ORDINANCE NO. 25-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGARDING INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District is organized and operates pursuant to Water Code section 74000 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the District's purposes include protection and conservation of water supplies and water rights within the District's boundaries; and

WHEREAS, water districts and agencies throughout California, including, the District, are statutorily authorized to pay compensation to members of their legislative bodies for attendance at board meetings, advisory and committee meetings, conferences and organized educational activities, and other types of occurrences and occasions that constitute the performance of official duties; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, the District's Board of Directors passed Resolution No. 461 which established the Director stipend at $75 per day. The stipend amount has not changed since 1985. Adopted and effective on January 25, 2006, Resolution No. 601 is the last resolution clarifying the per diem stipend of $75 per day, not to exceed six (6) days in any calendar month; and

WHEREAS, Water Code sections 20201 and 20202 expressly authorize the District to adopt an ordinance to increase the compensation received by members of the Board of Directors above the amount of $100 per day, and provide that such an increase in the amount of compensation may not exceed an amount equal to five percent (5%) for each calendar year following the operative date of the last adjustment, where no such ordinance shall authorize compensation for more than a total of 10 days in any calendar month; and

WHEREAS, in comparison to 1985, the scope and complexity of matters currently handled by the District's Board of Directors has substantially increased to include, by way of example and without limitation, issues related to: issuance and ongoing compliance with the 2000 Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for operation of the Cachuma Project and ongoing federal ESA re-consultation process beginning in 2013 between NMFS and USBR regarding Cachuma Project operations and pending issuance of a new Biological Opinion, to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts to downstream water rights and water supplies; ongoing work with various agencies and related proceedings and studies before the SWRCB relating to the District's role in conserving water in the watershed and administering downstream releases from Bradbury Dam pursuant to State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Order (WRO) 2019-0148 and related orders and agreements including WR 89-18 and the 2002 Settlement Agreement among the District, Improvement District No. 1, the City of Lompoc, and the Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB); groundwater charge rate setting complexity due to passage of Proposition 26 in or about 2010 and subsequent judicial opinions in the *City of*

Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation Dist. litigation; and passage of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and related and ongoing sustainable groundwater management work among multiple agencies and stakeholders relating to the District's membership in each of the three (3) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies formed to sustainably manage groundwater in the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin pursuant to SGMA; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding substantial increases in scope, complexity, and intensity of matters currently handled by the District, the per-day rate of compensation payable to the District's Board of Directors has not been increased for more than forty (40) years despite the specific authorization in Water Code section 20201 and 20202 to receive annual increases; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Water Code section 20203 and Government Code section 6066, notice of a public hearing to be conducted on December 16, 2025, to consider an increase in the per-day rate of compensation for the District's Board of Directors was published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District once a week for two successive weeks, with at least five days intervening between the respective publication dates, where such published notification was commenced at least fourteen days prior to the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Water Code section 20203 and Government Code 6066, a noticed public hearing was conducted on December 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the Buellton City Council Chambers located at 140 West Hwy 246, Buellton, California, to consider an increase in the per-day rate of compensation for the District's Board of Directors as reflected in this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District as follows:

Section 1. The District's Board of Directors shall be compensated at the rate of up to one hundred seventy-five dollars ($175) per day for attendance at board meetings and other occurrences as authorized by statute and as specified by written policies of the District's Board of Directors including in applicable resolutions, as may be amended from time to time, which compensation rate does not exceed an amount equal to a five percent increase for each calendar year since the date of the last adjustment and thus is below a rate that otherwise would be authorized by statute. Each member of the Board of Directors may receive compensation for up to and not exceeding ten (10) calendar days of service in a calendar month. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 1, a member of the Board of Directors may receive compensation for a total of only one (1) meeting or other occurrence per calendar day.

Section 2. This Ordinance, once effective, supersedes District Resolution No. 461 and Resolution No. 601, and any and all other prior actions by the District, pertaining to compensation of the District's Board of Directors.

Section 3. In accordance with Water Code section 20204, this Ordinance, shall become effective and have full force and effect sixty (60) days after the date of its adoption.

Section 4. Within ten (10) days following adoption of this Ordinance, it shall be published once in full in a newspaper of general circulation within the District, and the Ordinance shall be posted for at least ten (10) days in three (3) public places within the District.

Introduced and approved on 16 December, 2025, and passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, on this 16th day of December 2025 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Carpenter, Lahr, Marymee

NOES: Jordan

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Dunlap

Larry Lahr, President

ATTEST:

Amber Thompson, Secretary to the Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Steven Torigiani, Legal Counsel