

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 2023**

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:35 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

**Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance**

**Division 1**

David Weisenberger, Director  
Vince Lucchesi, Alternate for Bobby Pierce  
Anthea Hansen, Director  
Ed Pattison, Director

**Division 2**

Ross Franson, Director  
Patrick McGowan, Alternate for Beau Correia  
Bill Diedrich, Director

**Division 3**

Chris White, Alternate for Dan McCurdy  
Cannon Michael, Director  
Ric Ortega, Director

**Division 4**

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate  
Jim Beall, Alternate for Richard Santos  
Steve Wittry, Director

**Division 5**

Bill Pucheu, Director

**Authority Representatives Present**

Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel  
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel  
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Mitch Partovi, Water Agency  
Rusty Areias, Foley, Foley & Lardner, LLP (ZOOM)  
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (ZOOM)  
Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (ZOOM)  
Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition (ZOOM)  
Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District  
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District  
Ellen Wehr, Grasslands Water District (ZOOM)

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water  
Vince Gin, Valley Water  
Lea Emmons, City of Tracy (ZOOM)  
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District (ZOOM)

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cannon Michael and roll was called.

2. **Board to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**

No additions or corrections.

3. **Public Comment**

Mitch Partovi from the Water Agency reported that he will be giving out the Water Agency's yearly themed water bottles, with the theme of "Groundwater Recharge".

**CONSENT ITEMS**

4. **Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: a) November 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, d) Acceptance of Staff Reports.**

On a motion of Director John Varela, seconded by Director David Weisenberger, the Board accepted the November 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes (with a minor correction on page 4), Financial & Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**ACTION ITEMS**

5. **Agenda Item 7: Board of Directors to Consider Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025 Objectives.**

Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced the item. Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that in October 2023, the Authority Board adopted an updated Strategic Plan, which charts the policy outcomes and objectives to implement in the coming five years. Petersen reported that the document included in the packet proposes objectives to guide policy in Fiscal Year 2025, consistent with the updated Authority Strategic Plan. Petersen reported that there are four proposed objectives: 1) Restore Central Valley Project water supplies to levels that meet reasonable demands within member agency boundaries and improve the reliability of those water supplies through the development and advocacy of sound water resource management and environmental policy, 2) Restore Central Valley

Project Water Supply for Member Agencies, 3) Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies, 4) Improve Outreach and Education. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation.

On a motion of Director David Weisenberger, seconded by Alternate Director Chris White, the Board adopted Fiscal Year 2025 Objectives. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

6. **Agenda Item 8: Board of Directors to Consider Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Technical Service Center for Final Design and Specifications for Upper DMC Rehabilitation, DMC Subsidence Correction Project, and Related Expenditure of up to \$5,700,000 from FY24 EO&M Budget and DWR Conveyance Subsidence Program Grant Funds.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item. Arroyave stated that the Water Authority is in the process of completing the feasibility study and will be moving on to the final design phase of the project. Arroyave then referred to Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil to provide further details on the project. McNeil stated that the cost of the project would be paid in two installments, utilizing EO&M budget funds and DWR grant funds.

On a motion of Director David Weisenberger, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board adopted the resolution authorizing execution of agreement with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Technical Service Center for Final Design and Specifications for Upper DMC Rehabilitation, DMC Subsidence Correction Project, and related expenditure of up to \$5,700,000 from FY24 EO&M Budget and DWR Conveyance Subsidence Program Grant Funds. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

5. **Agenda Item 9: Board of Directors to Consider Authorizing Execution of Memorandum of Agreement, Not as a Party, for Coordination of Implementation of a Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reviewed the revisions made by the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (D-M Subbasin) groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) and on March 2, 2023 issued a final determination for the

Subbasin's plans as "inadequate." Petersen reported that the determination transfers oversight of the Subbasin and groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) development to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as the GSAs work toward amending the GSPs to reach "approved" status. Petersen reported that the Subbasin Coordination Committee determined to combine the six "inadequate" GSPs into a single GSP. Petersen reported that the original Coordination Agreement was required as a result of the SGMA regulations to outline the rules for implementing multiple GSPs in a single groundwater subbasin and the direction to proceed to a single GSP for the entire subbasin necessitates a change in the framework agreement for implementation. Petersen reported that the proposed Memorandum of Agreement provides the framework for continued cooperation in the implementation of a single GSP and achieving groundwater sustainability for the D-M Subbasin.

On a motion of Director Ric Ortega, seconded by Director David Weisenberger, the Board authorized execution of Memorandum of Agreement, not as a party, for coordination of implementation of a Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**6. Agenda Item 10: Board of Directors to Consider Approval of a Special Projects Agreement for Development of a Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that members of the D-M Subbasin Coordination Committee have directed and approved a transition from six GSP's in the subbasin to a single GSP for the D-M Subbasin. The transition from multiple GSPs to a single GSP resulted in a desire by some GSP groups to modify the cost share for the development and implementation of a single GSP for the subbasin. The Special Projects Agreement details the associated cost share obligations by the various GSP groups for the development and future implementation work.

