

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023  
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Koster called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Board Members present were Daniel Bays, Zach Maring, Kyle Perez, Pete Lucich and Jim Jasper.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

President Koster asked if there was any public comment and asked if anyone on the phone had any public comment. No one was on the phone line and there was no public comment.

3. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Anthea reported that Action Item B should be removed from the Agenda, as the District does not hold the seat for the Division 1 Alternate to the SLDMWA Finance Committee.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on 8/16/23, Special Board Meeting held on 9/13/23, Monthly Accounting Reports, and Field Operations Report for August 2023 were provided in advance for the Board's review. The Board approved the Consent Calendar Items as follows:

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

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board to Review and Approve Draft Letter to Customers/Landowners re: Water Use Policy

Anthea provided a draft letter to Customers/Landowners regarding the District's Water Use Policy adopted in November 2022. The intent of the letter is to remind customers how the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act could impact the District, and to stress the importance of limiting reliance on groundwater when surface water is available. The letter is to be signed by the Board Members. After review and discussion, the Board approved the Draft Letter to Customers/Landowners re: Water Use Policy as follows:

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

B. Board to Consider Appointment of Joyce Machado as the Division 1 Alternate to the SLDMWA Finance Committee

This item was removed from the Agenda.

C. Board to Review and Consider Resolution Approving Application to WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants, Drought Resiliency Projects

Anthea provided and reviewed a Resolution Approving an Application to WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants and Drought Resiliency Projects. She explained that a technical proposal in support of the City of Modesto perfecting a regionalized wastewater treatment program to increase the quantity of flow through the NVRRWP titled "NVRRWP Regionalized Wastewater Treatment Program" would possibly be submitted with an application to the Bureau of Reclamation for a grant to be funded from the WaterSMART Planning & Project Design Grants for Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024, and that this Resolution was prepared in anticipation of that possibility. After review and discussion, the Board adopted the Resolution Approving an Application to Water SMART Planning and Project Design Grants and Drought Resiliency Projects as follows:

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

## 6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Anthea provided and reviewed an ACWA Newsletter summarizing the first year of the 2023-24 Legislative Session ending with wins for ACWA Members, the SLDMWA Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities, a letter from the Friant Water Authority regarding the Update on Voluntary Agreements to Update and Implement the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and Other Related Actions, and a flyer for the National Academies Review of the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project. She reported that a recently passed bill would give the State Water Resources Control Board more power to investigate all water rights and could require water rights holders to prove their beneficial use. She also reported that a bill was passed that would require all public agencies to move to zero emission vehicles, and that the SLDMWA worked with ACWA to get language in the legislation that would allow some exemptions for agencies that needed to have certain vehicles that did not rely on electricity for emergencies. She reported that the Administrative Draft of the Biological Opinions of the Long-term Operations of the CVP and SWP was released, and that she would be reviewing. Anthea also reported that the Friant Water Authority had been working with the Bureau of Reclamation, San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority, and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority on a South-of-Delta comprehensive drought plan, and that the FWA had withdrawn their letter dated May 25, 2023 opposing the Voluntary Agreements and was again supporting furtherance of the draft Voluntary Agreements.

## 7. WATER OPERATIONS & SUPPLY

### A. CVP/SWP Operations

Anthea reported that San Luis Reservoir is near full capacity. The Refuges will soon be increasing their demand and, if the winter is dry, continued irrigation could reduce the amount of water going into the Reservoir in the near term, but it is still expected that San Luis Reservoir will fill before the end of the water year.

### B. Monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 08.31.23

Paul provided the Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 8/31/23 and reported in-District use for the Month of August at 11,283 AF with transfers out of 1,000 AF. Total use for the 2023-24 water year was 54,296 AF, leaving the total estimated for rescheduling into 2024-25 at 98,340 AF.

### C. 2023-24 Additional Supplies Update

Anthea provided the 2023-24 Additional Supplies Report.

### D. Landholding/Licensing Updates

Paul provided and reviewed the Active Permits and Licenses report showing eight active permits and no current active licenses.

### E. Update on DMC Pump-In Program 2024-2025

Paul provided a communication pertaining to the DMC Pump-In Program five-year extension. He reported that the USBR would perform the environmental work for a 5-year extension of the program and will likely issue a 2-year contract followed by a 3-year contract to each of the participating Districts. Paul also provided the 2018-2023 Allocation of DMC Pumping Quantity Report.

