

The Board met in a Regular Meeting at the Santa Cruz County Complex, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Room #120, Nogales, AZ. Present: John Fanning, Chairman; Luis Carlos Davis, Vice-Chairman; Rudy Molera, Member; Jesus Valdez, County Manager; Mauricio Chavez, Deputy County Manager; Chris Young, Deputy County Manager; Robert May, Civil Bureau Chief; Alma Schultz, Clerk of the Board.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Fanning called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by Chief Marc Meredith, Sonoita-Elgin Fire District.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Supervisor Molera made a motion to adopt the Agenda and deviate from the Agenda sequence as necessary, seconded by Vice-Chairman Davis; motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

3. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A RECOGNITION OF SUNDT CONSTRUCTION FOR ITS PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH PROJECTS THAT ENHANCE INFRASTRUCTURE AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR RESIDENTS (REQ: VICE-CHAIRMAN DAVIS)

B RECOGNITION OF VICTOR MARTÍN DEL CAMPO, PROJECT EXECUTIVE, SUNDT CONSTRUCTION FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO PROJECTS THAT STRENGTHEN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY (REQ: VICE-CHAIRMAN DAVIS)

Vice-Chairman Davis reported on Sundt Construction's ongoing community-support efforts throughout Santa Cruz County. Recent activities include assisting an elderly resident in Monte Carlo with tree-related concerns and exploring potential support for improvements at the Santa Cruz County Council on Aging.

Sundt Construction completed a project at Mexicayotl Academy of Excellence involving the installation of a new campus fence. The fence contains both pedestrian and vehicle access gates and was constructed to enhance safety and provide a secure environment for students.

Students from Mexicayotl Academy delivered remarks in both English and Spanish expressing appreciation to Supervisor Luis Carlos Davis and Sundt Construction for their generosity, partnership, and contributions to strengthening the school community.

A cultural presentation followed, featuring a traditional Mexica ceremony. An instructor explained that the ceremony honors the four cardinal directions, Father Sun, Mother Earth, and the Great Spirit. The practice is rooted in ancestral Mexica teachings focused on gratitude, respect for nature, and preservation of cultural traditions. Symbolic offerings were made as part of the ceremony.

A group photo was taken with students, school staff, and representatives from Sundt Construction.

A representative from Sundt Construction expressed appreciation to Santa Cruz County for the opportunity to contribute to community projects and reaffirmed the company's mission to build environments where clients, employee-owners, and communities prosper. The representative stated that Sundt looks forward to continuing involvement in additional initiatives throughout the area.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Marta Monka, a resident of Patagonia, expressed concerns about heavy industrial traffic on Cross Creek Connector near Emily Lane and reported worsening air quality. She stated that trucks and semi-trucks frequently idle along the road for extended periods, creating noise, pollution, and litter. She noted that “No Parking” signs placed by the county were removed shortly after installation. Ms. Moka asked why residents are expected to tolerate these impacts and urged the county to prohibit industrial vehicles from idling or staging on Cross Creek Road.

Jay Thompson, a resident of Rio Rico, expressed concerns about industrial truck activity on Cross Creek Connector, citing daily idling, parking, littering, and waste disposal on county-managed roadway shoulders. He described ongoing deferrals between agencies and companies, noting the impacts fall on county infrastructure and stem from poor staging and lack of enforcement. He urged the county to implement no-parking and no-idling restrictions, require designated staging areas, track complaints, and coordinate with ADEQ. Mr. Thompson added that similar issues were raised during the EIS process but were deferred, and that new routing will send truck traffic through Forest Service land and nearby communities, with dust and track out unmanaged. He stated that residents should not have to tolerate these conditions and that the county has the authority and responsibility to act.

Chris Werkoven, former Sonoita, raised concerns about water and air quality related to ADEQ permits issued for South32 mining activities. He stated that metal contamination and plume formation have already been detected, contradicting regulatory assurances, and said these findings should be independently verified. He also noted problems with air-emission data, including corrections made when better information was used, and argued that agencies have not adequately explained compliance or safety regarding emissions and tailings stability. He urged the Board of Supervisors to require independent validation of environmental protections and emphasized that ensuring accurate, science-based oversight is a core responsibility to constituents.

Robin Lucky, a resident of Rio Rico, President of Calabasas Alliance, described a severe storm that caused a major water outage in her neighborhood. She explained the difficulty residents faced in obtaining information and assistance from Liberty Water and noted delays in restoring service. She expressed concern about aging electrical poles and questioned when upgrades will occur, especially given expanding service needs in the county. She stated that regulated utilities are expected to make reasonable efforts to provide continuous water service and reminded the Board that it has authority to act in situations affecting public health. She emphasized that the outage highlighted vulnerabilities made worse by changing climate conditions and urged greater attention to infrastructure reliability.