On a motion of Alternate Director Chris White, seconded by Director Ric Ortega, the Board approved Special Projects Agreement for development of a Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

## REPORT ITEMS

### 7. **Agenda Item 15: Report on State and Federal Affairs.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided updates related to Reclamation funding opportunities, including the WaterSMART program, Reclamation Manual updates, the retirement of Speaker ex-officio McCarthy, government funding, legislative hearings, the state budget problem, an upcoming panel at the State Water Resources Control Board, and a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Additional information was provided by Dennis Cardoza and Rusty Areias.

### 8. **Agenda Item 16: Executive Director's Report.**

- a. **Jones Pumping Plant Unit Rewind Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas distributed paper weights to board members as a memento for successful completion of Jones Pumping Plan Unit Rewind Project. The paper weights are made from a cut section from one of the 228 stator core windings that are in each Jones Pumping Plant unit.
- b. **Water Authority Rebranding Effort** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that as part of the new Strategic Plan rebranding effort, the Water Authority has launched a logo contest asking staff to submit their ideas for a new logo.
- c. **Budget Workshop** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Budget Workshop is scheduled December 19, 2023.

### 9. **Agenda Item 17: Chief Operating Officer's Report**

- a. **Jones Pumping Plant (JPP)** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that pumping at JPP is at 3 units, and will go up to 4 units tomorrow.
- b. **3.8 Earthquake**– Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that there was a 3.8 earthquake last night, and staff inspected all facilities and there was no damage.
- c. **Emergency Reserve Fund use** – Chief Operation Officer Pablo Arroyave presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding “DMC Downstream Check 18 Concrete Lining Repair”.

### 10. **Agenda Item 18: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced Liz Kiteck from the Central Valley Operations Office (CVO) of the Bureau of Reclamation. Kiteck provided updates regarding CVP storage, operations, and the latest forecasts.

### II. **Agenda Item 19: Committee Reports.**

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the

committee took action on the proposed FY25 activity budget.

- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Chair Anthea Hansen reported that the committee took action on the TSC agreement.
- c. **O&M Committee** – No report.

12. **Agenda Item 20: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.**

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)** – No report.
- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet.
- c. **Farm Water Coalition (FWC)** – Mike Wade provided a brief overview of the report included in the packet.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)** – Director John Varela reported that the ACWA Conference was very well attended. Varela provided a brief report on DEI Foundation activities, and the need for support. Varela provided a brief report on new leadership in ACWA. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd provided a brief ACWA Legal Affairs Committee report. Water Policy Scott Petersen reported on the retirement/replacement of David Reynolds.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (WBSJV)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen that there is an upcoming meeting December 20, 2023.
- f. **SJV CAP** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that there was a 2-day meeting this week on the Collaborative Action Program.
- g. **CVPWA** – Director Anthea Hansen reported that there is a quarterly board meeting this afternoon. Hansen reported that the Water Users Conference is coming up in January.

13. **Agenda Item 21: Board Member Reports.**

Director Chris White reported provided a brief report on the Mendota Pool dewatering.

Chair Cannon Michael reminded the Board to turn in their training reports by the end of the year.

Director Ric Ortega reported that Grassland Water District hosted a tour for USFWS staff and others, and highlighted multi-species habitat benefit projects.

14. **Agenda Items 22-23: Closed Session Report.**

After allowing an opportunity for public comment, Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:17 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 12:37 p.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

15. **Agenda Item 24: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**  
No report.

16. **Agenda Item 25: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:38 p.m.







January 11, 2024

To: Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

From: Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director

Subject: O&M Report for December 2023

### **OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

The C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) operated with 2-4 units for the month of December. The average rate of pumping for the JPP was 2,971 cfs for the month.

Total pumping at the JPP for the month of December was 182,670 acre-feet. The O'Neill Pump/Generating Plant (OPP) generated 0 acre-feet, and pumped 141,715 acre-feet during the month. 0 acre-feet was pumped at the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Plant (DCI) and 0 acre-feet was reversed from the DCI into the DMC for the month of December.

The Federal share in the San Luis Reservoir at the end of December was 778,698 acre-feet as compared to 259,356 acre-feet for the end of December 2022.

During the month of December, releases from Friant Dam ranged from 425 to 190 cfs with 5,945 acre-feet entering the Mendota Pool. Flows for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) were 8,222 acre-feet for the month of December.

