



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 16, 2024
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Koster called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Board Members present were Peter Lucich, Zach Maring, Kyle Perez, Jarod Lara, and Jim Jasper.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthea asked if there was any member of the public that would like to make a public comment. No members of the public were present to comment.

3. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or revisions to the Agenda.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of September 18, 2024 and the Monthly Accounting and Field Operations Reports for September 2024 were provided in advance for the Board's review. The Board approved the Consent Calendar Items as follows:

Ayes: Koster, Lucich, Maring, Lara, Perez, and Jasper
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Bays

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board to Review and Consider Acceptance of FY'24 Financial Audit.

Anthea provided the FY 24 DPWD Financial Audit and introduced Nate Doty of JWT & Associates, LLP. Nate gave the Board an overview of the District's financial position as of February 29, 2024, noting that the audit received an unqualified opinion without any identified exceptions. After review and discussion, the Board accepted the FY'24 Financial Audit, as follows:

Ayes: Koster, Lucich, Maring, Lara, Perez, and Jasper
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Bays

B. Board, on Behalf of the DM-II GSA, to Review and Consider a Resolution Adopting the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Pumping Reduction Plan

Adam provided and reviewed a copy of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Pumping Reduction plan, as well as a Resolution Adopting the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Pumping Reduction Plan. After review and discussion, the Board approved the Resolution Adopting the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Pumping Reduction Plan as follows:

Ayes: Koster, Bays, Lucich, Maring, Lara, Perez, and Jasper
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

Note: Board Member Bays arrived at 8:47 a.m.

- C. Board to Review and Consider Approval of Draft Well Lease Agreement in Support of the Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project
 Anthea provided and reviewed a Draft Well Lease Agreement being negotiated as part of the OCCRP for the extraction of stored water. The extraction well in question would discharge into CCID's main canal and DPWD's share would be exchanged for CCID CVP supplies and delivered to DPWD off of the DMC. The Board gave staff guidance regarding negotiations with the well-owner and deferred action to a later date.
6. MANAGER'S REPORT
 Anthea provided the SLDMWA Update on Water Policy/Resources Activity Report, as well as letters from several Districts including DPWD and members of congress regarding the Biological Opinions on the Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP, which will support the soon to be released Environmental Impact Statement. She reported that currently Reclamation was not planning on implementing the Fall X2 requirements in the current Biological Opinion as those requirements are not included in the revised Biological Opinion and new science supports the finding that implementing Fall X2 had no meaningful positive impact on Delta Smelt populations. She also reported that the SLDMWA held a workshop pertaining to the SWRCB's Water Quality Control Plan Update and its impact on future allocations and water costs. She reported that beginning in WY 2025 there would be a \$10/AF fee charged on all water delivered through the DMC as part of the implementation of the Voluntary Agreements, if in fact, the Voluntary Agreements are selected by the SWRCB as the preferred option over an unimpaired flows regime. The Water Authority would start self-collecting the fee in WY 2025, as Reclamation will need Congressional action to assess the charges through the water rates.
7. WATER OPERATIONS & SUPPLY
- A. CVP/SWP Operations
 Anthea provided and reviewed a 2024-25 San Luis Storage Project Graph showing a 50% and 90% Exceedance Hydrology. Anthea reminded the Board that about 24,000 AF of the District's water in storage would be at risk if San Luis Reservoir fills and spills.
- B. Monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 9.30.24
 Paul provided and discussed the monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 9/30/24 and reported in-District use for the month of September was 6,820 AF with an additional 548 AF of transfers out. Year to date use and scheduled use for the remainder of the 2024-25 water year totaled 88,593 AF, leaving 24,068 AF estimated for Rescheduling into 2025-26.
- C. 2024-25 Additional Supplies Update
 Anthea provided and reviewed a Draft 2024-25 Additional Supplies Pool Report. Paul reported that a few customers have needed to apply for late Additional Supplies as their 2024-25 water supply has been exhausted.
- D. Landholding/Licensing Updates
 Paul provided and reviewed the Active Permits and Licenses Report showing eight active permits and one active license.
- E. 2024-25 SLCC Transfer – Status Update
 Anthea reported that the District continued to work with Reclamation on the approval needed to perfect a transfer of CVP supplies to Triangle T as part of the off-ramp for the SLCC Transfer.
8. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
- A. Westside Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activities
 Anthea reported that the State will not be providing funding for the IRWM Program in the new Fiscal Year, so there is limited activity from the Westside IRWM beyond completion of the ongoing Disadvantaged Community Needs Assessment.
- B. SJVDA/Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition Report(s)
 Adam provided a SLDMWA Memo regarding the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority and an agenda to the SJVDA Meeting held on October 1st. Adam also provided and reviewed a proposal from Summers Engineering to perform the SJVDA administrative duties currently being performed by the SLDMWA. The SJVDA Board postponed approval of the proposal until the next meeting as Summers Engineering Principals were not able to attend the meeting to address some of the Board's questions. He also reported that Field Outreach Meetings were taking place with the new Field Outreach Coordinator hired by the SJVDA.

