



2026 San Diego Chapter Directors

Jose Martinez – President and Board Chair, *Otay Water District General Manager*
Rachel Mason – First Vice President, *Fallbrook Regional Healthcare District*
Elaine Sullivan – Second Vice President, *Leucadia Wastewater District Board Member*
Paulina Martinez-Perez – Secretary, *South Bay Water Board Member*
Richard Stevenson – Treasurer, *Sweetwater Authority Finance Director*
Jo MacKenzie – State CSDA Director/Legislative Rep, *Vista Irrigation District Board Member*
Jack Bebee – Past President, *Fallbrook Public Utility District General Manager*
Teresa Penunuri – Chair, Water Utilities Committee, *Santa Fe Irrigation District*
Jenny Diaz – Chapter Administrator, *Otay Water District*

MINUTES – January 26, 2026
Meeting held via Zoom

Present:

Jose Martinez	Jo MacKenzie
Rachel Mason	Jack Bebee
Elaine Sullivan	Richard Stevenson
Jenny Diaz	

Absent:

Paulina Martinez-Perez
Teresa Penunuri

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Chair Jose Martinez called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
- Minutes of October 27, 2025, meeting.
 - Presented for consideration and approval.
 - *First and second by Elaine Sullivan and Jo MacKenzie, respectively; motion carried out unanimously.*
- Items to be added to the Agenda – No items added.
- Treasurer’s Report (*Stevenson*)
 - The team reviewed the report, dated December 31, 2025. Rich reminded members of the \$2,500 speaker fund available for guest presenters.

- *First and second by Jo MacKenzie and Rachel Mason, respectively; motion carried out unanimously.*
 - Rich mentioned that Leah Harris, from the San Miguel Fire District, may be interested in succeeding him in November. The Board encouraged early engagement and onboarding.
- **State CSDA Report (*MacKenzie*)**
- Reported that Finance Corp's financings closed, totaling \$143 million at year-end 2025, one of the better years despite rising interest rates.
 - The trial membership began January 2026 and will run through June 2026. 15 trial members have signed up so far, including one in San Diego County.
 - Informed the group of the following upcoming events:
 - Special Districts Ledge Days: April 7–8, 2026, Hyatt Regency, Sacramento
 - Leadership Academy: May 11–14, 2026, in San Diego (Embassy Suites)
 - Annual Conference: August 24–27, 2026, JW Marriott, Palm Desert
 - Encouraged districts to pursue SDFL's Transparency and District of Distinction certifications.
 - Noted that AB18, which required public agencies to use .gov domains, failed in committee but may reappear.
 - Regarding CARB Exemptions, it was indicated that CSDA is leading the efforts to exempt emergency response vehicles from certain emissions rules.
 - Elaine noted the conflicting dates between the CSDA and WateReuse conferences; the Board acknowledged the conflict.
- **Membership Report (*Sullivan*)**
- Membership – No new member updates, but strong positive feedback from new attendees. Elaine encouraged the group to recruit peers and highlight new members during the dinner meetings.
 - Scholarships – Nothing to report.
- **Committee Reports**
- Grant Committee (*Martinez-Perez*) – No report.
 - Audit Committee (*Stevenson*) – The audit report for 2025 to be presented at the next meeting.
 - Nomination Committee (*Bebee*) – Nothing to report. The group indicated we may want to make a call for nominations earlier, around June/July. Rachel targeted as potential incoming Board President; Paulina likely to progress to Vice President.
 - Water Utilities Committee (*Penunuri*) – No report.
 - District News Updates (*Martinez-Perez*) – No report.
- **Quarterly Chapter Meetings (*Martinez*)**
- Rachel shared that the speaker for the February 19th dinner meeting would conduct a presentation on cybersecurity awareness. Program intended to be practical and accessible (phishing, email safety, etc.). The speaker is a local IT professional.
 - The February 19th dinner meeting social hour will be sponsored by Five Start Bank.
 - The group discussed the menu options and agreed to continue with the same selection.
 - The group discussed formalizing the sponsorship process, which included:
 - Currently, the sponsor only covers the social hour, and the tab is directly paid to the restaurant. The group's consensus was that it should remain that way to maintain

transparency, equitable recognition, and avoid burdening the district/chapter records with bar transactions.

- Consider including the option of a sponsorship of meals or desserts as an alternative (especially for companies prohibiting alcohol-related expenditures).
 - Allow for sponsors to receive acknowledgment by providing flyers/handouts, a PowerPoint slide with their logo, and perhaps a brief 3–4 minutes at the start of the meeting.
- New Business
- Chapter Website: Jose and Paulina to work on updating the chapter’s website content for accuracy.
 - SDLF Donation: The 2026 contribution will be \$2,026 (matching year format).
 - Water Utilities Logo: Work continues to rebrand from “COWU” to a new unified logo.
- Elaine thanked Rachel for consistently securing strong speakers that enhanced meeting quality and her board reports.
- Next Executive Board meeting is set for April 20, 2026, via Zoom.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Diaz