

**Executive Committee Regular Meeting
Agenda**

**October 22, 2026
10:00 AM**

Parsley Room, Monterey County Offices, 1441 Schilling Place, Salinas, CA

Committee members: Chapin, Church, Cremers, Donohue, Lee

The meeting is conducted in a hybrid setting. Public participation is encouraged, members of the public may attend in person, remotely through this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85931756301> (passcode: 195226 if prompted) or by phone: (669) 900-6833. Meeting ID: 859 3175 6301.

Participation in the Meeting

The public has opportunities to make comments throughout the meeting. To comment online, use the raise hand option, by phone press *9. If experiencing technical difficulties online, consider joining the meeting via phone. Written comments on agenda items may be emailed to clerk@svbgsa.org prior to the meeting and will be included in the public record. Remote public participation is for convenience only and not required by law. If the remote connection offered via Zoom link or by phone fails for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted, and the meeting may continue at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

1. Convene

- 1.1** Call to Order
- 1.2** Committee Member & Staff Introductions
- 1.3** Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
- 1.4** Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
- 1.5** Public Comments

2. Presentations (None)

3. Business

- 3.1** Minutes of the Committee February 2026 Special Meeting
Recommendation: Approve minutes of the February 18, 2026, Executive Committee

meeting.

[2026-02-18 Executive Committee Minutes Draft](#)

3.2 Committee Meeting Schedule for 2027

Recommendation: Approve the 2027 Committee meeting schedule as follows:

10 AM on the 4th Thursday of the month, quarterly (January, April, July, October)

3.3 Option to Conduct Meetings Remotely Pursuant to SB707

Recommendation: Approve Conducting Meetings Remotely under SB 707 and Board Resolutions 2026-01 and 2026-02

[Memo SB 707](#)

[Resolution 2026-01 - SB707](#)

[Resolution 2026-02 - SB707](#)

4. Discussion (None)

5. Informational

5.1 Staff Reports

5.2 Committee Members' Reports

5.3 Letter and Emails Received

[LiPe 2026-01-26 \(1\)](#)

[LiPe 2026-01-26 \(2\)](#)

5.4 Future Items

Board Development: Ideas and Options

6. Adjourn

The next regular meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 28, 2027.

Accommodations under the ADA

Pursuant to the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), any person in need of any type of special equipment, assistance or accommodations in order to effectively participate at this meeting is asked to make a request to clerk@svbgsa.org or 831-471-7512 no later than 5 p.m. two business days prior to the meeting

Agenda Posting

In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and AB 2647, the agenda was posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting and the entire agenda packet is made available at the meeting

Executive Committee Special Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2026, at 3:00 P.M.

Sesame Room, Monterey County Offices

1441 Schilling Place, Salinas, CA

1. CONVENE

1.1 Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Chapin called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

Committee Members present: J. Brennan, C. Chapin, G. Church

Absent: J. Barajas, G. Cremers

Staff:

P. Harmon, M. Alvarez

Others: R. Gallogly

1.2 Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

1.3 Public Comment

One public comment was received.

2. PRESENTATIONS

None.

3. BUSINESS

3.1 Minutes of the Committee October 2025 Special Meeting

MOTION: Brennan/Church to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2025, Executive Committee meeting.

AYES: Brennan, Chapin, Church

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Barajas, Cremers

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Updates to SVBGSAJPAand Bylaws

P. Harmon introduced the item. R. Gallogly reviewed the JPAand Bylaws sections that were updated. R. Gallogly and P. Harmon answered questions and received feedback from the Committee.

4.2 SBC Vacancy Mid-Term Appointment

P. Harmon provided an oral report of the SBC Vacancy mid-term application process and approach. P. Harmon and answered questions and received feedback from the Committee and public. The Committee requested staff to consider and prepare an approach allowing for continuous application process with appointments made by the Board twice a year.

5. INFORMATIONAL

5.1 Letters and Emails Received

Chair Chapin informed the Committee that the documents were included in the agenda packet for review.

No public comments received.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Compliance and Attendance Trackers 2025

Chair Chapin informed the Committee that the documents were included in the agenda packet for review.