### F. Report on Jones Pumping Plant Outage Causing 4-Unit Limit September 18 – October 6

Paul provided the Jones Pumping Plant Power System and Pump Units Correlation Schematic and reported that from September 18<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup> there would be an outage on four of the five units to repair one of the switchgears. SLDMWA hope to have it repaired in 12 days, but it could take as long as 21 days.

Note: Board Member Lara arrived at 9:25 a.m.

## 8. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

### A. Westside Integrated Regional Water management (IRWM) Activities

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Activity Agreements Staff Report for August and reported that three of the five projects in the Westside IRWM Region funded by Prop 1, Round 1 were complete. The WSID Pumping Plant

Modernization Project has been completed and was awarded \$800,000 of the \$5.1 million project. She also noted that a task order was executed with Self-Help Enterprises to update the Community Water Needs Assessments for disadvantaged communities in the region and shared that she had volunteered to be on the committee. She also reported that the District had just submitted the second reimbursement request to the IRWM Round 2 Grant and has collected almost a third of the \$955,000 awarded from that grant to facilitate the geotechnical drilling for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project.

- B. SJVDA/Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition Report(s)  
Adam reported that the SJVDA Board Meeting scheduled for September 5<sup>th</sup> had been cancelled. He reported that the major focus of the Coalition will be the Nitrate Control Program and coordination with all the nitrate discharge permit holders in the basin to get them educated on the program and enrolled.
  - C. Annual Report Filing – Response Update  
Adam reported that all customer reports had been submitted, but did not know if everyone had viewed the required annual grower meeting video.
  - D. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activities  
Adam provided the Agenda from the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, a special projects Cost Share Proposal for development of the GSP, and technical presentations to the Coordination Committee detailing efforts to address DWR's inadequacy determination. He reported that initial subbasin water budget model projections are close to the existing water budget calculations, but additional refinement is needed. He reported that water quality will be a primary focus of the SWRCB, and sampling requirements and cost will increase.
  - E. SGM Implementation Grant – Round 1 Monthly Grant Administrator Update  
There was nothing to report on this item.
  - F. Well Registration Package – Response Update  
Adam provided a list of Well Registrations Not Yet Received.
  - G. Groundwater Well Remote Telemetry Program (2023-24 WaterSMART Grant)  
Adam reported that he had a meeting with Sierra Controls to discuss how the District expected the well metering program to function and Sierra Controls would provide revised cost figures. Once the costs are finalized, a priority list of which wells to be targeted will be developed. He also noted that reporting for groundwater extraction is currently required three times per year, at the end of February, June, and September, per the Groundwater Well Metering Policy adopted by the Board in May of 2021.
9. FINANCIAL MATTERS
- A. FY 2023 Audit Update  
Anthea reported that she continued to work on the FY '23 Audit and that it would be completed as soon as possible.
  - B. Results of Operations for USBR FY'22 - Report  
Anthea provided and reviewed the BOR's Fiscal Year 2022 Irrigation and M&I Annual Accounting Analysis for Irrigation and Municipal and Industrial Water. The actual O&M costs and decrease in delivered CVP water resulted in an O&M deficit from FY '22 for the District. She will direct the Bureau of Reclamation to utilize credit the District holds from the contract conversion overpayment to reconcile the deficit.
  - C. CERBT Account Update as of June 30, 2023 - Report  
Anthea provided and reviewed the CERBT Account Update Summary.
  - D. Professional Fees Summary FY '17 through FY '24 - Report  
Anthea provided and reviewed a DPWD Professional Fees – Consulting / Accounting Summary. The projects highlighted included the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Canyon Feasibility Assessment Phase 1 & Phase 2, Orestimba Creek Project, Orestimba Creek Phase 1, LVRE Study, NVRWP – Ceres Component and BF Sisk projects. The Board asked that future Professional Fees Summary Reports include grant reimbursement figures.

E. CVP Financial Matters

Anthea provided and discussed a letter from the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the FY '24 changes to the CVP Restoration Fund charge. She also provided minutes from the CVPWA Meeting held on August 31<sup>st</sup>, as well as notes from the September 1st FAC meeting.

10. SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMSA. Orestimba Creek Recharge & Recovery Project – Update

Adam provided an agenda from the OCRRP September 14<sup>th</sup> weekly meeting and noted there were ongoing discussions with Rados regarding modifications to the alignment of the pipeline due to existing utilities conflicts. He also provided a copy of BOR's License for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of a Pump Station, Pipeline, and Pipeline Facilities on Reclamation Acquired Land.

B. Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project – Update

Anthea provided Woodard & Curran's Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Progress Update and the Progress Report from Terra / GeoPentech. She noted that some of the parcels within the study area had changes in landownership and required updated access agreements. She reported that the Geotech work should be completed by the end of October. She also reported that the team met with TYLin and will be executing a contract with them to begin engineering work on the road realignment. Work with PG&E and Crimson on the realignment of the utilities also continued.

C. Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project – Update

Anthea provided a copy of the PowerPoint from the LVE General Managers Update Meeting held on August 28<sup>th</sup>. She noted that she is scheduled to travel to Washington D.C. at the end of September to meet with the Commissioner of Reclamation to speak about the LVREP. She will also try to get a meeting to discuss transportation funds for the DPCR Road Realignment Project.

D. BF Sisk Dam Raise Project – Update

Anthea provided a PowerPoint from a BF Sisk Project Design and Schedule Workshop held on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The consultants and SLMDWA Staff led a thorough review of the Project and provided information on the revised feasibility study.

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

Anthea provided and reviewed a City of Ceres Wastewater Treatment Plant Export Pump Station Improvements Preliminary Design Scope of Services to increase effluent pumping to the City of Turlock, and thus increase deliveries through the NVRWP.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIESA. November 2023 District Election Update

Anthea reported that Staff was in the process of getting the ballots printed. Proofs of the ballot and a voter information guide were sent for review to the printer.

12. SLDMWA ReportA. SLDMWA Minutes, Reports, and Issues Updates

Anthea provided the SLMDWA Minutes and O&M Reports for review. She reported that renegotiation of the Exchange Contractor Transfer was taking place, and it would likely be a two-year transfer.

13. ARTICLES/CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC OUTREACH

Anthea provided a flyer from the Ag Leadership 52 Summer Tour that the District hosted a portion of, a flyer for the Yuba Water Tour of Westside San Joaquin Valley, two articles from Public Policy Institute of California titled *From Litigation to Collaboration on the San Joaquin River* and *How might Small Farms Fare under SGMA*, the Family Farm Alliance September Update Report, a News Release from BOR on *Deputy Regional Director Michelle Williams Transitions to Senior Vice President for Western Area Power Administration*, articles titled *Central Valley Farmers are having a Climate Reckoning*, *States at the Forefront of fights over wetlands protections after justices slash federal rules*, *4 dam projects = 1.8M acre feet of storage*, *Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project*, *DWR Installs Illuminated Bubble Barrier to help Young Salmon Migrate Safely Through the Delta*, a letter from the Water Blueprint, and *Water Rights Reformers Scored only a Minor Victory in the Legislature*.

14. CLOSED SESSION

The Board met in Closed Session on items listed on the Agenda, and no reportable action was taken.

15. REPORTS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54954.2

There were no Reports Pursuant to Government Code 54954.2.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthea G. Hansen  
Secretary

14.



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**TO:** Anthea Hansen, General Manager  
**FROM:** Paul Stearns, Deputy General Manager – Water Operations  
**DATE:** October 18, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Field Operations Report for Presentation to the Board  
For the Month of September, 2023

**Metering Program:**

- Meters read September 30, 2023.
- Continued flowmeter calibration program and maintenance of District meters.

**Right-of-Way (ROW) Encroachments and Permitting:**

- Continued coordination with developers, Water Authority, and City of Patterson regarding industrial developments along the Sperry Road and Rogers Road corridors.
- Permits issued to District for the temporary storage of commodities (almonds and gypsum) on the ROW at various locations along the DMC.
- Permit issued to District for the drafting of livestock water at DMC milepost 57.95R/Sullivan Road.

**Groundwater Pump-In Program Activities:**

- Coordinated well shut offs for Warren Act environmental compliance and SGMA well depth monitoring.
- No Pump-in Program for 2023-24 due to receiving an allocation greater than 40%.
- Long-term Warren Act Pump-in Program contract discussions with USBR and CVP Contractors.

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**Other Activities/Coordination with Water Authority, Outside Agencies and/or DPWD customers:**

- Leak monitoring/repairs at DMC turnouts 22.78L, 29.19L, 43.22L, 43.73L, 45.38L, and 52.02R.
- Replacement of pipeline spanning California Aqueduct servicing DPWD lands in Gustine area.
- Turnout Assessments: Condition of meters, electrical panels, locking devices, leaks, safety/accessibility issues.

