



**CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AGENDA

**Chairman – Eric Friedman
Vice Chairman – Jeff Clay**

Thursday, December 18, 2025
9:00 AM
at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California 93427

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via
Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 274 717 013 316 32 Passcode: 7XV9W9s5
or by dialing [+1 323-484-5095](tel:+13234845095), and entering access Code/Meeting ID: 780 782 736#

Please note: public participation by video call or telephone is for convenience only and is not required by law. If technical interruptions to the video call/telephone occur, the chair has the discretion to continue the meeting and participants are invited to take advantage of the other participation options above.

Public Comment on agenda items may occur via video call or telephonically, or by submission to the Board Secretary via email at lhw@ccwa.com no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. In your email, please specify (1) the meeting date and agenda item (number and title) on which you are providing a comment and (2) that you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting. If you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting (as either general public comment or on a specific agenda item), please limit your comments to no more than 250 words.

Every effort will be made to read comments into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Please also note that if you submit a written comment and do not specify that you would like this comment read into the record during the meeting, your comment will be forwarded to Board members for their consideration.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available on the CCWA internet web site, accessible at <https://www.ccwa.com>.

★ indicates written report

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Public Comment – (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any matter within the Board’s jurisdiction. Individual Speakers may be limited to five minutes; all speakers to a total of fifteen minutes.)

III. Closed Session

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT (Gov. Code Section 54957(b)(1))
Title: Executive Director
Agency Designated Representative: Jeff Dinkin, Stradling

IV. Return to Open Session

Report on Closed Session Actions (if any)

V. Executive Director: Consider Employment Agreement

Staff Recommendation: N/A

VI. Executive Director Report

A. Assignment of Water Supply Contract Between The State of California Department of Water Resources and Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Staff Recommendation: Information item only

B. Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP: Rate Increase ★

Staff Recommendation: None

VII. Reports from Board Members for Information Only

VIII. Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda

IX. Date of Next Regular Meeting: January 22, 2026

X. Adjournment

Memorandum

Stephanie Osler Hastings
Attorney at Law
805.882.1415 direct
shastings@bhfs.com

DATE: December 10, 2025

TO: CCWA Board of Directors

COPY TO: Ray Stokes, Executive Director

FROM: Stephanie Hastings

RE: Brownstein Legal Services: Proposed Legal Fee Adjustment Effective January 1, 2026

Brownstein is privileged and proud to serve as CCWA's legal counsel. We propose the following increase in Brownstein's hourly billing rates for shareholders, leaving the current flat rate in place for all other timekeepers (associates and paralegals), effective January 1, 2026.

Brownstein Title	Current CCWA Special Rate (since 7/1/23)	Proposed CCWA Special Rate (effective 1/1/26)
Shareholder	\$495	\$575
Associates and paralegals	\$495	\$495

Reasons for proposed change:

- Brownstein has not increased our hourly billing rates in more than two years, since July 1, 2023, and before that, not since 2020.
- The current flat rate of \$495 for all timekeepers does not reasonably reflect the wide range of expertise, experience, or years of practice of the individual Brownstein attorneys who serve CCWA.
- The Producer Price Index for Legal Services reflecting the cost of legal services has increased 15.8% since July, 2023.
- Based on our assessment of CCWA's active matters, and the attorneys who staff those matters, we anticipate that Brownstein's average monthly invoices will decrease for the remainder of CCWA's FY 25-26.

- The proposed flat rate for shareholders would increase the cost of Brownstein legal services only when shareholders are required to provide these services, but even with this impact, the proposed rate increase is not expected to exceed CCWA's remaining legal services budget for FY 25-26.

We are extremely grateful for the trust that the Board has placed in Brownstein for its legal services and we greatly appreciate the Board's consideration of this proposed hourly rate adjustment.