- C. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activities
Adam provided the Minutes for the Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee held on September 9th and the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee held on September 4th. He also provided an amendment to the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Services Activity Agreement that will allow for collection of funds to support the Well Mitigation Policy. He reported that the Northern GSP group and the Coordination Committee had been focusing on the Pumping Reduction Plan. Adam provided and discussed EKIs presentation to the Northern DM Region Committee regarding the Pumping Reduction Plan for the Northern GSP group. He also provided correspondence from DWR to the point of contact for the Central GSA highlighting areas of concern regarding subsidence in the Central GSA area.
 - D. SGM Implementation Grant – Round 1 Monthly Grant Administrator Update
Anthea reported that Staff was still waiting for an amendment to the grant agreement.
 - E. Groundwater Well Remote Telemetry Program (2023-24 WaterSMART Grant)
Adam provided a copy of the NOE filed with Stanislaus County for the DPWD Groundwater Well Remote Telemetry Program. It was noted that installation of the well meters would be completed by February 2025.
9. FINANCIAL MATTERS
- A. CVP Financial Matters
Anthea provided and reviewed correspondence from Reclamation regarding the closure of several finalized Power Letter of Agreements (PLOA's) which resulted in refunds, and an Amended Power Letter of Agreement for the Replacement of Project Use Power and Fees Incurred for Conveyance of Groundwater in Project Facilities related to the DMC Pump-In Program extending the expiration date of the existing agreement to February 28, 2033, thus avoiding the need for requesting a new PLOA every year for the contract. She also provided and reviewed the draft CVP Schedule of Irrigation Cost of Service Water Rates for Water Year 2025 showing a decrease in water rates compared to Water Year 2024. She noted that final rates will be available in January 2025. Anthea reported that a workshop had taken place the day prior, where a Net Position of Construction Costs Report was provided by Reclamation showing that many Districts had a credit on Construction Obligations stemming from the overpayment that occurred when the estimated capital repayment was made as part of the Contract Conversion process. However, DPWD and a few of the other CVP Ag Contractors have been claiming their credits against the charges for delivered water since the repayment was finalized, which has resulted in a lower residual credit as of FY 24. Reclamation is proposing to use the current credits to offset costs allocated for Folsom Safety of Dams repairs, rather than spreading that obligation out over the 50-year repayment period previously agreed to.
 - B. Mid-Year Administrative Budget Review
Anthea provided and reviewed a Mid-Year Administrative Budget Report.
10. SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
- A. Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project – Update
Adam reported that a meeting will be taking place the following week with CCID to discuss the outstanding items for the OCCRP, such as formalizing the O&M plans, finalizing selection of extraction well locations, and change orders from Rados.
 - B. Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project – Update
Anthea provided Progress Reports from TERRA/GeoPentech, TYLin, and Woodard & Curran. She reported that the engineers were completing the analysis of core samples and data to produce a final Geotechnical Interpretive Report. This report will be submitted to the Division of Safety of Dams so they can review the design and engineering to date. She also reported that work on the relocation of Del Puerto Canyon Road continued.
 - C. Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project
Anthea provided an article pertaining to the potential cancellation of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project. She reported that at the recent JPA meeting, Contra Costa Water District reported on their Board decision to cease participation in the project and the JPA, but that several JPA members were still interested in discussing possible alternatives.
 - D. BF Sisk Dam Raise Project – Update
Anthea provided a B.F. Sisk Dam Rise & Expansion Board Decision Schedule and reported that negotiations with the Bureau on the Cost Share and Management Agreement had concluded, and the agreement was going

