



**Regular Meeting of the Water Conservation Garden Authority Minutes  
Tuesday, April 28, 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 3:38 p.m. by Vice President Lopez.
- b. Voting members present:
  - i. Jose Lopez, Vice Chair, Otay Water District
  - ii. Steve Castaneda, Sweetwater Authority
  - iii. Lynn Neault, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
  - iv. Dan McMillan, Alternate, Helix Water District
- c. Guests, presenters and staff members present:
  - i. Jeremy Jungreis, Rutan & Tucker
  - ii. Lauren Magnuson, Water Conservation Garden
  - 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. Jessica Davis, 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 Castaneda moved to approve the agenda and Director Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**4. Public comments.**

- a. The Garden staff and volunteers thanked Acting Administrator Brian Olney and presented him with a carved gourd and hat for his dedication and support of the Garden over the last two years.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- 5. The board approve the February 24, 2026, regular board meeting minutes.**
  - a. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the February 24, 2026, minutes, and Director Lopez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- 6. The board authorize staff to distribute the Third Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement for the Water Conservation Garden Authority to the member agencies.**
  - a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney reviewed the changes and noted the agreement would be sent to the member agencies for their review and any additional redlines. Director Neault requested a redlined version of the current agreement from the previously approved agreement to be sent to the member agencies. Director Castaneda requested a deadline for agencies to review and return the agreement to Helix Water District Board Secretary Jessica Mackey.
  - b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to authorize staff to distribute the Third Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement for the Water Conservation Garden Authority to the member agencies, and Director McMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- 7. The board receive an update from Harold Bailey on the plant accessioning project.**
  - a. Harold Bailey gave a presentation on the plant accessioning project. Discussion ensued regarding the Plantsoon app being used to identify plants and the potential to add where to purchase the plants in the plant inventory database for visitors. The board thanked Mr. Bailey for his work on the Garden database. A public comment was made regarding the huge effort put into this project. Director Lopez requested the database be presented at a future meeting once it is live on the website. Director Castaneda left the meeting at 4:17 p.m.
  
- 8. The board receive an update on Garden operations and finances from Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson.**
  - a. Ms. Magnuson reported on updates to the interactive exhibits map and calendar on the Garden website; donations from San Diego Gas and Electric, and Rosalie Dosik; and gave an overview on Garden events. Garden Volunteer Coordinator Steve Zolezzi reviewed February and March volunteer hours.
  
- 9. The board review and discuss the updated and proposed agreement for the County of San Diego Watershed Protection Workshops with the County of San Diego.**
  - a. Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson and General Counsel Jeremy Jungreis reviewed the County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program Workshops contract and noted this is being worked on and will be brought to the board at a future board meeting.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **10. Director comments.**

- a. Director Lopez commented on the April 9 meeting and noted they did a wonderful job.

### **11. President comments.**

- a. There were no additional comments.

### **12. Acting administrator comments.**

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney noted the Third Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement would return in May once comments have been received, with final approval at the June board meeting.

### **13. Legal counsel comments.**

- a. There were no additional comments.

### **14. Adjourn regular board meeting.**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.