No public comments received.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS

None.

8. FUTURE ITEMS

- SVBGSAJPAand Bylaws

- Zoom Transparency

9. ADJOURN

Chair Chapin adjourned the meeting at 4.:02 P.M

APPROVED BY:

Caroline Chapin, Chair

Date

ATTEST:

Merida Alvarez, Administrative Assistant

Date

DRAFT



Executive Committee
MEMORANDUM

MEETING DATE: October 22, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: 3.3

SUBJECT: Conducting Meetings Remotely in Compliance with SB 707

RECOMMENDATION: Approve conducting meetings remotely in compliance with SB 707 and SVBGSA Resolutions 2026-01 and 2026-02

DISCUSSION:

The Ralph M. Brown Act requires meetings of legislative bodies to be conducted openly and publicly. Recent amendments to the Brown Act, enacted through Senate Bill 707, expanded and clarified the circumstances under which certain subsidiary bodies may use teleconferencing while continuing to meet public access and participation requirements.

California Government Code section 54953.8.6 allows eligible subsidiary bodies to meet via teleconference without complying with some of the traditional teleconferencing rules, provided that the parent legislative body authorizes such use and renews that authorization at least once every six months. On January 8, 2026, the Board of Directors (Board) adopted Resolution 2026-01 authorizing teleconferencing for eligible subsidiary bodies for the following six months. On June 11, 2026, the Board adopted Resolution 2026-02 re-authorizing teleconferencing for eligible subsidiary bodies for another six months.

SVBGSA staff is asking the Executive Committee to formally approve conducting future meetings remotely under the authority of Resolutions 2026-01 and 2026-02. Staff is not suggesting that all future Executive Committee meetings will be fully remote but would like to have the flexibility to provide this option for meetings with less robust agendas.

ATTACHMENT(S):

SVBGSA Resolution 2026-01
SVBGSA Resolution 2026-02

PREPARED BY:

Harrison Tregenza, Administrative Specialist

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SALINAS VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCING FOR ELIGIBLE SUBSIDIARY BODIES PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953.8.6

WHEREAS:

- 1) The Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code section 54950 et seq.) requires that meetings of legislative bodies be conducted openly and publicly; and
- 2) Senate Bill 707 amended the Brown Act to enhance public access and participation in meetings, and the authorization of teleconferencing under this resolution is intended to be implemented consistent with those amendments; and
- 3) California Government Code section 54953.8 authorizes eligible subsidiary bodies to conduct meetings using teleconferencing without complying with certain traditional teleconferencing requirements, provided specified conditions are met; and
- 4) the Board of Directors of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency desires to allow eligible subsidiary bodies to utilize teleconferencing in a manner that promotes public access, transparency, and participation, while maintaining compliance with applicable provisions of the Brown Act; and
- 5) all meetings conducted pursuant to this authorization shall continue to provide meaningful public access and comply with all applicable notice, agenda, and public comment requirements of the Brown Act; and
- 6) Government Code section 54953.8.6 requires that the legislative body that created the subsidiary body approve the use of teleconferencing initially and at least once every six (6) months thereafter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors that it hereby:

- 1) Authorizes eligible subsidiary bodies of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to conduct meetings using teleconferencing pursuant to California Government Code section 54953.8.6, subject to all legal requirements.
- 2) Requires that teleconferenced meetings provide the public with a clear and accessible means to observe and participate, including the ability to provide public comment.
- 3) Affirms that agendas and meeting notices shall continue to be posted in accordance with the Brown Act, including instructions for public participation in teleconferenced meetings.

- 4) Directs staff to implement procedures and guidelines consistent with this resolution and applicable law.

