



**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)**  
**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EPCGSA)**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**  
Windfall Farms Conference Room, 4710 Flying Paster Lane, Paso Robles

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00PM by Hilary Graves

Directors Roll Call:

Hilary Graves – present

Lee Nesbitt - present

Ryan Scott – present

Zach Merkel – present

Eric Pooler - present

Others present:

Alan Doud

Guests (in person and by teleconference)

**ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment presented.

**ITEM 3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2025 AND NOVEMBER 21, 2025 MEETINGS**

MOTION TO APPROVES THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2025 AND NOVEMBER 21, 2025 MEETINGS made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Ryan Scott, voice vote.

Motion carried 5-0-0.

**ITEMS 4: CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY/TREASURER**

The ad hoc committee of Zach Merkel and Ryan Scott recommended appointment of Hilary Graves as president, Ryan Scott as vice president, and Laurie Gage as secretary/treasurer.

MOTION TO SLATE OF OFFICERS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE made by Zach Merkel, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Hilary Graves – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Ryan Scott – yes

Zach Merkel – yes

Eric Pooler - yes

Motion carried 5-0-0.

**ITEM 5: CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PRAGA BOARD**

Hilary Graves suggested Zach Merkel as alternate to the PRAGA board

MOTION TO APPOINT ZACH MERKEL AS ALTERNATE TO THE PRAGA BOARD made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Hilary Graves – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes  
Ryan Scott – yes  
Eric Pooler – yes  
Zach Merkel - yes

Motion carried 5-0-0.

**ITEM 6: CONDUCT HEARING ON ADOPTION OF THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

The hearing was opened by Hilary Graves with a brief explanation of the adoption requirement, and public and Board comments were requested. No public comments submitted; no Board comments submitted. The hearing was closed.

**ITEM 7: CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DATED JUNE 13, 2022.**

MOTION TO ADOPT THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN was made by Ryan Scott, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Hilary Graves – yes  
Lee Nesbitt – yes  
Ryan Scott – yes  
Zach Merkel – yes  
Eric Pooler – yes

Motion carried 5-0-0.

**ITEM 8: CONSIDER ADMINISTRATIVE DRAFT OF EPCWD MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW FOR CORRECTION, EDITS AND/OR COMMENTS**

The 5-year Draft Municipal Service Review prepared by LAFCO was offered for comments, corrections, and edits. No comments were received by the Board.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE DRAFT OF THE EPCWD MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Ryan Scott, roll call vote:

Hilary Graves – yes  
Lee Nesbitt – yes  
Ryan Scott – yes  
Zach Merkel – yes  
Eric Pooler – yes

Motion carried 5-0-0.

**ITEM 9: CONSIDER SUBMISSION OF BALLOT FOR LAFCO SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE SEAT**

The discussion centered on not being more familiar with the candidates. MOTION TO DECLINE TO SUBMIT BALLOT FOR LAFCO SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE SEAT made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, voice vote:

Motion carried 5-0-0.

**ITEM 10: UPDATE OF PRAGA SPECIAL MEETING DECEMBER 1, 2025**

Hilary Graves reported on the meeting and confirmed the District's intention to participate in funding PRAGA through June 2026 in the amount of \$90,000. She requested milestones as part of the agreement to

fund:

1. Annotated budget by January 7 meeting
2. Funding mechanism by January 7 meeting
3. Finalized budget with sufficient time for public input and prior to the March meeting

Blaine Reely indicated that there was a “State of the Basin” addressed to be presented in upcoming months at the Flood Control District. Public comment was received from Patricia Wilmore regarding changing the PRAGA board structure to include more members and Jerry Reaugh questioning how adding to the Board would affect the funding structure. There was a straw poll of the EPCWD Board as to what sectors of the landowners could be considered for addition to the PRAGA board. Ryan Scott suggested encouraging feedback prior to any change in the JPA.

**ITEM 11: UPDATE ON WRAC MEETING DECEMBER 3, 2025**

Lee Nesbitt reported that an Agriculture At Large alternate representative was approved.

**ITEM 12: CONSIDER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH WORKSHOP JOINTLY WITH SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT**

Hilary Graves would like the Board to consider hosting a joint workshop for our members to update them on the JPA and how other successful and unsuccessful GSAs are managing their basins. Steve Sinton suggested the same meeting offered at different times on the same day to allow better participation. Continued outreach is extremely important. Meeting(s) during February was suggested.

**ITEM 13: TREASURER’S REPORT NOVEMBER 2025**

Hilary Graves opened the discussion of assessments and the budget, with the District’s past approach being to collect only what was necessary for the budget. Perhaps it is time to consider beginning to accumulate funds against future projects. Ryan Scott pointed out that it will depend on the future of PRAGA and what it will be able to fund.

**ITEM 14: NEW BUSINESS**

Alan Doud suggested introduction of the new Board members and their responsibilities. An agenda item regarding the workshop discussed in item #12 was requested for the next regular meeting.

**ITEM 15: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2026**

**ITEM 16: ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Ryan Scott, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, voice vote:  
Motion carried 5-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Laurie Gage, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

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Hilary Graves, President

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Date

DRAFT