

LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO
WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY



City of Lake Elsinore - City of Canyon Lake - County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District - Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

LESJWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2025

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Robert Magee, Chair, City of Lake Elsinore
Andy Morris, Vice Chair, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Brenda Dennstedt, Secretary-Treasurer, Santa Ana Watershed
Project Authority
Jeremy Smith, City of Canyon Lake

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Karen Spiegel, County of Riverside

**ALTERNATE DIRECTORS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

None

STAFF PRESENT

Erika Beyer, Rick Whetsel, Karen Williams, Zyanya Ramirez

The Regular Board of Directors meeting of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Magee on behalf of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority, at 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Robert Magee, Chair)

2. ROLL CALL

An oral roll call was noted and recorded by the Clerk to the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no other public comments.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

There were no items to be added or deleted.

5. WELCOME ERIKA BEYER

Erika Beyer introduced herself to the Board and provided a brief overview of her professional background. She shared that her experience includes water resources planning and water quality work at the international level, including projects related to source water protection and water security. Ms. Beyer expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to join SAWPA and work with the LESJWA Board of Directors.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 21, 2025

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2025

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result:	Adopted (Passed)
Motion/Second:	Morris/Dennstedt
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Magee, Morris, Smith
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Spiegel

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. 2026 LESJWA WATER SUMMIT (LES#2025.12)

Liselle DeGrave, DeGrave Communications, provided an overview of planning efforts for the 2026 LESJWA Water Summit. She explained that the summit is held biennially to build awareness of LESJWA projects, strengthen stakeholder relationships, and support regional water quality initiatives. The event is targeted primarily toward elected officials and key stakeholders within the watershed.

Ms. DeGrave presented potential venue options, including Launch Pointe and Storm Stadium, outlining logistical considerations such as capacity, accessibility, acoustics, and administrative requirements. She noted that Launch Pointe presents limitations related to space, accessibility, and event setup, while Storm Stadium offers a more turnkey option with greater capacity and fewer logistical challenges. She also reviewed potential program topics and speakers, sponsorship opportunities, and a tentative event date of April 30, 2026.

Chair Magee recommended inviting representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to present biological improvements in the lakes and suggested exploring the possibility of hosting the event at the City of Lake Elsinore's new City Hall to reduce costs and streamline logistics.

Additional Board discussion supported moving away from Launch Pointe due to capacity and logistical limitations, with members noting that the event has grown in attendance and would benefit from a larger venue such as Storm Stadium or another facility. Director Smith inquired about historical event costs, to which Ms. DeGrave indicated that expenses generally remained \$10,000, with sponsorships helping to offset costs. Board members acknowledged the success of the event and the increasing level of sponsorship support.

This item is to receive and file; no action was taken on agenda item no. 7.A.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. CANYON LAKE ALUM TREATMENT PROGRAM – CEQA ADDENDUM #2

Rick Whetsel, Interim LESJWA Administrator, presented a request to approve Addendum #2 to extend the CEQA documentation for the Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program for an additional five years. He provided an overview of the alum treatment process, which is used to reduce phosphorus levels and control algal growth in Canyon Lake, and noted that the program has been in place since 2013 with over 20 applications completed.

Mr. Whetsel explained that the program has been effective in improving water quality and maintaining compliance with TMDL requirements. He also described enhancements to the monitoring program, including additional post-application sampling and fish toxicity testing to better understand water quality conditions and potential impacts.

Board members expressed support for the program, noting its long-term effectiveness. Director Dennstedt asked about potential grant funding opportunities to support continued implementation, and staff indicated that while no specific funding source is currently identified, efforts will continue to pursue grant opportunities. Director Smith raised questions regarding public communication and community inquiries related to alum treatments, noting that residents often experience confusion about which agency to contact. Mr. Whetsel explained that LESJWA responds to inquiries when received and typically coordinates with the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association (POA), which serves as a primary point of contact for lake-

related concerns. He also noted that advance notifications are distributed prior to treatment events and that coordination with partner agencies has been strengthened.

