



**Special Meeting of the Water Conservation Garden Authority Minutes
Tuesday, December 9, 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 3:39 p.m. by President Hedberg.
- b. Voting members present:
 - i. Kathleen Coates Hedberg, President, Helix Water District
 - ii. Jose Lopez, Vice Chair, Otay Water District
 - iii. Lynn Neault, Secretary, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
 - iv. Steve Castaneda, 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. 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. Vice Chair Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- a. **Motion:** Director Lopez moved to approve the agenda and Director Castaneda 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 October 28, 2025, regular board meeting minutes.

- a. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the October 28, 2025, minutes, and Director Neault seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. The board approve the board meeting dates for calendar year 2026.

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney reviewed the upcoming board meeting calendar. The board agreed to the proposed meeting dates, with the change in date noted for the month of November. Director Gonzalez noted she would like to see upcoming Garden events reviewed during board meetings.
- b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the board meeting dates for calendar year 2026, and Director Lopez 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. Community Programs Coordinator Yaily Gonzalez reviewed upcoming Garden events. Director Neault reviewed Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District Center for Water Studies certification program requirements. Director Gonzalez requested seeing social media numbers in upcoming Garden updates. Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson gave an update on Garden operations, including amphitheater music venue use, an audit update, updated marketing vehicle for the Garden, new hire Guest Experience Coordinator Sarah Uran, and partner and community engagement. Garden Volunteer Coordinator Steve Zolezzi reviewed November volunteer hours. Treasurer Jennifer Bryant reviewed the Garden's treasurer's report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Director comments.

- a. Director McMillan commented Helix would like to see Ms. Magnuson's bonus moved up to the January/February agenda. Director Castaneda commended Ms. Magnuson, staff and volunteers on their hard work on the Garden, revenue generation and the Garden experience. Director Lopez thanked staff and the board for their work in keeping things moving in the right direction. Director Gonzalez requested Ms. Magnuson come up with a wish list of things needed for the Garden.

9. President comments.

- a. President Hedberg reported on the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce First Friday Breakfast event and a map from the County of San Diego regarding fire safety. She also thanked everyone for their hard work.

10. Acting administrator comments.

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney confirmed the January board meeting date and noted the event alcohol policy will be reviewed at that meeting.

11. Legal counsel comments.

- a. There were no legal counsel comments.

12. Adjourn special board meeting.

- a. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.