

**Yolo County Flood Control &
Water Conservation District**

**Board Meeting
34274 State Highway 16
Woodland, CA 95695
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
3:00 P.M.**

Public documents relating to any open session item listed on the agenda that are distributed to the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection by scheduling an appointment with Elise Nunez at (530) 662-0265, ext. 100 or enunez@ycfcwcd.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting please contact Elise Nunez. Requests should be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

- 3:00 1. Call Meeting to Order and Open forum (Limited to five minutes): Guest introductions, unscheduled appearances, opportunity for public comment on non-agenda items
- 3:03 2. Consideration: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda
To add an item to the agenda, it must fit one of the following categories:
a) A majority determination that an emergency (as defined by the Brown Act) exists; or
b) A 4/5ths determination of need to take action subsequent agenda posting.
- 3:05 3. CONSENT AGENDA:
a) Consideration: Adoption of the November 4 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 3:08 4. Presentation: Willow Slough Watershed Collaboration Assessment
- 3:23 5. Presentation: Update on the Winters Canal Siphon and Walnut Canal Headgate Replacement Project
- 3:45 6. Presentation: YSGA Update
- 4:10 7. Director's Report: Report on meetings and conferences attended

- 4:15 8. General Manager's Report: Report regarding current general activities and projects of the District
- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions
 - b) Financial Report
 - c) Capital Improvement Program
 - d) General Activities
 - e) Upcoming Events
- 4:30 9. General Discussion: Opportunity for clarification or additional information request
- 4:35 10. Consideration: Consider Approval of Payment of Bills
- 4:40 11. Closed Session: Bay-Delta
- Closed session conference with legal counsel for existing administrative proceeding and anticipated litigation/significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, subsections (d)(1) and (d)(2) – State Water Resources Control Board Bay/Delta Plan update proceeding.
- 5:00 12. Adjourn

The public may address the Board concerning an agenda item either before or during the Board's consideration of that agenda item. Public comment on items within the Board's jurisdiction is welcome, subject to reasonable time limits for each speaker. Upon request, agenda items may be moved up to accommodate those in attendance wishing to address that item. Times listed for consideration of agenda items are approximate only. The Board may consider any agenda item at any time during the Board meeting.

I declare that the foregoing agenda was posted at the office of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA on December 5, 2025.

By:

Elise Nunez, Administrative Assistant

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 9, 2025

ITEM #: 3

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Consideration: Adoption of November 4 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

INITIATED OR ☐ BOARD
REQUESTED BY: ☒ STAFF
☐ OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT ☒ YES ☐ NO
☐ DIRECTION

☐ INFORMATION
☒ ACTION: ☒ MOTION
☐ RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

a) Consideration: Adoption of the November 4 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to Section 54957.5 of the Brown Act, copies of the draft minutes are available to the public on the District's website and at the District office prior to their approval.

In advance of the Board meeting, staff request the Directors notify staff if a correction is needed in the draft minutes to clarify a substantial point or to correct content. Staff will make the appropriate change(s) and submit the revised draft for review to the Board and the public at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

District staff recommend the Board

- a) Adopt the attached November 4 Regular Board Meeting minutes with any corrections.



Y O L O C O U N T Y
FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 3:00 PM

YCFC&WCD Offices
34274 State Highway 16
Woodland, CA 95695

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) was held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. The following people were in attendance:

District Board

Shane Tucker, Chair
Tom Barth
Mary Kimball
Jim Mayer (Absent)
Lee Smith (Absent)

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
Erik Cadaret, Assistant General Manager
Anthony Lopez, Facilities Manager
Elise Nunez, Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public

Duane Chamberlain
Maddie Munson
Geoff Klein
Jim Barrett

1. OPEN FORUM

None.

2. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

There were no items to add to the agenda.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of October 7, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on this item.

M/S/C approved the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Directors Tucker, Kimball, and Barth

Noes: None

Absent: Directors Mayer and Smith

Abstain: None

4. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of District's Strategic Plan

General Manager Sicke did a high-level review of the strategic plan to refresh the Board and attendees of the plan. Sicke reviewed the four strategic priorities: 1) water supply reliability, 2) highest quality customer service, 3) highest quality work force, 4) environmental stewardship. Sicke also reviewed what is currently being worked on related to each and how it was communicated to farmers for additional feedback.

