Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EPCGSA)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2026
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 2:00 PM by Hilary Graves

Directors Roll Call:

Hilary Graves – present
Lee Nesbitt - present
Ryan Scott – present
Zach Merkel – present

Others present: Guests (in person and by teleconference)

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment presented.

ITEM 3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2026 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVES THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2026 MEETING made by Zach Merkel, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, voice vote: Motion carried 4-0-0.

ITEMS 4: REPORT FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE ON VACANCY APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATION (GRAVES, MERKEL

The committee met to review potential candidates and recommended Richard Lauchland to fill the current vacancy.

ITEM 5: CONSIDER AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-002 FILLING BOARD VACANCY

MOTION TO FILL THE CURRENT VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD LAUCHLAND made by Ryan Scott, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 4-0-0.

DRAFT

ITEM 6: CONFIRM LIST OF SIGNERS ON DISTRICT CHECKING ACCOUNT: DIRECTORS HILARY GRAVES, RYAN SCOTT, LEE NESBITT, ZACH MERKEL, RICHARD LAUCHLAND, AND SECRETARY/TREASURER LAURIE GAGE; REMOVE DANA MERRILL AND JERRY REAUGH FROM LIST OF SIGNERS.

MOTION TO CONFIRM LIST OF SIGNERS ON DISTRICT CHECKING ACCOUNT: DIRECTORS HILARY GRAVES, RYAN SCOTT, LEE NESBITT, ZACH MERKEL, RICHARD LAUCHLAND, AND SECRETARY/TREASURER LAURIE GAGE; REMOVE DANA MERRILL AND JERRY REAUGH FROM LIST OF SIGNERS made by Zach Merkel, seconded by Ryan Scott, voice vote.

Motion carried 4-0-0

ITEM 7: CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2026-003 ANNOUNCING INTENT TO ADOPT AN AMENDED CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE AND ESTABLISHING A COMMENT PERIOD.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2026-003 ANNOUNCING INTENT TO ADOPT AN AMENDED CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE AND ESTABLISHING A COMMENT PERIOD made by Ryan Scott, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 4-0-0

ITEM 8: UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF SALES PROGRAM FOR THE NACIMIENTO WATER PROJECT. (MERKEL)

Zach Merkel reported on the recent Nacimiento Project subscribers meeting. There was discussion of a potential sales program to be developed including creating a marketplace and means to purchase/sell. The total entitlement is 15,750 AF and is considered drought-resistant, with 5,000 to 10,000 AF currently unutilized. There are many options to consider including temporary vs permanent sales, no auto-renewal of purchase agreements, year-to-year agreements vs multi-year agreements. Buyers' costs could include debit service costs, share of consultants cost, development costs, operations costs, etc. This is raw, untreated water. The best use would likely be to replace agricultural pumping, with supply sent to area(s) of greatest need.

ITEM 9: UPDATE ON WRAC MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2026. (NESBITT)

Lee Nesbitt reported that the meeting focused on the upcoming possible El Nino and preparations for potential high rainfall.

ITEM 10: TREASURER'S REPORT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2026. (STAFF)

Staff presented the report and no questions from the Board were asked.

ITEM 11: NEW BUSINESS

Several topics were discussed. An update on the well monitoring network(s) will be on the next agenda.

ITEM 12: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Moved from Wednesday, November 11 to Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 2:00PM.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM

DRAFT

Respectfully submitted,

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Laurie Gage, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

_____ _____

Hilary Graves, President Date

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