



THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN AUTHORITY
FOUNDED 1992

Regular Meeting of the Water Conservation Garden Authority Minutes

Tuesday, October 28, 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 3:44 p.m. by President Hedberg.
- b. Voting members present:
 - i. Kathleen Coates Hedberg, Helix Water District
 - ii. Lynn Neault, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
 - iii. Steve Castaneda, Sweetwater Authority
- c. Guests, presenters and staff members present:
 - i. Dan McMillan, Alternate, Helix Water District
 - ii. Lauren Magnuson, Water Conservation Garden
 - iii. Jeremy Jungreis, General Counsel, Rutan & Tucker, LLP (attended via phone)
 - iv. Steve Zolezzi, Garden Volunteer Coordinator
 - v. Brian Olney, Helix Water District
 - vi. Jennifer Bryant, Helix Water District
 - vii. Jessica Mackey, Helix Water District
 - viii. Tim Townsley, Water Conservation Garden
 - ix. Yaily Gonzalez, Water Conservation Garden
 - x. Tenille Otero, Otay Water District

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

- a. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

- a. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the agenda and President Hedberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Otay Water District absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. Public comments.

- a. Rose Steinhardt asked for updates from the July 8 WCGA board workshop. Acting Administrator Brian Olney confirmed the agencies are working together to come up with more ideas and events to move the Garden forward.

ACTION ITEMS

- 5. The board approve the September 23, 2025, regular board meeting minutes.**

- a. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the September 23, 2025, minutes, and Director Neault seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Otay Water District absent.
- 6. The board approve a three-year contract extension with Rutan and Tucker, LLP, for as-needed legal services.**
 - a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney gave a background on the legal contract and reviewed the contract extension. Mr. Olney and Legal Counsel Jeremy Jungreis confirmed his general retainer fees are within the average range for legal services. The board thanked Mr. Jungreis for his services to date. Director Neault noted she is hesitant due to the higher rate of fees in regard to the East County region but would still support this contract extension approval.
 - b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the three-year contract extension, and President Hedberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Otay Water District absent.

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 upcoming Garden events and showed a butterfly artwork piece to acknowledge one of the Garden's donors. Garden Volunteer Coordinator Steve Zolezzi reviewed September volunteer hours. Treasurer Jennifer Bryant reviewed the Garden's treasurer's report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8. Director comments.**
 - a. Director Castaneda commented that things are looking good. Director Neault noted she was proud to sponsor Ms. Magnuson at the GCCCD's table for the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce Women in Leadership event. Director McMillan commented that Ms. Magnuson was well received at a recent Helix board meeting and commended Ms. Magnuson on getting a sponsor for the SDECCC First Friday Breakfast to be held on November 7.
- 9. President comments.**
 - a. President Hedberg reported on a San Diego Business Journal article regarding donations for the Garden, submitted by Ms. Magnuson. She also noted that Padre Dam Municipal Water District Director Rocky Qualin would like to make a donation to the Garden and agreed to forward the information to Ms. Magnuson.
- 10. Acting administrator comments.**
 - a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney confirmed the upcoming November WCGA meeting would take place on November 20.
- 11. Legal counsel comments.**
 - a. There were no legal counsel comments.

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12. Adjourn regular board meeting.

- a. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.