M/S/C approved the Adoption of the District's Strategic Plan.

Ayes: Directors Tucker, Kimball, and Barth

Noes: None

Absent: Directors Mayer and Smith

Abstain: None

5. PRESENTATION: YSGA Update

General Manager Sicke and Assistant General Manager Cadaret shared updates on YSGA administration and GSP implementation progress through the SGMA Implementation Grant.

Sicke reviewed the October and November Board of Supervisors meetings related to the County's agricultural well moratorium.

The following upcoming meetings were discussed:

- November 17: YSGA Board of Directors Meeting
- November 19: YSGA Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
- November 20: Hungry Hollow Coordination Meeting with landowners and Cobram Olives
- November 24: Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group Meeting
- December 11: YSGA Executive Committee Meeting

Cadaret reviewed milestones and next steps for the Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group efforts, the District's Winter Recharge Program, and the Yolo-Zamora Recharge Pilot Project.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Directors Tucker and Barth attended the *District Finance Committee*, *Lake County Long-Term Water Supply Agreements Committee*, and *YSGA Special Board Workshop* meetings. Director Tucker attended the District's Farmer's Council meeting and post-season BBQ, had conversations with landowners with knowledge of the Delta Conservancy expansion to include the rest of Yolo County, and noted he will attend the *Counties Well Moratorium Working Group Meeting* on November 6. Director Barth attended the *YSGA Executive Committee Meeting*. Director Kimball had no updates.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Sicke provided reports on the following:

- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions: Sicke provided an overview of current water conditions as of November 4, 2025:
 - Clear Lake at Rumsey is currently at 2.74 ft. Irrigation season entitlement starts at 3.22 ft.
 - Indian Valley Reservoir is currently at 194,300 AF storage. Environmental releases of 10 cfs will continue through the winter. Total capacity in reservoir cannot exceed 260,760 AF during the winter.
 - The draft summary of the 2025 irrigation season was provided
 - Total Reservoir Releases ~ 197,000 AF
 - Clear Lake ~111,000 AF
 - Indian Valley Reservoir ~ 86,000 AF
 - IVR Hydropower ~11,200 MWh
 - Total Capay Dam Diversions ~ 160,000 AF
 - April – October Sales ~ 116,000 AF
- b) Financial Report Summary – An update on irrigation season water sales and FY budget to date was provided.
- c) Capital Improvement Program – Sicke reviewed two projects on the Winters Canal that are planned for the upcoming construction season: Winters Canal Re-lining Project and the Winters Canal Siphon and Walnut Headworks Replacement Project. Facilities Supervisor Anthony Lopez reviewed the status of IVR's multi-phased electrical substation upgrade.
- d) General Activities – A list of outreach activities and projects (in-house and coordinated with other agencies) was reviewed.
- e) The following upcoming events were announced:
 1. Flood-MAR Forum (November 5-6)
 2. Yolo County Ag Well Moratorium Focus Areas Working Group Meeting (Nov. 6)
 3. YSGA Board of Directors Meeting (November 17)
 4. DWR GSA Forum (November 19)
 5. Yolo County Financial Oversight Committee Meeting (November 20)
 6. YSGA: Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group Workshop (November 24)
 7. ACWA JPIA & ACWA Fall 2025 Conference (December 1-4)
 8. NCWA Groundwater Task Force Meeting (December 8)

9. YSGA Executive Committee Meeting (December 11)
10. YSGA Finance Committee Meeting (December 12)

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION

None.

9. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks #63856-63870 and E-108-112.

Ayes: Directors Tucker, Kimball, and Barth

Noes: None

Absent: Directors Mayer and Smith

Abstain: None

10. CLOSED SESSION: Bay-Delta

Closed session conference with legal counsel for existing administrative proceeding and anticipated litigation/significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, subsections (d)(1) and (d)(2) – State Water Resources Control Board Bay/Delta Plan update proceeding.

Closed Session Report: Chair Tucker reported that the Directors and General Manager Sicke participated in the closed session item and that there was nothing to report.

11. CLOSED SESSION: Long-Term Water Supply Agreements

Closed session conference with real property negotiators pursuant to Government Code § 54956.8

Property: Long-Term Water Supply Agreements under District's Clear Lake Water Right

Agency negotiators: Tom Barth, Shane Tucker, Kristin Sicke

Negotiating parties: Lake County Sanitation District, Calpine, NCPA

Under negotiation: Price and terms of agreement

Closed Session Report: Chair Tucker reported that the Directors and General Manager Sicke participated in the closed session item and that there was nothing to report.

