

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
APRIL 17, 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
Karen Spiegel, County of Riverside

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None.

**ALTERNATE DIRECTORS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

None.

STAFF PRESENT

Rachel Gray, Jeff Mosher, Zyanya Ramirez, Rick Whetsel, Karen
Williams

OTHERS PRESENT

Christ Stransky, John Rudolph, Steven Wolosoff, GEI Consultants;
Theresa Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP; Gil Botello, San
Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Fred Jung, Orange
County Water District; Amy Stevens, WSC.

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 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 of the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no other public comments.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

Agenda Items 9. Closed Session and 10. Closed Session report are removed.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 20, 2025

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. LESJWA STRATEGIC PLAN (LES#2025.4)

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **LESJWA FYE 2026 AND 2027 BUDGET (LES#2025.5)**

Rachel Gray provided an overview of the proposed LESJWA budgets for fiscal years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027, including revenue sources, primarily member agency contributions, and fixed expenses such as salaries, outreach, audit fees, public relations, insurance, and banking. She noted that the budget could remain balanced at current contribution levels, but that implementation of Strategic Plan Goal 1 would require additional funding.

Mrs. Gray outlined Goal 1 tasks, including defining “healthy lakes,” identifying beneficial uses, establishing metrics, developing short-, mid-, and long-term solutions, creating a work plan and schedule, and pursuing funding. She presented two budget options:

- Option 1: Maintain current contribution levels.
- Option 2: Increase contributions to fund Goal 1 tasks.

Director Dennstedt agreed, emphasizing that a strategic plan should be implemented, not just developed. She noted that estimated costs were preliminary and could be refined through a competitive process. Director Dennstedt moved to approve the budget including Goal 1 tasks. Director Smith seconded the motion. Director Morris voiced support, noting that defining “healthy lakes” and achieving consensus was a critical first step despite financial challenges.

Chair Magee expressed support for funding Goal 1 implementation to avoid being limited to approving others’ projects. He thanked Board members for their willingness to seek additional funding from their respective councils or the Board of Supervisors. Hearing no further comments, the motion passed unanimously.

MOVED, to approve the FY 2025-2026 and FY 2026-2027 LESJWA budget, which includes the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force budget, and invoice each LESJWA member agency and RCFC&WCD at the start of the new fiscal year based on:

- Option 2: Implement Strategic Plan Goal 1 Tasks.

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

B. LAKE ELSINORE AND CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE CONSULTANT SUPPORT (LES#2025.6)

Rick Whetsel stated that his presentation would address both Item 6.B and Item 6.C, as the two items were closely related. He explained that Item 6.B involved a change order for GEI Consultants for the current fiscal year (2024–25) to complete ongoing tasks in support of the TMDL Task Force’s technical needs. This included preparation of a TMDL technical report, responding to Regional Water Board comments, and supporting the approval process for amending the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDLs in the Santa Ana River Watershed Regional Basin Plan. The proposed action also included a task order for fiscal year 2025–26 to continue providing TMDL technical support.

Director Dennstedt inquired whether the additional tasks were initiated by LESJWA or required by the Santa Ana Regional Water Board. Mr. Whetsel responded that they were driven by the Regional Board, particularly following delays and substantial comments from a February Board hearing. He expressed optimism that approval anticipated in July would conclude the additional technical support work.

Hearing no further discussion, a motion to approve Item 6.B was made by Director Dennstedt, seconded by Director Smith, and carried unanimously.

MOVED, to approve:

1. Change Order to the GEI Consultants agreement, Task Order No. GEI160-03 for an amount not-to-exceed \$20,000 to provide technical support services to the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force for the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25.
2. Task Order No. GEI160-05 with GEI Consultants for an amount not-to-exceed \$55,000 to provide technical support services to the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force for FY 2025-26.

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

C. LAKE ELSINORE AND CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE CONSULTANT SUPPORT (LES#2025.7)

Continuing his presentation, Mr. Whetsel stated that Item 6.C concerned a task order for GEI Consultants to conduct TMDL compliance monitoring. He reported that an RFP process had been conducted in the prior year, yielding one proposal. The proposal was reviewed and recommended by both the TMDL Technical Advisory Group and the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force.

The recommendation was to approve a three-year agreement with GEI Consultants, with two optional one-year extensions, for a maximum term of five years. The scope included watershed-wide monitoring (targeting up to three storms annually), in-lake monitoring for both lakes, laboratory contracting, data management, and preparation of ADA-compliant annual reports for posting to the Regional Board’s website.

Chair Magee called for questions. Hearing none, a motion to approve Item 6.C was made by Director Smith, seconded by Director Spiegel, and carried unanimously.

MOVED, to approve the following to oversee and implement the TMDL Compliance Monitoring Program for Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2026-2028:

1. General Services Agreement with GEI Consultants; and
2. Task Order No. GEI160-04 for an amount not-to-exceed \$880,801, (based upon annual amounts not to exceed \$284,966 for FY 2025-26, \$293,515 for FY 2026-27, and \$302,320 for FY 2027-28) for three years with an option to exercise a two-year extension.

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

7. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Rachel Gray expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Administrator, thanked the Board for its trust, and affirmed SAWPA's commitment to supporting LESJWA during the transition. Chair Magee commended Mrs. Gray's performance and the positive changes she brought.

8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Dennstedt suggested a future meeting with the Regional Water Board to maintain strong relationships with its members, noting recent appointments and the importance of collaboration without excessive cost. Chair Magee agreed with the suggestion.

9. CLOSED SESSION – REMOVED FROM AGENDA

10. CLOSED SESSION REPORT – REMOVED FROM AGENDA

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chairman Robert Magee adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority Board of Directors on Thursday, August 21, 2025.

Signed by:



Robert Magee, Chair

Attest:

Signed by:



Zyanya Ramirez, Serves as Clerk to the Board