MOVED, The Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force and LESJWA staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve Addendum #2 to extend CEQA for the Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program and file a Notice of Determination to implement future alum dosing in Canyon Lake.

Result:	Adopted (Passed)
Motion/Second:	Dennstedt/Magee
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Magee, Morris, Smith
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Spiegel

B. CANYON LAKE ALUM TREATMENT PROGRAM – AQUATECHNEX, LLC (LES#2025.14)

Mr. Whetsel presented a request to approve a change order to extend the Aquatechnex contract for one additional year through calendar year 2026. He explained that the extension would allow for two alum applications during the year and ensure continued compliance with water quality objectives while staff evaluates long-term alternatives and prepares for a future competitive procurement process.

He noted that costs for alum have increased in recent years, resulting in a not-to-exceed amount of approximately \$364,769 for the 2026 applications. The Board did not have additional questions and approved the item unanimously.

MOVED, The Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force and LESJWA staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve a Change Order to exercise the second of two (2) one-year options to extend the term of the Aquatechnex agreement, Task Order No. AQUA160-04 for an amount not-to-exceed \$364,769, to oversee and implement the 2026 calendar year Canyon Lake Alum Treatment Program.

Result:	Adopted (Passed)
Motion/Second:	Dennstedt/Smith
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Magee, Morris, Smith
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Spiegel

C. ESTABLISH TIME AND PLACE FOR LESJWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETINGS BY RESOLUTION NO. LES 2025-1 (LES#2025.15)

Erika Beyer presented the proposed resolution to establish quarterly Board meetings, including options for meeting months and start times. She explained that the Board could select between two quarterly schedules and consider maintaining either a 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. start time.

During discussion, a Director Dennstedt expressed preference for maintaining a 4:00 p.m. start time to better align with the end of the workday and recommended continuing with a January, April, July, and October meeting schedule to avoid conflicts with the November holiday period. The Director also noted that meetings could be canceled if no pressing business is required, with the understanding that at least one meeting per quarter must be held in accordance with the Joint Powers Agreement. Staff confirmed this requirement.

MOVED, to approve and adopt established time and place for the LESJWA Board of Directors Regular meeting by Resolution No. LES2025-1.

Result: **Adopted (Passed)**
Motion/Second: Dennstedt/Smith
Ayes: Dennstedt, Magee, Morris, Smith
Nays: None
Abstentions: None

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (LES#2025.16)

Erika Beyer stated that, in accordance with LESJWA’s Joint Powers Agreement, the Board conducts officer nominations every two years. Director Dennstedt nominated Andy Morris as Chair, Brenda Dennstedt as Vice Chair, and Karen Spiegel as Secretary/Treasurer for a two-year term through December 31, 2027. The nominations follow the established rotation among member agencies, with leadership transitioning in the customary order.

MOVED, to appoint Director Andy Morris/Elsinore Valley Municipal Valley Water District as Chair, Director Brend Dennstedt as Vice Chair, and Director Karen Spiegel/ County of Riverside as Secretary/Treasurer for a two-year term through December 31, 2027.

Result: **Adopted (Passed)**
Motion/Second: Dennstedt/Magee
Ayes: Dennstedt, Magee, Morris, Smith
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Spiegel

9. ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS

There were no Administrator comments.

10. DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

Board members exchanged holiday greetings and reflected on the importance of ongoing efforts to preserve and enhance the health of Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake. Directors encouraged the public and stakeholders to continue engaging with and appreciating the lakes. Director Dennstedt also highlighted a recent Riverside County Water Task Force tour hosted in the region, noting that it was well attended and provided valuable insight into local water quality projects.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS REQUEST

There were no requests for future agenda items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chairman Robert Magee adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority
Board of Directors on Thursday, April 16, 2026.**

Signed by:

Andy Morris

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Andy Morris, Chair

Attest:

Signed by:

Zyanya Ramirez

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Zyanya Ramirez, Serves as Clerk to the Board