Kathi Campana, a resident of Rio Rico, reported significant damage to a local trail following the recent storm, including buckling, overgrown weeds, low-hanging branches, and slippery conditions caused by poor drainage. She stated that the trail was not engineered properly, and that grader work creates berms that worsen flooding and hazards for seniors and other users. She requested that the county clear the trail, address the drainage issues, and improve maintenance for public safety.

CURRENT EVENTS

1. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

VICE-CHAIRMAN DAVIS: reported that he, along with Colin Bishop and Chris Young, toured three wastewater treatment plants in Nogales, Sonora, as part of ongoing binational collaboration between Santa Cruz County and the City of Nogales, Mexico. He stated that the tour provided valuable insight into the Mexican-side infrastructure that contributes to Oso Wash and highlighted improvements being made to water flow and treatment. He thanked the City of Nogales, Mexico, and its leadership for coordinating the visit and noted that regular monthly meetings are strengthening communication, coordination, and prevention efforts across the border. Additional comments from staff emphasized

recent operational improvements at the plants and the positive progress resulting from continued collaboration. Vice-Chairman Davis also shared updates from his District One Advisory Committee meeting, where topics included property tax collection and the Liz Gutfahr case. He concluded by noting ongoing efforts to organize a town hall with Senator Gallego in Nogales, with an announcement expected soon.

SUPERVISOR MOLERA: thanked Supervisor Davis for his work in strengthening partnerships with Mexico and Sundt. He reported attending the Teacher of the Year graduation and the South32 electrician class graduation and offered congratulations to both groups. He noted the installation of new bicycle safety signs in the Kino Springs area as part of a community project led by Alexis Simon through the Emerging Leaders program and thanked staff for their assistance.

Supervisor Molera also highlighted the ongoing work of the “Talking Trash” group, a multi-department effort to address trash and enforcement issues in Rio Rico, with a study session planned for September. He additionally thanked Liz Meek and her neighborhood group for their volunteer cleanup efforts, as well as other volunteers, including Jesse from Santa Cruz Shining, who will be partnering in future cleanup activities.

CHAIRMAN FANNING: thanked Kate Trion for hosting a tour in Patagonia, which he attended with staff and found very informative. He also acknowledged Connie, Brian, and Ben for providing an update during his visit to Oso Wash. He reported holding an informal meeting with Dr. Mary Vaness, Rich Bowman, and CBP regarding checkpoint planning. Chairman Fanning met with the Tubac Chamber to discuss improving coordination among chambers countywide. He thanked Bob and Allison Schluetzer for a recent tour of the eastern portion of the county.

Chairman Fanning congratulated newly elected officials and recognized the Elections Department, noting the accuracy of the recent recount. He also met with Louis Parra to discuss continued collaboration between the county and the City of Nogales. He referenced the CPBA meeting held the previous day and acknowledged concerns raised by residents. He concluded by reading a message from resident Flo Emerson praising county staff for their response to recent monsoon flooding, and affirmed ongoing efforts to address local issues.

2. MANAGER

JESUS VALDEZ, COUNTY MANAGER, reported that management is planning to hold office hours prior to Board of Supervisors meetings, either 30 or 45 minutes before each meeting. During this time, members of the public will be able to ask questions about agenda items or other county issues. He noted that staff would provide available information and, when needed, follow up with additional answers after the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES CONT.

1. FINANCE: CASH & INVESTMENTS, EXPENDITURES & REVENUE REPORTS

Maria Martinez, Assistant Finance Director, reported \$22,110,357.03 in the General Fund, of which \$17,023,234.55 is invested; \$5,639,255.48 in the Road Fund, of which \$5,266,519.27 is invested; \$2,643,956.66 in the Flood Control District Fund, of which \$317,408.13 is invested; \$5,913,838.03 in the Jail District Fund, of which \$4,523,743.86 is invested; \$58,934,352.82 total for all funds, of which \$29,312,114.38 is invested; \$9,270,287.55 estimated end of month balance, compared to \$7,396,569.39 cash at August 2025, a difference of \$1,873,718.16.

