



**Regular Meeting of the Water Conservation Garden Authority Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Water Conservation Garden Multipurpose Room**  
**12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, California 92019**

**OPEN MEETING**

**1. Call meeting to order and roll call.**

- a. The meeting was called to order at 3:41 p.m. by Director Hedberg, who chaired the meeting.
- b. Voting members present:
  - i. Kathleen Coates-Hedberg, President, Helix Water District
  - ii. Jose Lopez, Vice President, Otay Water District
  - iii. Lynn Neault, Secretary, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
  - iv. Ditas Yamane, Alternate, Sweetwater Authority
- c. Guests, presenters and staff members present:
  - i. Dan McMillan, Alternate, Helix Water District
  - ii. Delfina Gonzalez, Alternate, Otay Water District
  - iii. Lauren Magnuson, Water Conservation Garden
  - iv. Steve Zolezzi, Garden Volunteer Coordinator
  - v. Jennifer Bryant, Helix Water District
  - vi. Jessica Mackey, Helix Water District
  - vii. Tim Townsley, Water Conservation Garden
  - viii. Yaily Gonzalez, Water Conservation Garden

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

- a. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Approve agenda (additions and/or deletions).**

- a. **Motion:** Director Lopez moved to approve the agenda, and Director Yamane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**4. Public comments.**

- a. There were no public comments.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**5. The board approve the June 17, 2025, special board meeting minutes.**

- a. **Motion:** Director Lopez moved to approve the agenda, and Director Neault seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. The board approve the July 8, 2025, special board meeting minutes.**

- a. **Motion:** Director Lopez moved to approve the agenda, and Director Neault seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**7. The board receive an update on Garden operations and finances from Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson.**

- a. Ms. Magnuson gave an update on Garden operations, including event rentals, upcoming Garden events and June admission numbers. Director Neault noted GCCCD plans to start charging for parking. Ms. Magnuson thanked Rosalie Dosik, a 20-year Garden volunteer, on her generous donation. Community Programs Coordinator Yaily Gonzalez gave a brief description on the upcoming District Water Wave-In Day on July 26. Acting Administrator Brian Olney confirmed he would speak with the Garden and GCCCD legal counsel regarding proper insurance for the Garden. Kristen Kajero noted schools are gearing up for reserving school buses for field trips but will hold off on booking until insurance issues are resolved. Treasurer Jennifer Bryant reviewed the Garden's treasurer's report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**8. The board review and discuss the Updated Draft Guidance Plan to set direction for sustaining garden operations.**

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney gave an introduction on the Garden action plan and confirmed he would clarify the growth revenue on the plan. The board discussed how to properly promote various trade schools within the JPA's district areas.

**9. Director comments.**

- a. Director Lopez reported that the Garden admission tickets he received resulted in folks becoming members. Director Yamane encouraged Ms. Magnuson to reach out to Sweetwater Authority's public affairs department for additional outreach efforts. Director Gonzalez thanked the volunteers for their time and efforts for the Garden.

**10. President comments.**

- a. Director Hedberg reported that Padre Dam Municipal Water District Director Suzanne Till was interested in potentially becoming a WCGA member.

**11. Acting administrator comments.**

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney reported he would be sending the board an evaluation for Ms. Magnuson.

**12. Legal counsel comments.**

- a. There were no additional comments.

**13. Adjourn regular board meeting.**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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**Next meeting Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 3:30 p.m. at the Water Conservation Garden Multipurpose Room.**