

FINAL COPY

TORRANCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 27, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: RYAN SCHWEBACH –CHAIRMAN

KEVIN MCCALL- DISTRICT 1

LINDA JARAMILLO –DISTRICT 3

OTHERS PRESENT:

J. JORDAN BARELA-COUNTY MANGER

MISTY WITT-DEPUTY COUNTY MANGER

SYLVIA CHAVEZ-COUNTY CLERK

SENaida ANAYA-CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

JUSTICE WIEITZ-PLANNING & ZONING OFFICER

MIKE GARCIA-ATTORNEY (VIA ZOOM)

1.) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Schwabach calls the October 27, 2025, Commission Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2.) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Pledge led by Chairman Schwabach

Invocation led by Commissioner McCall

3.) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

County Manager Barela states there are no changes to the agenda.

4.) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

Request for approval of Resolution No. 2025-45, A Resolution Proclaiming a Disaster Declaration for Melody Ranch Water System Failure.

County Manager Barela gives a little background to the resolution. On September 24th we did present a memo to this Commission to talk about a declaration of emergency regarding this particular situation in Melody Ranch and the water concerns that are going on there. The Emergency Manager as well as

myself, had reached out to the State and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and we were advised that there were no available resources from the state's perspective to allocate to the emergency water needs of the development. Subsequent to that, late last week, we did have some discussions with the state to include the Governor's Office, and we were advised that there are potential financial resources available to be allocated to the emergency water needs of the development as part of those discussions, we were also advised that the Governor is ready and willing to issue an executive order to potentially allocate those resources, but the first step in that process would be this commission approving a declaration of disaster or declaration of emergency Regarding this specific water situation, which brings us here today in this resolution that is before the board's consideration.

Chairman Schwabach How long is this good for?

County Manager Barela If declared 30 days, Mr. Chair.

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwabach makes a motion for approval.
Commissioner Jaramillo seconds the motion. No further discussion, all Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Schwabach stated that he believes what is being seen here represents only the beginning of a larger issue within the valley. He commended the Legislators for their diligence in making this project. It would not have occurred through the normal course of business. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the residents and himself for their efforts.

Chairman Schwabach emphasized the need to look into long-term solutions, not only for this valley but across the entire state, to ensure a clear and consistent system for monitoring private water systems. He noted that had such systems been properly monitored-whether by residents, the PRC, or the Rural Water Authority-there were warning signs years ago that could have prevented the current situation. He urged the need for a long-term fix and for common sense moving forward. He mentioned the Commission's investment in EMWT, which he believes plays an important role in addressing these types of issues. However, he expressed concern about the precedent being set, clarifying that while immediate help is necessary for affected individuals, it is equally important to understand why the situation reached the point of requiring a state of emergency.

Commissioner Schwabach requested continued attention to this broader issue, acknowledging it as part of a larger statewide problem. He thanked everyone

involved, including the Governor's Office, and expressed surprise but gratitude for their support.

Commissioner McCall emphasized that the current action is being taken to support the citizens of Torrance County, not to excuse or absolve the Melody Ranch Water System of responsibility. He expressed concern that this decision could set a precedent suggesting other water systems might expect future bailouts, stressing that this is a key concern moving forward.

Commissioner Schwebach expressed concern about the current state of existing systems. They were established 30 years ago and no longer align with today's needs. He emphasized that while the issue cannot be resolved in this meeting, it is critical that decision-makers including those in Emergency Management, the House of Representatives, the State Senate, and the Governor's office take responsibility for implementing necessary fixes. He noted that we are now in "brave new territory" compared to when the systems were originally designed.

Commissioner Jaramillo expressed gratitude for the assistance provided to the residents of Melody Ranch. They had been without water for an extended period and were in urgent need. Commissioner Jaramillo thanked those involved for their efforts in helping the community.

5.) ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

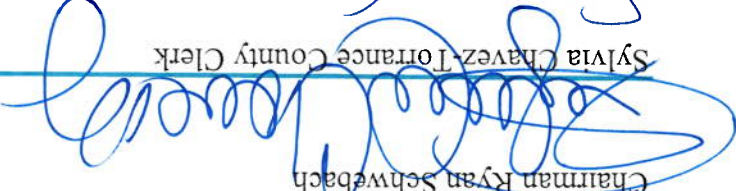
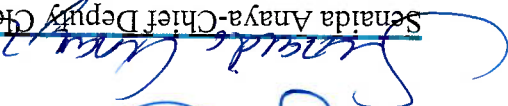
Special Meeting October 29, 2025, at the Torrance County Administrative Building at 9:00 AM

6.) SIGNING OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

*ADJOURN

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Schwebach makes a motion to adjourn the October 27, 2025, Commission Meeting. Commissioner Jaramillo seconds the motion. No further discussion, all Commissioners in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:12 A.M.


Chairman Ryan Schwabach

Sylvia Chavez-Torrance County Clerk

Senaida Anaya-Chief Deputy Clerk

Date 11/18/2005

*If you are an individual with a disability who needs a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing(s) or meeting(s), please contact the Manager's Office at 505-544-4700 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Manager's Office at the number listed above if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.