2. DEPARTMENT(S) UPDATE

A UPDATE ON EARLY ACTIONS COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AGREEMENT BY COUNTY MANAGEMENT

Deputy County Manager Chris Young provided an update on the Early Actions portion of the Community Investment Agreement. He noted that current CPBA discussions are focused on protection measures and encouraged residents to submit feedback through two surveys or the open comment form available on the CPBA website through August 31. This input will help guide future committee work. He reiterated that CPBA benefits will not be used to fund the county's core functions but will instead support community-focused projects such as childcare, housing, parks, recreation, and emergency services. He then provided updates on individual projects. The independent emergency services audit has received two bids and is now under evaluation. The Patagonia Flood Control Study Phase Two has begun and is progressing. The Health Department is acquiring equipment for the mobile health clinic. Work on the countywide childcare plan is starting, with Epic and First Things First partnering on the project. Coordination continues on the countywide parks, recreation, and open space general plan, with chambers of commerce and tourism partners involved. The housing strategy has received several submittals and is currently being reviewed.

Deputy County Manager Young noted that recommendations related to emergency response and housing will be presented to the Board for approval in the coming weeks. He emphasized that community and stakeholder engagement will be central throughout these processes and encouraged residents to reach out with questions or comments.

ACTION ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 AS SONOITA-ELGIN FIRE DISTRICT DAY (REQ: CHAIRMAN FANNING)

Vice-Chairman Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Molera; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

Chairman Fanning read the proclamation.

Chief Marc Meredith reported that the emergency services audit process is progressing well and that his department has been engaged from the beginning. He provided brief historical context, noting that although the fire district became an official special tax district in 2006, fire services in the eastern part of the county have a much longer history rooted in community efforts. He emphasized the strong partnership between the district, Patagonia Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Nogales Fire, and other county fire agencies, highlighting their collective commitment to serving the entire county. Chief Meredith recognized the district's 20-year milestone and expressed appreciation for the county's acknowledgment of their service.

STUDY SESSION

1. COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BY JACOB EMNETT, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA

Jacob Emmett from the County Supervisors Association (CSA) provided an overview of the organization's work and recent activities. The presentation highlighted CSA's role in supporting Arizona's counties through non-partisan research, data analysis, statewide policy coordination, and legislative advocacy. The speaker summarized CSA's governance structure, statewide outreach to all counties, major initiatives in data modernization, policy briefings, development of analytical tools, and expansion of communication efforts such as the association's podcast. The update also covered key outcomes from the recent legislative session, including budget impacts, county-related bills, and ongoing policy priorities. The presenter encouraged participation in the upcoming CSA Policy Summit and emphasized the value of continued collaboration between CSA and Santa Cruz County.

ACTION ITEMS CONT.

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO RATIFY PROFORMA #108552 WITH WEST COAST ARBORISTS, INC. FOR REMOVAL OF A EUCALYPTUS TREE AND STUMP GRINDING TO ADDRESS HAZARD AT THE TUBAC COMMUNITY CENTER IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$12,300 (REQ: PUBLIC WORKS)

Vice-Chairman Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Molera; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

The Board discussed the removal of a hazardous eucalyptus tree at the Tubac Community Center. While acknowledging its history and beauty, it was agreed that safety concerns, past damage, and potential risks justified its removal. The Board expressed interest in exploring whether the remaining wood could be repurposed locally. Staff agreed to look into options with the contractor.

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO RATIFY INVOICE NO. EMERGENCY-26-SCC01 WITH INNOVA ENGINEERING, LLC FOR BANK PROTECTION AND CONCRETE SLOP INSTALLATION AT HOHOKAM DR. IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2026 MONSOON EMERGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$142,917.60 (REQ: PUBLIC WORKS)

Supervisor Molera made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

The Board confirmed that the projects under consideration were completed in partnership with the City of Nogales and were initiated in response to storm damage affecting the wash. Members expressed appreciation for the city's cooperation and for the fast, coordinated response by county staff. A correction was noted for the record: the agenda item should reference a "concrete slope," not "slop."

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO RATIFY INVOICE NO. EMERGENCY-26-SCC02 WITH INNOVA ENGINEERING, LLC FOR BANK PROTECTION AND CONCRETE SLOP INSTALLATION AT HOHOKAM DR. IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2026 MONSOON EMERGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$101,839.65 (REQ: PUBLIC WORKS)

Vice-Chairman Davis made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Molera; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera) A correction was noted for the record: the agenda item should reference a "concrete slope," not "slop."