### **Canal Operations Department**

The Canal Operations crews worked on the following activities this month:

- Pitot Tube flow measurements at MP's

26.21 Right	32.38 Right	42.53 Right
46.81 Left	47.37 Right	47.89 Right A

- Open Channel flow measurement at various MP's, Wasteways and River/Outlets

4.98	72.38	76.05	115.90
SJR Bifurcation			

- Serviced flow meters at DMC MP's

20.42 Left	20.43 Left	20.59 Left
21.25 Left	26.21 Right	26.89 Right
26.95 Left	30.43 Right	31.60 Right
32.38 Right	32.61 Right	32.62 Right
36.01 Left	36.39 Left	36.68 Left
39.20 Right	39.22 Left	39.78 Left
41.53 Right	42.10 Right	42.50 Right
44.22 Left "A"	44.22 Left "B"	44.24 Right
56.85 Left	69.21 Left	98.74 Left

- Bi-weekly meter readings on all active 200 plus turnouts
- Inspected Wasteways
  - Westley
  - Newman
  - Volta
  - Firebaugh
- Collected water samples at MP 10.62, 20.63, 29.95, 39.21, and 45.77
- Groundwater well soundings
  - USGS Monitoring Wells
- Routine patrols
  - DMC
  - Mendota Pool
  - San Luis Drain
- Observed operations of the Firebaugh Wasteway for releases during Mendota Pool dewatering and repairs

### **Other Activities**

The Control Operations crew performed the following switching/clearance orders this month:

- C-23-JP-63C JPP Unit 6 warranty inspection
- C-23-DM-73 DMC Check 18 lining repair
- C-23-ON-68 OPP domestic water tank rehabilitation
- C-23-JP-74 JPP Unit 2 annual maintenance
- C-23-ON-76 OPP domestic water tank rehabilitation
- C-23-JP-77 JPP Unit 2 accumulator tank PM
- C-23-JP-78 JPP Unit 6 suction elbow
- C-23-JP-79 JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance
- C-23-JP-80 JPP Unit 5 accumulator tank
- C-23-JP-81 JPP Unit 5&6 suction elbow
- C-23-DM-82 DMC Milepost 18.05 Left turnout gate replacement
- C-23-JP-83 JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance
- C-23-DM-84 DMC Milepost 31.60 Left turnout gate replacement
- C-23-JP-85 JPP Unit 5&6 tube inspection
- C-23-DCI-86 DCI 4160 bus wiring
- C-23-JP-87 JPP Unit 4 exciter slip ring
- C-23-JP-88 JPP Unit 5 exciter cleaning
- C-23-JP-89 JPP Unit 1 10" drain line leak repair

## **MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

The SLDMWA Facilities Maintenance crews worked on the following projects this month:

### **Jones Pumping Plant**

#### **Electrical/C&I Maintenance Crews:**

- JPP Unit 2 AC/DC lube oil pump lockout, disconnect, and reconnect
- JPP sump and unwatering pumps controller test and inspection 6-month PM
- JPP Unit 2 dry runs for annual maintenance
- JPP Unit 2 AC/DC lube oil pump lockout, disconnect, and reconnect
- JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance PM of main motor and auxiliary systems
- JPP Station Service battery test and inspection 6-month PM
- JPP breakroom lighting upgrade and replacement
- JPP Unit 2 SPM relay failure investigation and repair
- UZ11A SEL and Basler relay setting investigation and repair
- JPP Unit controls and systems relay research and troubleshooting
- JPP Unit 4 slip ring removal, repair and replace due to an arc flash event
- JPP Unit 5 exciter removal, deep cleaning, reinstall and test

#### **Mechanical Maintenance Crews:**

- JPP Unit 6 rewind warranty 5-year stator and rotor inspection
- JPP Unit 6 annual maintenance (motor)
- JPP Unit 6 cooling water strainer gearbox rehab
- JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance (cooling water)
- JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance (motor)
- JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance (pump)
- JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance (BFV)
- JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance (post maintenance checklist)
- JPP Unit 2 annual maintenance (motor)
- JPP Unit 2 annual maintenance (post maintenance checklist)
- JPP East Discharge Tube inspection and BFV inspection
- Monorail traveling gripper rake PM
- JPP Air Wash Unit PM
- OPP Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project support

#### **Civil Maintenance Crews:**

- Inspect and repair minor patch in the JPP Discharge Tube #3 (East Tube)

### **O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant**

#### **Electrical/C&I Maintenance Crews:**

- OPP annunciator panel test and inspection PM
- Installed new HVAC mini split in the OPP breakroom
- OPP general lighting repair and maintenance
- OPP phone system programming and organization
- OPP main unit SEL annunciator HMI calibration and service
- OPP emergency lighting PM
- OPP cathodic protection system test and inspection PM
- OPP compressor print modification and organization
- OPP Station Service battery internal resistance test and inspection PM
- OPP Station Service battery test and inspection PM

