

**SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD MEMORANDUM**

DATE: June 17, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Loch Dreizler, General Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of Purchase – Three Flo-Dar Ultrasonic-Radar Flow Metering Systems for Trunk Line Monitoring (Updated Recommendation Following Wastewater Committee Review)

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Board approve the General Manager’s purchase of three (3) Flo-Dar manhole flow metering systems from Ponton Industries (McCrometer/Hach authorized representative) under Quote PONQ70674, Option 1 (Purchase with Data Delivery Service – 3 years), for an amount not to exceed \$108,000 (including a 15% contingency). This is Cannon Engineering’s recommended approach. Funding is available from unspecified reserves.

BACKGROUND: At the May 20, 2026 Board meeting, the Board did not approve the initial purchase recommendation but expressed support for enhanced trunk line monitoring. Board members raised questions about the existing Fjord Drive meter, portability, relocation frequency, staff capabilities, warranty implications, and the potential use of supplemental meters.

The Wastewater Committee reviewed this item on June 2, 2026. Staff provided a detailed handout addressing these concerns. The Committee discussed the project’s viability, including trunk line hydro-jet cleaning and a CCTV inspection, with staff recommending installation after that work is completed. President Redfern inquired about the cost of the 3-year cloud data service, and the Committee received positive feedback on the operations staff’s ability to move the meters.

DISCUSSION: Accurate flow data remains essential for system management, capacity planning, I&I studies, and coordination with Solvang’s WWTP upgrades. The Flo-Dar non-contact ultrasonic-radar systems are well suited for sewer manholes and perform reliably across varying conditions.

Ponton Industries provided three pricing options (April 28–May 6, 2026):

- **Option 1** – Purchase with Data Delivery Service (3 years): District owns the equipment and receives cloud-based remote access, graphs, and reports. **Recommended.** Total: \$93,911.
- **Option 2** – Purchase without Data Delivery Service: \$83,015.
- **Option 3** – Full-Service Contract (5 years): \$163,362.

Addressing Board and Committee Concerns:

1. **Fjord Drive Meter:** The existing meter has recently been calibrated and remains functional. However, replacing it with a modern Flo-Dar unit as part of this project will ensure consistent, high-quality data along the entire 4-mile trunk line.
2. **Portability and Frequency of Moving Meters:** Flo-Dar sensors are designed for easy relocation with a non-contact jack-bar mounting system. Trained staff can typically remove and reinstall a unit in 45–90 minutes, often from the surface using a retrieval pole and without full confined-space entry. We do not anticipate frequent moves—initial placement at Golden Inn, Alamo Pintado, and Fjord Drive will provide strong baseline data. Relocations to sub-segments can occur as needed (e.g., 1–2 times per year) based on findings.
3. **Staff Capability:** District operations staff can handle routine moves in-house after initial training (included in the purchase). Contractor support will be limited to initial installations or complex sites.
4. **Warranty:** Relocation in accordance with manufacturer guidelines does not void the warranty. Equipment carries a standard 1–2-year warranty with long-term stability (up to 3 years between calibrations).
5. **Supplemental Meters:** Flo-Dar units are among the more portable professional options. Lower-cost handheld or temporary meters (e.g., Hach FH950) can be added later for spot checks if denser monitoring is desired.
6. **Synergy with Cleaning & CCTV:** This project pairs well with the trunk line hydro-jet cleaning and CCTV inspection. Flow data will help prioritize segments, and CCTV results will validate findings. Staff recommend installing the meters after the cleaning and CCTV work.
7. **Cloud Data Service (3-Year Trial):** Option 1 provides 3 years of remote access with minimal staff time. After this period, we can evaluate performance and decide whether to continue, switch to manual downloads, or expand the system (e.g., to five total meters).

Procurement and Budget: This qualifies as a specialized negotiated purchase below the formal bidding thresholds. The 15% contingency covers installation adjustments or site conditions.

NEXT STEPS If approved, staff will issue a purchase order to Ponton Industries, coordinate installation with Cannon Engineering (post-cleaning/CCTV), and schedule staff training on the FSDATA platform. We will provide ongoing progress updates to the Board and the Wastewater Committee.

Available Upon Request

1. Ponton Industries / McCrometer Quotes (PONQ70674, etc.) and DDS Service Proposal – Also, distributed at the Regular Board Meeting in May.