through final solicitor review. A presentation will be given to the Board at a future Board Meeting on the final Agreement and the operational guidelines for utilizing expanded storage in San Luis Reservoir, as well as an update on the cost of participating. The SLDMWA is currently updating the Activity Agreement and developing a spend plan. Once these items are completed, the District will need to finalize a decision regarding participation in the project.

E. Ceres – DPWD – Turlock Discussions on Advancing Recycled Water into NVRRWP Facilities – Update

Anthea reported that she met with the City of Ceres to discuss their study for developing their own wastewater treatment plant. She also met with the City of Modesto the day prior to discuss their plans for potentially building a regional treatment plant, which they would like Ceres to consider as a potential alternative to building their own facility. She also reported that staff was waiting for an Amendment to the Grant agreement to reallocate the funds awarded to upgrade the City of Ceres pump station which delivers water to the City of Turlock for the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program to a feasibility study analyzing options for conveyance of tertiary treated recycled water produced at the proposed Ceres treatment plant directly to the Modesto NVRRWP pumping plant.

F. Coordination with Local Agencies on Regional SGMA Projects - Update

Anthea reported that WSID had approached the District regarding filing a request to amend the area that could be served under their existing water rights with the State Board to potentially include areas within DPWD boundaries. DPWD will be providing WSID with historical demand and deliveries for areas of interest that could potentially be serviced by WSID.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

A. Training Updates

Anthea reminded several Board Members of their outstanding training requirements.

B. Staffing Updates

There was nothing to report on this item.

C. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-Year Update

Adam provided a letter the District would be sending to neighboring agencies informing them that the draft DPWD Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was available for review and that comments and questions regarding the plan should be submitted prior to the public stakeholder meeting, which was planned to be held at the District office on November 20th.

D. Notice of Change in Service Area Pursuant to Art. 34 of Contract No. 14-06-200-922-LTR1-P

Anthea provided a letter written to the Bureau pertaining to DPWD's Contract for Project Water Service No. 14-06-200-922-LTR1-P. She reported that the letter informs the Bureau of a change in organization that the District did not itself initiate, and that the District would be continuing to provide water service to the 68 acres of land that was detached from the District via an out-of-boundary water service contract. The letter further requested Reclamation confirm in writing whether it understands Article 34 to be applicable to all changes in organization, or only to those that are initiated by the District.

12. SLDMWA REPORT

A. SLDMWA Minutes, Reports, and Issues Updates

Anthea provided the Minutes from the SLDMWA Board of Directors September 12th meeting, O&M Report for September, and a Recommendation to Authorize Execution of a task order with Hallmark Group for EO&M Project Cost Estimate Support. She reported that the task order would be for Hallmark to analyze the ten-year projects list and update construction cost estimates as there are many aging infrastructure projects. She noted that with updating aging facilities and repairing the components of the water conveyance system, there will be rate impacts.

B. Upper Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project

Anthea reported that the Planning Committee Meeting had taken place and was very organizational in nature. The committee has been tasked with determining appropriate cost allocation methodologies for the costs associated with repairing the upper and lower DMC.

13. ARTICLES / CORRESPONDENCE / PUBLIC OUTREACH

Articles titled *“Solution to California’s Water Storage Needs Lies Underground, not More Dams”*, *“Dirty Delta: California’s Largest Estuary is in Crisis.”*, *“Metropolitan Committee Discusses Delta Conveyance Project Ahead of December Vote on Funding Further Planning Costs”*, a press release titled *“UC Merced and SLDWA Execute Partnership Agreement that Opens Exciting Opportunities”*, and a Family Farm Alliance October Update Report were provided for the Board’s review.

14. CLOSED SESSION

There was nothing to report on this item.

15. REPORTS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54954.2

There were no reports pursuant to Government Code 54954.2

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthea G. Hansen
Secretary