Passed and adopted this 8th day of January, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES: Barajas, Chapin, Cremers, Church, Granillo, McIntyre, Rotticci, Stefani,
Velazquez, Chair Brennan

NOES: None

ABSENT: Bramers

ABSTAIN: None

Signed by:

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Janet Brennan, Chair

1/15/2026

Date

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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Harrison Tregenza

Clerk of the Board of Directors

Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

County of Monterey, State of California

1/15/2026

Date

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SALINAS VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCING FOR ELIGIBLE SUBSIDIARY BODIES PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953.8.6

WHEREAS:

- 1) The Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code section 54950 et seq.) requires that meetings of legislative bodies be conducted openly and publicly; and
- 2) Senate Bill 707 amended the Brown Act to enhance public access and participation in meetings, and the authorization of teleconferencing under this resolution is intended to be implemented consistent with those amendments; and
- 3) California Government Code section 54953.8 authorizes eligible subsidiary bodies to conduct meetings using teleconferencing without complying with certain traditional teleconferencing requirements, provided specified conditions are met; and
- 4) the Board of Directors of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency desires to allow eligible subsidiary bodies to utilize teleconferencing in a manner that promotes public access, transparency, and participation, while maintaining compliance with applicable provisions of the Brown Act; and
- 5) all meetings conducted pursuant to this authorization shall continue to provide meaningful public access and comply with all applicable notice, agenda, and public comment requirements of the Brown Act; and
- 6) Government Code section 54953.8.6 requires that the legislative body that created the subsidiary body approve the use of teleconferencing initially and at least once every six (6) months thereafter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors that it hereby:

- 1) Authorizes eligible subsidiary bodies of the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to conduct meetings using teleconferencing pursuant to California Government Code section 54953.8.6, subject to all legal requirements.
- 2) Requires that teleconferenced meetings provide the public with a clear and accessible means to observe and participate, including the ability to provide public comment.
- 3) Affirms that agendas and meeting notices shall continue to be posted in accordance with the Brown Act, including instructions for public participation in teleconferenced meetings.

- 4) Directs staff to implement procedures and guidelines consistent with this resolution and applicable law.

Passed and adopted this 11th day of June, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES: Bramers, Chapin, Church, Cremers, Donohue, Granillo, Rotticci, Stefani,
Brennan
NOES: None
ABSENT: McIntyre, Velazquez
ABSTAIN: None

Signed by:

Janet Brennan

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Janet Brennan, Chair

6/12/2026

Date

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Harrison Tregenza

88698791972943A...

Harrison Tregenza

6/15/2026

Date

Clerk of the Board of Directors
Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
County of Monterey, State of California



General Public Comment on Subbasin Committee Appointments and Vacancy Flexibility

From Bill Lipe <william.o.lipe@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/26/2026 4:48 PM

To Clerks <clerk@svbgsa.org>

Cc Piret Harmon <harmonp@svbgsa.org>; Emily Gardner <gardnere@svbgsa.org>; Sarah Hardgrave <hardgraves@svbgsa.org>

 1 attachment (80 KB)

20260126 - General Public Comment on Subbasin Committee Appointments and Vacancy Flexibility.pdf;

Dear SVBGSA Clerks,

Please distribute the attached **General Public Comment Letter** to the following bodies:

- SVBGSA Board of Directors
- SVBGSA Executive Committee
- All Subbasin Committees

I also respectfully request that this letter be **entered into the official public record**.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Bill Lipe

Resident, 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin
Former Director, SVBGSA

SUBJECT: General Public Comment on Subbasin Committee Appointments and Vacancy Flexibility

Dear Board Members and Staff,

I submit this comment as a member of the public concerned with the long-term effectiveness, legitimacy, and functionality of the Subbasin Committee (SBC) program.

The Subbasin Committees Program is well-intended and, on paper, provides meaningful flexibility for appointments when vacancies occur. In practice, however, that flexibility has not been fully exercised. As reflected in the discussion during the October 27, 2025 Joint Forebay / Upper Valley Subcommittee meeting, vacancies have been allowed to persist—even when committees struggle to maintain quorum—not because the program prohibits mid-cycle appointments, but because the process is viewed as administratively burdensome or insufficiently defined.

That posture deserves reconsideration.

The program explicitly anticipates adjustment when vacancies occur. It does not require seats to remain empty until the next two-year cycle, nor does it restrict the Board's authority to act when participation is low. Choosing not to fill vacancies is therefore a matter of implementation, not policy constraint.

