



**Regular Meeting of the Water Conservation Garden Authority Minutes
Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 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 3:34 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. Jeremy Jungreis, Rutan & Tucker
 - 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

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

- a. Chair Hedberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- a. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the agenda and Director Lopez 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 December 9, 2025, special board meeting minutes.

- a. **Motion:** Director Lopez moved to approve the December 9, 2025, minutes, and Director Castaneda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. The board adopt Resolution 26-01 approving the Water Conservation Garden Authority Event Alcohol Use Policy.

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney introduced the policy and General Counsel Jeremy Jungreis gave a brief background of the policy. Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson confirmed this will serve as the Garden's official policy. Director Neault requested a list of Garden events where alcohol is served.
- b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to adopt Resolution 26-01 approving the Water Conservation Garden Authority Event Alcohol Use Policy with a provision to authorize the director of garden operations to approve events with notification to the board, 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. Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson gave a brief background on founding member Susan Chambers, remembering Ms. Chambers for her work with the Garden. Ms. Magnuson also reviewed the Garden audit and admission information. Garden Volunteer Coordinator Steve Zolezzi reviewed December volunteer hours. Treasurer Jennifer Bryant reviewed the Garden's treasurer's report.

8. The board review the Garden 2026 Events Calendar.

- a. Ms. Magnuson reviewed upcoming Garden events.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Director comments.

- a. Director Neault requested a good faith plan to repay Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District for their loan to the Garden and asked for an agenda item for the February meeting. Director Castaneda requested the president to create a subcommittee to find opportunities for repayment. Director Lopez reported potentially partnering with the Center for Water Studies in regard to a scholarship committee he is on with another organization.

10. President comments.

- a. President Hedberg reported attending a mixer at the Heritage Museum and noted nominations for the East County Chamber of Commerce.

11. Acting administrator comments.

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney confirmed bringing a draft of the JPA agreement to a future board meeting.

12. Legal counsel comments.

- a. General Counsel Jeremy Jungreis reported the board may participate remotely per Senate Bill 707.

13. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

14. Adjourn regular board meeting.

- a. The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.