Vice-Chairman Davis made a motion to recess the Regular Meeting to convene the Jail District Board seconded by Supervisor Molera; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

JAIL DISTRICT

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH TRINITY SERVICES GROUP, INC. FOR AN ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO THE MEAL PRICES AT THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ADULT DETENTION CENTER, REFLECTING A 3.5% INCREASE BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR FOOD AWAY FROM HOME EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2026 (REQ: SHERIFF)

Supervisor Molera made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairman Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

The Board adjourned as the Jail District Board and reconvened the Regular Meeting. (Motion: Vice-Chairman Davis; second: Supervisor Molera; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

CONSENT AGENDA

Supervisor Molera made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Davis; the motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)

1. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILL VACANT:

A APPRAISER I POSITION (REQ: ASSESSOR)

B PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR, LEAD POSITION (REQ: SHERIFF)

2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF TABLES, PODIUM, WHITEBOARD, MULTICOLORED CHAIRS, AND WALL-MOUNTED WATER FOUNTAINS TO THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY (REQ: SHERIFF)

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11 AUTHORIZING THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF CAMINO AGUA FRIA, A COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY, IN EXCHANGE FOR A PORTION OF CAMINO PROVIDENCIA TO BE ESTABLISHED AS A NEW COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY, ENCROACHING UPON PROPERTY OWNED BY ROB DILLA LAND LLP (REQ: PUBLIC WORKS)

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE JOB ORDER MASTER AGREEMENT NO. PW-FY2027, SOLICITATION NO. RFQ-01-26-CO29, WITH 12 QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS TO PERFORM A VARIETY OF CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REHABILITATION SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH A.R.S. § 34-604 PREVIOUSLY APPROVED 07/15/2026 REFLECTING AN AMENDMENT THAT LOWERS THE MINIMUM THRESHOLD FROM \$200,000 TO \$100,000 ON PROJECTS (REQ: PUBLIC WORKS)

5. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH SAUL'S CREEK ENGINEERING FOR THE RENEWAL OF DOCUMENT RECORDING SERVICES FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2029 IN THE MONTHLY AMOUNT OF \$2,320 (REQ: RECORDER)

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VICTOR FLORES DBH, LAC TO PROVIDE SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT SERVICES EFFECTIVE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2031, WITH AUTOMATIC ONE-YEAR RENEWALS FOR UP TO FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL TERMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750 PER SERVICE FUNDED THROUGH THE ARIZONA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS (REQ: PROBATION)

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH32 HERMOSA INC. TO SUPPORT THE 2026 TEACHER OF THE YEAR EVENT IN THE FUNDING AMOUNT OF \$5,000 (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT SHIELD FOR THE 2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR FUNDED BY GRANT NO. RFGA-PC-GOYFF-070125 FROM THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF YOUTH, FAITH AND FAMILY, WITH: (REQ: SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT)

A NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000

B PATAGONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000

C SANTA CRUZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #28 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000

D SONOITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #25 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000

9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION, RESOLUTION NO.: (REQ: ELECTIONS)

A 2026-12 DESIGNATING THE VOTE CENTERS

B 2026-13 CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS APPOINTING CANDIDATES THAT FILED, AND DECLARING VACANCIES

C 2026-14 CANCELLATION OF CERTAIN FIRE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS APPOINTING CANDIDATES THAT FILED, AND DECLARING VACANCIES

D 2026-15 CANCELLATION OF THE THREE CANYONS DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (DWID) GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION AND DECLARING VACANCIES

E 2026-16 CANCELLATION OF THE TRUJILLO TRAIL DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (DWID) GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION APPOINTING CANDIDATES THAT FILED

10. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ATTORNEY, GEORGE SILVA, TO SIGN AND ACCEPT THE ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION (ACJC) CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT VICTIM OF CRIME GRANT NO. VC-27-013 FROM 7/1/2026 THROUGH 06/30/2027 FOR A FUNDING AMOUNT OF \$98,081 (REQ. COUNTY ATTORNEY)

11. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE COUNTY ATTORNEY, GEORGE SILVA, TO SIGN AND ACCEPT THE ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION (ACJC) CRIME VICTIM PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT ACCEPTING FUNDS UNDER ACJC GRANT NO. VA-27-029 FROM 7/1/2026 THROUGH 06/30/2027 FOR A FUNDING AMOUNT OF \$43,283.65 (REQ: COUNTY ATTORNEY)

12. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE BOND FOR DUPLICATE WARRANT #4-052660 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,340.00 DATED 02/13/2026 PAYABLE TO ENESTECH SOFTWARE CORPORATION (REQ: CLERK)

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 08/05/2026 & 08/05/2026 SPECIAL MEETING

14. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

15. APPROVAL OF DEMANDS were approved in the total amount of \$337,211.90 of which \$231,601.39 is from the General Fund for FY2026 and total amount of \$1,696,977.93, of which \$557,618.94 is from the General Fund for FY2027. Total for all funds \$2,034,189.83, of which

\$789,220.33 is from the General Fund Details of these expenditures are available for inspection during working hours and are to be considered as part of these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m. (motion: Vice-Chairman Davis; second: Supervisor Molera; motion carried unanimously) (Ayes: Davis, Fanning, Molera)