12. CONSIDERATION: Enter into a Long-Term Water Supply Agreement with Lake County Sanitation District, Geysers Power Company, and Northern California Power Agency

General Manager Sicke reviewed the existing Long-term Water Supply Agreement for Geysers with Lake County Sanitation District (LACOSAN) and the details of the new agreement between the District, Geysers Power Company, Northern California Power Agency, and LACOSAN.

M/S/C approved entering into the Long-Term Water Supply Agreement with the Lake County Sanitation District, Geysers Power Company, and Northern California Power Agency.

Ayes: Directors Tucker, Kimball, and Barth

Noes: None

Absent: Directors Mayer and Smith

Abstain: None

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Shane Tucker, Chair

ATTEST:

Kristin Sicke, Secretary

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 9, 2025

ITEM #: 4

SUBJECT: Presentation: Willow Slough Watershed Collaboration Assessment

INITIATED OR ☒ BOARD
REQUESTED BY: ☒ STAFF
☐ OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
PREPARED BY: Kristin Sicke
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT ☒ YES ☐ NO
☐ DIRECTION

☒ INFORMATION
☐ ACTION: ☐ MOTION
☐ RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

The District is engaging farmers, rural property owners, and relevant organizations in a collaborative effort to restore the ecological functions of the Willow Slough watershed to reduce flood damage, increase groundwater recharge, and restore riparian habitat. This initiative builds upon previous efforts by local agencies and nonprofits that have similarly recognized that comprehensive solutions require stewardship-focused land management by ranchers and farmers, green infrastructure by public agencies, and coordinated maintenance by public and private entities. While not legally responsible for the sloughs, the District is convening stakeholders to encourage the development of a shared strategy among all of those who would benefit.

To inform a shared strategy, the District secured Kearns & West, a third-party facilitation firm, to conduct an impartial assessment of key interested parties in the Willow Slough watershed and related experts in Yolo County. The District invited individuals and organizations representing diverse interests and expertise to participate in confidential interviews. Questions focused on water and land management challenges, familiarity with past restoration and integrated resource management efforts, opportunities to address challenges, and interest in collaboration. The facilitation team conducted 12 interviews with 14 individuals. Interviewees included:

- Upstream and downstream farmers
- Farmers with land in row crops, orchards, and rice
- Residential landowners
- Environmental NGO representatives
- Practitioners of water, soil, and wildlife habitat conservation/restoration
- Multi-benefit landscape management professionals
- Permitting and mitigation organization staff

Kearns & West developed the attached draft Willow Slough Watershed Collaboration Assessment to summarize the assessment purpose, method, participants, key findings, and opportunities for advancing integrated watershed management in Willow Slough Watershed.

Director Mayer and staff will review the assessment findings and discuss the next steps for developing a collaborative approach to address challenges in the Willow Slough watershed.

RECOMMENDATION:

This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

Willow Slough Watershed Collaboration Assessment

Compiled by Kearns & West on behalf of Yolo County Flood Control & Water Control District

Background

The Yolo County Flood Control & Water Control District (District) is engaging farmers, rural property owners, and relevant organizations in **a collaborative effort to restore the ecological functions of the Willow Slough watershed to reduce flood damage, increase groundwater recharge, and restore riparian habitat**. This initiative builds upon previous efforts by local agencies and nonprofits that have similarly recognized that comprehensive solutions require stewardship-focused land management by ranchers and farmers, green infrastructure by public agencies, and coordinated maintenance by public and private entities. While not legally responsible for the sloughs, the District is convening stakeholders to encourage the development of a shared strategy among all of those who would benefit.

Assessment Purpose, Method, & Participants

To inform a shared strategy, the District secured Kearns & West, a third-party facilitation firm, to conduct an impartial assessment of key interested parties in the Willow Slough watershed and related experts in Yolo County. The District invited individuals and organizations representing diverse interests and expertise to participate in confidential interviews. Questions focused on water and land management challenges, familiarity with past restoration and integrated resource management efforts, opportunities to address challenges, and interest in collaboration. This document is a shortened version for broader circulation.

