



**Board of Public Utilities
Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Thursday, March 5, 2026

1:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Galvin called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Present 6 - Chair Daniel Galvin III, Vice Chair William Arnone Jr., Board Member Lisa Badenfort, Board Member Duane De Witt, Board Member J. Matthew Mullan, and Board Member Glen Wright

Absent 1 - Board Member Robin Bartholow

2. REMOTE PARTICIPATION UNDER THE BROWN ACT (Gov. Code § 54953.8)

None.

3. STATEMENTS OF ABSTENTION BY BOARD MEMBERS

None.

4. STUDY SESSION

4.1 HELP 2 OTHERS PROGRAM UPDATE

Santa Rosa Water staff will present on the Help 2 Others (H2O) program which serves over 700 income-qualifying customers by offering financial assistance on the fixed portion of their monthly water and sewer service charges. Staff will provide an update on the program, an analysis of current and future funding, and proposed options for changes to the program to ensure program sustainability. The Board may discuss this item and provide direction to staff.

Kevin Buchanan, Budget and Financial Analysis Manager, presented and received Board Member feedback.

Santa Rosa Water and Real Estate staff answered Board Member questions.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

None.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

6.1 **FIX-A-LEAK WEEK 2026**

Staff will provide the Board with an overview of customer program and outreach efforts to promote “Fix-a-Leak Week”, including direct customer engagement at the Saint Patrick’s Day 5K race. The Board may discuss this item and give direction to staff.

Lisa Cuellar, Water Use Efficiency Coordinator, presented and answered Board Member questions.

7. CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Vice Chair Arnone, Jr., seconded by Board Member Badenfort, to approve Consent Items 7.1 and 7.2.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Chair Galvin III, Vice Chair Arnone Jr., Board Member Badenfort, Board Member De Witt, Board Member Mullan and Board Member Wright

Absent: 1 - Board Member Bartholow

7.1 **MOTION - RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE SUMMARY VACATION OF PORTIONS OF PUBLIC SERVICE EASEMENT**

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water and Real Estate Services that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, recommend that City Council, pursuant to California Streets and Highways Code subsection 8333(a), approve summarily vacating the portion of an unused public service easement that runs across four parcels (collectively, the “Subject Properties”) located at 1927, 1931, 1935 and 1936 Lyon Court, Santa Rosa, CA (Assessor Parcel Numbers 173-630-014, 173-630-013, 173-630-012 and 173-630-010, respectively); and authorize the Assistant City Manager to make non-substantive changes to the vacation documents, subject to approval by the City Attorney, and execute the vacation documents.

This Consent - Motion was approved.

7.2 **MOTION - RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL \$7,592,708.81 IN REGIONAL WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS**

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water and the Finance Department that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, recommend that City Council approve an increase in transfer appropriations in the amount of \$7,592,708.81 from the Regional Wastewater Enterprise Fund 1631 to the 2020 Wastewater Revenue Bond Construction Fund 1633, facilitating the replacement of Local Wastewater Enterprise funding currently supporting the expenditure budget for the Laguna Treatment Plant Disinfection Improvements Project.

This Consent - Motion was approved.

8. REPORT ITEMS

8.1 REPORT - SONOMA WATER 2026/27 WATER TRANSMISSION BUDGET AND RATE INCREASE

BACKGROUND: The City of Santa Rosa purchases approximately 95% of the water supplied to our customers from Sonoma Water, the region's water wholesaler. Sonoma Water is proposing to raise the wholesale rate of water by 8.21 % from \$1,400.86 per acre-foot to \$1,515.87 per acre foot. There is a Water Advisory Committee (WAC) made up of elected officials of each of the eight prime contractors, including Santa Rosa, that purchase water from Sonoma Water. The WAC is an advisory committee to the Sonoma Water Board of Directors. The City's WAC Representative is Council Member Natalie Rogers. On April 6, 2026, the WAC is scheduled to consider whether to recommend to the Sonoma Water Board of Directors Sonoma Water's proposed 2026/27 Water Transmission System Budget and Rate increase.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities consider Sonoma Water's proposed 2026/27 Water Transmission Budget and Rate increase and, by motion, make a recommendation to the City Council regarding Council's direction to its Water Advisory Committee (WAC) representative for the April 6, 2026 WAC vote on Sonoma Water's proposed 2026/27 Water Transmission System Budget and Rate increase.

Nick Harvey, Deputy Director - Administration, and Jake Spaulding, Finance Manager, Sonoma Water, presented and answered Board Member questions.

Board Member Mullan left Council Chamber at 2:22 p.m. and returned to Council Chamber at 2:24 p.m.

Board Member Badenfort left Council Chamber at 2:27 p.m. and returned to Council Chamber at 2:31 p.m.

A motion was made by Board Member Wright, seconded by Board Member Mullan, to approve the recommendation by Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities consider Sonoma Water's proposed 2026/27 Water Transmission Budget and Rate increase and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding Council's direction to its Water Advisory Committee (WAC) representative for the April 6, 2026 WAC vote on Sonoma Water's proposed 2026/27 Water Transmission System Budget and Rate increase.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Galvin III, Vice Chair Arnone Jr., Board Member Badenfort, Board Member Mullan and Board Member Wright

No: 1 - Board Member De Witt

Absent: 1 - Board Member Bartholow

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

None.

10. REFERRALS

None.

11. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (AND POSSIBLE BOARD DISCUSSION)

None.

12. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Member Badenfort reported that the Water Conservation Subcommittee met on February 11, 2026. Staff provided an overview of the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan, which will be presented to the BPU for consideration and Council for adoption in May and June. The Plan is due to the State by July 1st.

Staff also presented the 2026 Water Use Efficiency award

nominees and reviewed the upcoming Water Awareness Month activities. The four award nominees were unanimously approved by the Subcommittee and will be presented their awards at the May 12, 2026 City Council meeting.

Finally, Staff presented information on the State Water Resources Control Board's implementation of new regulations banning the irrigation of "non-functional turf." HOAs, Commercial, Institutional, and Industrial customers will be required to self-report to the state their compliance with the regulation in the next few years. The city is required to update our building code by the end of this calendar year. Significant outreach to affected customers has begun and is ongoing.

Board Member Wright reported that the Budget Subcommittee met on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 to do a first review of Santa Rosa Water's preliminary proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Water, Wastewater, Regional, and Storm water and Creeks operations and maintenance, capital improvement and debt service budgets. The Subcommittee will be reviewing the budget proposals again on March 18, 2026 to consider recommending the budget to the full Board for consideration prior to the BPU study session, which is scheduled to take place at the March 19, 2026 BPU meeting.

13. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Vice Chair Arnone reported on his attendance at a celebration for Santa Rosa Water, which marked one year without any sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

Board Member DeWitt reported on a housing forum that Generation H is presenting.

14. DIRECTORS REPORTS

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chair Galvin adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m. The next Board of Public Utilities meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.