

**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  
SPECIAL WORKSHOP  
MARCH 20, 2025**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Robert Magee, Chair, City of Lake Elsinore  
Andy Morris, Vice Chair, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
[arrived at 1:36]  
Brenda Dennstedt, Secretary-Treasurer, Santa Ana Watershed  
Project Authority  
Jeremy Smith, City of Canyon Lake  
Karen Spiegel, County of Riverside

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

None.

**ALTERNATE DIRECTORS  
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

None.

**STAFF PRESENT**

Rachel Gray, John Leete, Jeff Mosher, Zyanya Ramirez, Dean  
Unger, Rick Whetsel, Karen Williams

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Adam Gufarotti, City of Lake Elsinore; Greg Thomas, Elsinore Valley  
Municipal Water District; Thomas Bunn, Lagerlof LLP; Parag Kalaria,  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District; Gil Botello, San Bernardino  
Valley Municipal Water District; T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino  
Valley Municipal Water District; Fred Jung, Orange County Water  
District;

The Regular Board of Directors meeting of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chairman Magee on behalf of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority, at 32040 Riverside Drive, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530.

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

An oral roll call was noted and recorded by the Clerk of 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. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: DECEMBER 19, 2024**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**B. TMDL TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 15, 2025 AND MARCH 3, 2025**

**C. LESJWA STRATEGIC PLAN: CHANGE ORDER #1 (LES#2025.1)**

**D. REPORT ON AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024 (LES#2025.2)**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

**MOVED**, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result: Adopted by Roll Call Vote

Motion/Second: Dennstedt/Spiegel

Ayes: Dennstedt, Magee, Morris, Smith, Spiegel

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

## **6. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION**

### **A. LESJWA STRATEGIC PLAN (LES#2025.3)**

Amy Stevens, WSC, emphasized that the LESJWA strategic planning process is open to input from all participants, not just the LESJWA Board of Directors, and highlighted the progress made thus far. This included previous workshops on vision, mission, values, and follow-up goal-setting sessions with individual member agencies.

The discussion began with a review of LESJWA's vision to position itself as a key driver of community and ecological success. The vision was well-supported, and the core values focused on stewardship, collaboration, sustainability, financial prudence, and science-based decision-making were endorsed. Participants acknowledged the groundwork laid in prior sessions and emphasized the importance of building on these elements. The focus then shifted to refining the draft goals, which included defining a "healthy lake," enhancing collaboration, promoting sustainability, improving transparency, and securing funding.

The majority of the discussion centered on Goal 1, which involves defining what constitutes a "healthy lake." The group agreed that this is a complex, long-term effort that would require ongoing work. Practical metrics, such as lake closures, were suggested as indicators of health, though some participants proposed convening an expert panel to develop a more scientific definition. Despite concerns about the potential cost and need for further study, there was consensus that defining lake health is a foundational aspect of guiding LESJWA's efforts. Measurable progress indicators like water clarity and ecosystem vitality were identified as crucial to tracking success.

The group also discussed the term "safe" in relation to water bodies, considering the need for both internal technical definitions and public-facing definitions. There was a focus on creating a clear, simple public definition that is easy for constituents to understand, while the internal definition would be more detailed for staff. The importance of clear communication was emphasized, with suggestions for using simple, digestible documents or one-page sheets with icons for public consumption, while offering more detailed technical data for those interested in deeper insights.

The meeting also touched on other strategic goals, such as fostering collaboration and data sharing between agencies, promoting transparency, securing funding for watershed projects, and exploring new technologies for lake stewardship. A few adjustments to the wording of the goals were suggested, emphasizing a proactive and efficient approach rather than merely reducing inefficiencies. WSC agreed to incorporate the feedback and present updated versions of the goals at the next LESJWA Board of Directors meeting.

## **7. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS**

Rachel Gray reminded the board to submit their Form 700 by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH SAWPA LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case.

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

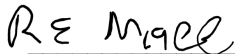
Chair Magee resumed the Open Session and Legal Counsel, Thomas S. Bunn announced that the LESJWA Board of Directors received a report from Counsel; no action was taken on Agenda Items No. 9.A.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chairman Robert Magee adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority Board of Directors on Thursday, April 17, 2025.**

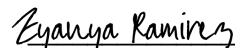
Signed by:



Robert Magee, Chair

Attest:

Signed by:



Zyanira Ramirez, Serves as Clerk to the Board