At a time when SGMA implementation depends on local trust, informed participation, and continuity of engagement, allowing advisory committees to operate under-staffed sends the wrong signal. We should be lowering barriers to participation, not reinforcing them through procedural inertia.

I respectfully urge the Board and staff to take the following actions:

1. **Adopt a more dynamic vacancy-response process** within the existing program, including the acceptance of applications on a rolling basis when seats are open.
2. **Regularly revisit vacancies**—at least monthly when applications are on file—rather than deferring consideration to the next formal cycle.
3. **Prioritize committee functionality and quorum**, particularly when more than half of a committee's authorized seats are vacant.
4. **Acknowledge that administrative effort is not a sufficient reason to defer participation**, especially given the level of funding, staffing, and technical resources available to SVBGSA relative to the scale of this task.

The October 27, 2025 discussion itself demonstrates that both committee members and staff recognize the governance risk of prolonged vacancies and the need for clearer, more responsive procedures. That recognition should now be matched with action.

Subbasin Committees are advisory bodies, but they are also the most direct interface between the agency and the communities it serves. Their credibility depends not only on who is appointed, but on whether interested, qualified members of the public are given a fair and timely path to participate.

Flexibility in this context is not disorder. It is good governance.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work on behalf of groundwater sustainability in the Salinas Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lipe

Resident, 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin

Former Director, SVBGSA



Outlook

Re: General Public Comment on Subbasin Committee Appointments and Vacancy Flexibility

From Bill Lipe <william.o.lipe@gmail.com>**Date** Mon 1/26/2026 4:53 PM**To** Clerks <clerk@svbgsa.org>**Cc** Piret Harmon <harmonp@svbgsa.org>; Emily Gardner <gardnere@svbgsa.org>; Sarah Hardgrave <hardgraves@svbgsa.org>

1 attachment (82 KB)

20251027 - FB-UV Joint Subcommittee Meeting Transcript.pdf;

In the distribution requested previously, also provide the verbatim transcript from the October 27, 2025 discussion on Item 5 (attached).

Thank you,
Bill Lipe

On Mon, Jan 26, 2026 at 4:47 PM Bill Lipe <william.o.lipe@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear SVBGSA Clerks,

Please distribute the attached **General Public Comment Letter** to the following bodies:

- SVBGSA Board of Directors
- SVBGSA Executive Committee
- All Subbasin Committees

I also respectfully request that this letter be **entered into the official public record**.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Bill Lipe

Resident, 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin

Former Director, SVBGSA

October 27, 2025 Joint Forebay/Upper Valley Subcommittee Meeting Item 5 Discussion (verbatim)

01:13:57.950 – 01:14:07.440

FB Chair McIntyre:

All right, so we'll go to agenda Item 5. Informational, sub-basic committee programs.

01:14:09.830 – 01:14:33.110

Piret Harmon:

This was just for your information, because we realized that after the board, SWBGSA board, approved this program, we had not really circled back with, and it does provide some structure for all of the sub-basin committees. So we just include it there for your review, and if you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact staff directly or ask them now.

01:14:34.870 – 01:14:47.610

UV Committee Member Grant Cremers:

I got one comment on that. Yeah, it's a good document. How do you, how do you, you know, if someone... how do you make sure that someone that's applying for the position gets ahold of that document and read it, I guess?

01:14:48.670 – 01:15:16.449

Piret Harmon:

We have... I'm actually gonna... I have to go to the website, but our... my goal is to have everything available on our website, easily, easily navigatable, and easy to find. I believe under board resources, we have it, but we're also building something that is called Agency Library, and trying to structure all of the documents there. So, but for now, if it's not there, please email me, and I'll make sure you have a copy.

01:15:17.350 – 01:15:25.839

UV Committee Member Grant Cremers:

I got another project, then an application packet, I guess. So, there's that, and a few other documents that probably an applicant needs to see.

**October 27, 2025 Joint Forebay/Upper Valley Subcommittee Meeting
Item 5 Discussion (verbatim)**

01:15:25.840 – 01:15:26.570

Piret Harmon:

Thank you.

01:15:31.900 – 01:15:33.760

FB Chair McIntyre:

Public comment on this item?

