



July 28, 2026
Regular Meeting of Water Conservation Garden Authority
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.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approve agenda (additions and/or deletions).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. Public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

5. The board approve the June 23, 2026, regular board meeting minutes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. The board receive an update on Garden operations and finances from Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson.
7. The board receive an update on the Sweetwater Authority request to extend time to rescind withdrawal letter to August 12, 2026.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. The board discuss sponsorship, membership or other opportunities of collaboration with Fire Safe Councils and Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego.
9. Director comments.
10. President comments.
11. Acting administrator comments.
12. Legal counsel comments.

ADJOURNMENT

13. Adjourn regular board meeting.

Item 5



Regular Meeting of the Water Conservation Garden Authority Minutes

Tuesday, June 23, 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. Steve Castaneda, Director, Sweetwater Authority
 - iv. Lynn Neault, Director, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
- c. Guests, presenters and staff members present:
 - i. Delfina Gonzalez, Alternate, Otay Water District
 - ii. Ditas Yamane, Alternate, Sweetwater Authority
 - iii. Jeremy Jungreis, Rutan & Tucker
 - iv. Lauren Magnuson, Water Conservation Garden
 - v. Steve Zolezzi, Garden Volunteer Coordinator
 - vi. Brian Olney, Helix Water District
 - vii. Jennifer Bryant, Helix Water District
 - viii. Jessica Mackey, Helix Water District
 - ix. Timothy Parr, Helix Water District
 - x. Tim Townsley, Water Conservation Garden
 - xi. Yaily Gonzalez, Water Conservation Garden
 - xii. Tenille Otero, Otay Water District

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

- a. Director Gonzalez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney noted item 8 would be presented prior to item 5.
- b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Neault. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. Public comments.

- a. There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

- 5. The board approve the May 26, 2026, regular board meeting minutes.**
 - a. **Motion:** Director Neault moved to approve the May 26, 2026, minutes, and Director Hedberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 6. The board adopt Resolution 26-03 amending the Conflict of Interest Code of the Water Conservation Garden Authority.**
 - a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney confirmed the conflict of interest code requires County of San Diego approval and noted the Form 700s are filed online and also kept with the Garden files.
 - b. **Motion:** Director Castaneda moved to adopt Resolution 26-03 amending the conflict of interest code of the Water Conservation Garden Authority, seconded by Director Lopez. The motion passed unanimously.

- 7. The board recognize Neighborhood National Bank with a Community Appreciation Award for their support of the Garden and sustainable education programs.**
 - a. Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson recognized President Scott Andrews with a Community Appreciation Award for their support of the Garden and sustainable education programs.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 8. The board receive an update on Garden operations and finances from Director of Garden Operations Lauren Magnuson.**
 - a. Director of Operations Lauren Magnuson dedicated the Garden Firewise exhibit and the desert palo verde tree to Director Lopez. Ms. Magnuson also reviewed upcoming Garden events. Garden Volunteer Coordinator Steve Zolezzi reviewed the May volunteer hours. Ms. Magnuson introduced Guest Experience Coordinator Sarah Uran, who gave a brief overview of her job duties. Treasurer Jennifer Bryant reviewed the May finance report. Director Castaneda left the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 9. Director comments.**
 - a. Director Lopez thanked the board and staff for their recognition. Director Neault expressed gratitude to staff for their work and conservative approach. Director Gonzalez thanked staff for the great volunteer appreciation luncheon.

- 10. President comments.**
 - a. President Hedberg thanked staff for a wonderful volunteer appreciation luncheon.

- 11. Acting administrator comments.**
 - a. Acting Administrator Brian Olney thanked the board and everyone for their assistance and noted agencies will be receiving invoices for the new fiscal year.

12. Legal counsel comments.

- a. General counsel Jeremy Jungreis noted special districts are exempt from SB 707 and the memorandum of understanding is still out for review by all agencies.

13. Adjourn regular board meeting.

- a. The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

DRAFT



Item 7

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

505 GARRETT AVENUE
CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910
(619) 420-1413
FAX (619) 425-7469
www.sweetwater.org

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CARLOS QUINTERO
GENERAL MANAGER

June 28, 2026

Ms. Lauren Magnuson
Water Conservation Garden
Director of Garden Operations
Cuyamaca College
900 Rancho San Diego Parkway,
El Cajon, CA 92019

Dear Ms. Magnuson,

This letter serves as a request to suspend the intent of the Governing Board (Board) of the Sweetwater Authority's intent to terminate its relationship with the Water Conservation Garden until the Board convenes at its next regular meeting on August 12, 2026.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (619) 240-5643 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Carlos Quintero

Carlos Quintero
Sweetwater Authority
General Manager

cc: Director Steve Castaneda, Water Conservation Garden Delegate, Sweetwater Authority
Director Ditas Yamane, Chair of Sweetwater Authority

