



THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN AUTHORITY  
FOUNDED 1992

**Regular Meeting of the Water Conservation Garden Authority Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 23, 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 3:37 p.m. by Chair Neault.
- b. Voting members present:
  - i. Lynn Neault, Chair, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
  - ii. Steve Castaneda, Sweetwater Authority
  - iii. Dan McMillan, Alternate, Helix Water District
  - iv. Delfina Gonzalez, Alternate, Otay Water District (arrived at 4:05 p.m.)
- c. Guests, presenters and staff members present:
  - i. Lauren Magnuson, Water Conservation Garden
  - ii. Jeremy Jungreis, General Counsel, Rutan & Tucker, LLP
  - iii. Steve Zolezzi, Garden Volunteer Coordinator
  - iv. Brian Olney, Helix Water District
  - 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. Acting Administrator Brian Olney asked to move Item 7 to after the closed session item.
- b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the agenda with Item 7 to be moved to after the closed session item, and Director McMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Otay Water District absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**4. Public comments.**

- a. James and Mary Snyder presented their invention called the Spray Cannon, which was designed to address a problem caused by mandatory vacuum breaker valves installed on all outside hose bibs.
- b. Mary Jane Bailey noted Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson was nominated for the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce Women in Leadership event.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- 5. The board approve the July 22, 2025, regular board meeting minutes.**
  - a. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the agenda, and Director McMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Otay Water District absent.
  
- 6. The board approve the addition of a part-time Visitor Services and Membership Coordinator position.**
  - a. Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson reviewed the duties of the position and confirmed that the current staff splits these duties which pulls them from their current obligations; however, this position would allow for more assistance and additional revenue from memberships received, gift shop retail sale and admissions. Treasurer Jennifer Bryant noted that funds were available for this position for FY 2025-26 from \$230,000 of unbudgeted donations received in July and August. There were no public comments.
  - b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the agenda, and Director McMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Otay Water District absent.
  
- 7. The board approve the Director of Operations Employment Agreement between The Water Conservation Garden Authority and Lauren Magnuson.**
  - a. This item was reviewed after Item 16. The board approved an agreement for Ms. Magnuson with the terms as noted: the agreement runs from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, with a 13.9% to \$41 an hour, along with medical increase to \$500 and a provision to provide a potential bonus after evaluating the Garden's operating revenue at the end of the 2025-26 fiscal year.
  - b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the agenda, and Director Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- 8. The board authorize the Director of Garden Operations to obtain an insurance policy with Miller Insurance Services Limited for Sexual Molestation and Emergency Response Liability.**
  - a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney presented an overview of the insurance policy.
  - b. **Motion:** Director McMillan moved to approve the agenda, and Director Castaneda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Otay Water District absent.
  
- 9. The board adopt Resolution 25-06 approving the Water Conservation Garden Authority Youth Protection Policy.**
  - a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney reviewed the youth protection policy. Item 9 was approved prior to Item 8.
  - b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the agenda, and Director McMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Otay Water District absent.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- 10. 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 upcoming Garden events and July and August admission numbers. Ms. Magnuson thanked Maggie Barnett, a Garden volunteer, on her generous donation. Ms. Magnuson noted employees of the JPA member agencies would also be allowed for Water District Wave-In Day. Garden Volunteer Coordinator Steve Zolezzi reviewed July and August volunteer hours and gave an overview on volunteer policies. Treasurer Jennifer Bryant reviewed the Garden's treasurer's report.

**11. The board receive a letter of intent to withdraw from the Water Conservation Garden Authority from Sweetwater Authority received on July 28, 2025.**

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney presented this item. There were no additional comments.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**12. Director comments.**

- a. Director Neault confirmed the administration of Garden meetings would be covered with the current JPA president and asked what the process was for donor recognition. Ms. Magnuson confirmed the Garden has a donor wall along with other avenues of recognition.

**13. President comments.**

- a. There were no president comments.

**14. Acting administrator comments.**

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney reported the upcoming meetings for the rest of the year and noted a survey would be sent out regarding moving the November and December meetings.

**15. Legal counsel comments.**

- a. General Counsel Jeremy Jungreis noted he would like to bring a Garden event alcohol use policy and updates to the JPA agreement to the board at a future board meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**16. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS**

**Pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6**

**JPA Designated Representative: Board Secretary**

**Unrepresented Employee: Director of Garden Operations**

- a. Chair Neault recessed the meeting to closed session at 4:51 p.m.

**ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION**

- a. Chair Neault adjourned closed session and reconvened open session at 5:40 p.m.

**17. Adjourn regular board meeting.**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

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Tuesday, September 23, 2025  
3:30 p.m.

**Next meeting Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 3:30 p.m. at the  
Water Conservation Garden Multipurpose Room.**