01:15:34.880 – 01:15:36.600

SVBGSA Clerk:

No raised hands at this point.

01:15:37.000 – 01:15:39.330

Public Member Roger Moitoso:

Steve, this is applying? I'm sorry, I had to take... I had to look at the call. What's the... this application?

01:15:39.900 – 01:15:52.830

UV Committee Member Grant Cremers:

No, this wasn't an application, it was just the subbasin... it was kind of an outline of what the sub-basin committees do, and how they operate, and so forth.

01:15:53.010 – 01:16:03.229

Public Member Roger Moitoso:

Okay, there was a... and I missed it early on. How often can you get appointed to these two... to some basin committees?

UV Committee Member Grant Cremers:

It's a two-year term.

October 27, 2025 Joint Forebay/Upper Valley Subcommittee Meeting Item 5 Discussion (verbatim)

01:16:03.230 – 01:16:04.179

Piret Harmon:

Yeah, two years...

01:16:04.180 – 01:16:18.760

Public Member Roger Moitoso:

It's only allowed, like, one time a year. There's a specific appointment time. So I'd asked to be put on it, and it was out of sync. So that's my question. When do... when is the right time to request to be appointed?

01:16:18.760 – 01:16:37.229

Piret Harmon:

Yeah, great, great question. It's... they are... those seats are on a two-year term, so not every year. It's every other year. It's on even years, so it's coming up, and we will open the application process sometime spring, late spring, with an intent to seat the applicants mid-summer.

01:16:37.910 – 01:16:51.860

UV Committee Member Grant Cremers:

So, my question is then, so we only had, like, 4 people on the Upper Valley, and so, Roger was desiring to get on the Upper Valley, but couldn't... you can't do it mid-cycle, is that correct?

01:16:51.860 – 01:17:54.689

Piret Harmon:

We have to open... we could, and that's up to the board. We decided against it to open up the application process, because we would have to do, not only for Roger, but we would have to run an application process. And then, depending on people, having somebody who is not familiar, and that's not Roger, but we could have an applicant that just comes and, you know, midway through the process, and now we have to bring them up to speed on the issues that the committee is discussing.

October 27, 2025 Joint Forebay/Upper Valley Subcommittee Meeting Item 5 Discussion (verbatim)

At this point, it makes more sense to keep everyone on the two-year cycle, but that could be changed. We could have a mid-year process. We had a similar question about a vacancy on one of those committees, that we had a full slate and more. We had to actually leave some people out. When we lost someone, should that open a door for someone to come in and be able to fill that vacancy? Even for that, we decided not to do it, because we don't have a really optimal process.

01:17:55.100 – 01:18:34.130

FB Committee Member Frohm:

While you've only got 4 members, it's hard for you to get a quorum, just because you need, you know, 3 of the 4. So it seems like you could rationalize, get one or more members to give you a better chance of getting four.

UV Committee Member Grant Cremers:

Yeah. I mean, it all goes into policy and so forth, you know, it's almost like if there's, you know, more than half the positions are open, we should fill at any time, or less than half the positions are open, whatever it is. More than half the positions we should fill whenever there's an interested, yeah, a qualified candidate. If there's less than half the positions, maybe you keep it like that or something, but I agree.

01:18:34.140 – 01:18:40.880

FB Chair McIntyre:

Maybe that's a good item for the executive committee, correct? Yeah.

01:18:40.880 – 01:18:44.650

Piret Harmon:

Yep, I was thinking the same, that I'll agendize it for the next Executive Committee.

01:18:45.120 – 01:18:49.540

UV Chair Jason Smith:

We can put together some framework.

**October 27, 2025 Joint Forebay/Upper Valley Subcommittee Meeting
Item 5 Discussion (verbatim)**

01:18:49.540 – 01:18:54.389

Piret Harmon:

I'm good at that. Be careful what you're asking for.

01:18:54.390 – 01:19:04.029

UV Committee Member Grant Cremers:

Jason said he'll review it. Just send it over anytime, he'll review it.

FB Chair McIntyre:

He'll write it. Well, great, thank you so much on that.