected to serve as Chair from this point forward. By consensus, Don was appointed Chair.

Evan Ela was elected to serve as Vice Chair from this point forward. By consensus, Evan was appointed Vice Chair.

- b. Attachment – Water Plan Updates and Interim Draft Water Plan Review – Forsgren Associates, Inc.

The presentation addressed focus group feedback from developers, private well owners, and water providers, results from the water provider survey, updated chapters of the interim draft plan, considerations on growth management, renewable water access, aquifer sustainability, reuse, landscaping, irrigation practices, long-term supply risks, and implementation challenges.

A question-and-answers session was held between the Commission and presenters. Questions discussed included: methods of integrating focus group feedback, demand reduction strategies, renewable water supply requirements for new development, hydrologic risks to rural wells, consolidation versus coordination among water providers, reuse expansion feasibility, aquifer storage and recovery limitations, interpretation of hydrographs and water-level data, and the need for measurable objectives and long-term implementation metrics.

5. Member Discussion

Water Commission members discussed holding a special meeting on May 11 to review Water Plan Chapter 10 prior to inclusion in the updated draft Plan.

6. Adjournment

Chair Don Langley declared the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.