The facilitation team conducted 12 interviews with 14 individuals. Interviewees included:

- Upstream and downstream farmers
- Farmers with land in row crops, orchards, and rice
- Residential landowners
- Environmental NGO representatives
- Practitioners of water, soil, and wildlife habitat conservation/restoration
- Multi-benefit landscape management professionals
- Permitting and mitigation organization staff

Findings Executive Summary

Challenges

Prior to testing interest in a collaborative approach to addressing challenges in the Willow Slough watershed, the District recognized they needed the answer to a more basic question: *is there a shared understanding of what those problems are and their causes?*

- Interviewees articulated a high level of agreement on the basic challenges encountered in the Willow Slough Watershed, though they varied on what they assigned as the primary cause and which they considered most important. Challenges identified included:
 - Falling groundwater levels and reduced recharge
 - Surface water access and reliability
 - Water quality
 - Soil health and erosion, particularly in the upper watershed
 - Flooding and associated impacts
 - Flood management/O&M responsibilities
 - Wildlife and ecosystem
 - Addressing any of the above in ways that are not economically burdensome to agricultural community
- Upper watershed degradation, channelization, land-use intensification paired with insufficient planning, and groundwater depletion collectively strain water and soil systems on which residents depend. These dynamics, combined with lack of centralized maintenance responsibility for the sloughs, exacerbate flooding in the area.
- Most interviewees acknowledge that these challenges cannot be solved by a single entity.

Water & Land Management Priorities

- For most farmers interviewed, their priorities were water supply (and quality) reliability for agriculture, economic feasibility and operational cost reduction, and long-term soil health. They voiced support for wildlife habitat improvements, if they are voluntary and not economically burdensome.
- Flood management also ranked high as an interest across interviewees for a range of reasons: its economic and physical damages, the nuisance of washed-out roads and other public and private infrastructure, and its positive potential for integration as a part of broader multi-benefit projects.
- Habitat restoration proponents were split on whether Willow Slough was an ideal location to invest significantly in restoration compared to other areas in Yolo County.

However, they all agreed that there were opportunities in Willow Slough to integrate low-cost, win-win habitat features into projects.

Interest in Collaborative Solution-Building

- Past efforts succeeded in combining funding, technical support, and farmer leadership, but struggled when grants ended, or landowners lacked incentives.
- All interviewees expressed interest in a collaborative strategy, though responses ranged from enthusiastic to skeptical.
- Interviewees were divided on whether incremental approaches could achieve needed change or only large-scale projects could deliver sizeable benefits. To gain buy-in, the District may need to demonstrate that multiple combined strategies (e.g., recharge ponds, vegetation management, soil practices) are necessary to achieve the range of desired outcomes and that individual multi-benefit projects can be scaled across properties to meaningfully improve total watershed health.

Criteria for Success

- **Multi-benefit projects** that address flood control, groundwater recharge, soil health, and habitat together have the best chance of securing funding and stakeholder support.
- **Farmer participation** depends on projects being economically viable, voluntary, locally designed, and showing clear benefits like improved water supply and flood protection. High upfront costs and long-term maintenance requirements are major barriers; flexible funding helps.
- **Demonstration projects** that show success on nearby farms are the strongest motivator for others to participate.
- **Custom design** is essential—every site has different soils, water patterns, and farmer needs. One-size-fits-all approaches don't work.
- **Simplified permitting** is critical. State agencies (CDFW/DWR) need to reduce bureaucratic delays and improve coordination.
- **Partnerships** with local conservation districts (RCDs), federal agencies (NRCS), and Tribes help secure funding and community buy-in. Using students and new farmers as labor can reduce costs.
- **Long-term support:** Yolo County has expertise and collaboration, but needs reliable funding and supportive policies to implement projects at meaningful scale.

Opportunities

Ideas raised during the interviews are organized below topically with respect to the primary challenge they are intended to address. Reference the longer assessment for more detail.

Water Supply & Groundwater Recharge

Interviewees supported opportunities to increase water supply – whether surface or groundwater. As a result, they conceptually supported groundwater recharge efforts, but many were dubious about what kind and scale of recharge would be effective in the watershed.

Suggestions to improve groundwater sustainability included the following:

- **Groundwater conservation:** Assist groundwater users in identifying water conservation goals and methods to achieve them.
- **Transition more farmers to surface water:** Reduce the strain on groundwater resources, improve individuals' water supply reliability, and reduce their costs.
- **Stormwater detention/recharge ponds:** Numerous participants voiced strong support for recharge pond/reservoir projects to capture high winter flows for groundwater recharge, slow peak flows to mitigate downstream flood impacts, and settle out sediment to improve water quality. Interviewees described different visions of potential scale (e.g., on-farm retention ponds vs. larger recharge basins).
- **Winter field recharge (FloodMAR):** Numerous participants expressed skepticism that winter recharge could be successfully coordinated at the scale needed to affect groundwater levels without causing economic harm to farmers. However, participants acknowledged that suitable fields (appropriate soil, existing ditches, proper maintenance) could contribute to recharge, reduce flooding, and that additional sand and silt could improve soil.

Soil Health Practices

Soil health practices and erosion reduction were identified as among the easiest methods to provide multiple benefits: increased infiltration and recharge, improved water quality, reduced flood velocity, habitat provision, and carbon storage. Approaches include hedgerows and cover crops.

Flood Management

Interviewees identified several different avenues for addressing the inadequate flood conveyance of the Willow Slough infrastructure; these included:

- **Improve recharge and infiltration:** Reduce volume and velocity of storm flows through recharge ponds, winter field flooding, and soil health practices.
- **Assess primary flow impediments:** Use MBK flow study results to identify and prioritize significant barriers (seasonal dams, bridges) exacerbating flooding.
- **Regular vegetation maintenance:** Addressing overgrowth is essential to flood reduction. Consistent funding and permitting were identified as major obstacles. Suggestions

included: County/District/RCD could obtain bulk permits, survey sloughs with farmers, identify problem areas, secure permits, and then coordinate farmer-led cleaning.

- **Widening sloughs:** Explore compensating landowners to increase channel capacity where economically viable, though feasibility remains uncertain.

Habitat Restoration

Interviewees broadly supported integrating low-cost, win-win habitat features into projects, though most did not want habitat creation as the central focus. Native vegetation restoration can complement other objectives like groundwater recharge and flood management through site-specific design that augments rather than detracts from other priorities.

Policy and Land Use Planning

Several interviewees articulated an urgency around structural reforms to permitting, funding, and governance that provide obstacles to operational capacity, wildlife habitat, and agricultural productivity. Suggestions in this area included:

- Stricter oversight of land use decisions, especially preventing homes in unsuitable floodplain areas.
- Creation and adoption of a grading/drainage ordinance.
- Stronger regulation of unpermitted berms, dams, and bridges that alter natural flow patterns.
- Early and transparent coordination with regulatory agencies to reduce permitting delays and build long-term institutional trust.

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 9, 2025

ITEM #: 5

SUBJECT: Presentation: Update on the Winters Canal Siphon and Walnut Canal Headgate Replacement Project

INITIATED OR ☐ BOARD
REQUESTED BY: ☒ STAFF
☐ OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
PREPARED BY: Kristin Sicke
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT ☐ YES ☒ NO
☐ DIRECTION

☒ INFORMATION
☐ ACTION: ☐ MOTION
☐ RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

The District needs to replace a failing 60” siphon that connects Winters Canal in the southwest portion of the canal system and runs underneath Chickahominy Slough. As part of replacing the siphon, the District will also be replacing the concrete inlet and outlet connected to the Winters Canal at this location, along with upgrading the gate that drops water into the heading of the Walnut Canal (also known as Chickahominy Slough) for irrigation deliveries to the east. Downstream of the project location there is approximately 130 cfs of water delivery capacity and demand in the Winters and Walnut Canals. The District is prioritizing the project for completion prior to the 2026 irrigation season.

Davids Engineering is assisting the District with engineering the project and soliciting the project for contractor bidding. Staff will provide an update on the anticipated project scope, cost, and schedule.

RECOMMENDATION:

This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 9, 2025

ITEM #: 6

SUBJECT: Presentation: Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) Update

INITIATED OR ☐ BOARD
REQUESTED BY: ☒ STAFF
☐ OTHER _____

COORDINATED OR
PREPARED BY: Kristin Sicke
APPROVED BY: Kristin Sicke

ATTACHMENT ☐ YES ☒ NO
☐ DIRECTION

☒ INFORMATION
☐ ACTION: ☐ MOTION
☐ RESOLUTION

BACKGROUND:

District staff and the Board's representatives to the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) will provide an update on the YSGA's activities, including SGMA implementation grant projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.