- OPP trash rake crane test and inspection PM
- OPP Units SEL710 and SEL300G motor protection relay review documentation
- OPP security gates test and inspection PM
- OPP Station Service battery charger test and inspection PM
- OPP ½ ton chain hoist crane test and inspection PM
- OPP 65/10 ton bridge crane test and inspection PM
- OPP 5 ton stop log gantry crane test and inspection PM
- OPP compressed air system LP test and inspection PM
- OPP Transformer Rehabilitation Pre-design meetings
- OPP security gate keypad gate code maintenance
- OPP UPS battery internal resistance test PM
- OPP Station Service dry transformer PM
- JPP Unit 4 slip ring removal, repair and replace due to an arc flash event
- JPP Unit 5 exciter removal, deep cleaning, reinstall and test

#### Mechanical Maintenance Crews:

- Fabricated new stands for the plant eyewash stations
- Interior painting of the OPP facility
- Fabricated spare spline shafts for the distributor system
- OPP Transformer Rehabilitation prep work and equipment staging
- OPP Siphon Building spare compressor rehab
- OPP low pressure air compressor test and inspection PM
- OPP 65/10 ton crane monthly test and inspection PM
- OPP sump pump inspection PM
- OPP high pressure air compressor test and inspection PM
- OPP shop cleanup and organization
- OPP Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation Project support

#### Civil Maintenance Crews:

- None to report

#### **DMC/CA Intertie Pumping Plant**

#### Electrical/C&I Maintenance Crews:

- Integrate SCADA system on pumps 3 and 4 for remote indication and control
- Check 1 upstream level detector indicator trouble shoot and repair

#### Mechanical Maintenance Crews:

- DCI Diesel generator fuel line leak investigating and repair

#### Civil Maintenance Crews:

- Monthly generator inspection PM
- Repaired and replaced fuel hoses to the DCI generator

#### **Delta-Mendota Canal**

#### Electrical/C&I Maintenance Crews:

- Check 21 electrical system inspection and repair
- LBFO HVAC system general service and repairs

#### Mechanical Maintenance Crews:

- Fabricated washers for level sensors along the DMC

### Civil Maintenance Crews:

- Mechanical weed control MP 36.61 to 46.84
- Chemical weed control MP 3.49-9.29, 25.93-39.81, 53.98-75.84, 81.69-101.27
- Trash collection from MP 17.22 to 19.17, 45.79 to 46.35, 68.57 to 68.03
- DMC turnout maintenance (silt and debris removal) from MP 4.41 to 51.04
- Check 18 damage concrete lining repairs at MP 96.82
- DMC sign repair MP 13.25, 17.22, 18.05
- Repair gates/ fences along the DMC from MP 3.12 - 39.84 and check 15,18,19
- Grading of DMC roads from MP 0.09 to 2.53
- Cleaned drain inlets at MP 39.81-42.53, 59.26
- Replaced turnout gate in meter well at MP 18.05
- Replaced turnout gate and repaired cracked pipe at MP 31.60
- DMC meter well maintenance at MP 28.89, 45.38, 55.85
- Fabricate and install handrails at MP 25.18, 48.60, 48.69, 49.43
- Class A driver training and licensing
- LBAO HVAC system inspection PM
- TFO shop and yard cleanup
- DMC erosion damage repairs at MP 115.90
- Pipe and barbwire fence fabrication and install at Corral Hollow Rd.
- Numerous vehicle oil changes and minor repairs

### Tracy Field Office

#### Electrical/C&I Maintenance Crews:

- Tracy UPS Battery test and inspection monthly PM
- TFO entry gate communication to TAO and Warehouse troubleshoot and repair
- JPP Domestic Water Treatment Plant Replacement Project
- USBR entry gate troubleshooting and repair
- Shop cleanup and organization

#### Mechanical Maintenance Crews:

- JPP Domestic Water Treatment Plant Rehab
- TFO restroom toilet PM's

#### Civil Maintenance Crews:

- Landscape and irrigation monthly PM

#### Other Activities

- None to report

#### USBR Support Services

The Water Authority crews supported the following work at USBR facilities during the outage this month:

- None to report

### ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Engineering staff worked on the following O&M projects this month:

- Data management of well readings and creation of Warren Act hydrographs
- DCI U3 & U4

- Added U3 & U4 functionality and visibility to SCADA
- Worked on PLC construction drawings
- Network wiring landed and tested
- Worked on wiring discharge valve controls for U3 & U4 SCADA
- OPP SCADA/user station server upgrade
- DMC work on PLC replacement plan for check structures
- DMC check motor replacement
- Site grading support at JPP Water Treatment Plant Building
- OPP trash rack for industrial water inlet
- JPP unit wheel pit float switch replacements
- DCI HV bushings replacement – issued purchase orders for bushings
- Control board troubleshooting assistance
- JPP East Discharge Tube inspection

### **Land Management Activity Summary:**

The Engineering staff issued three (3) Access Permits this month:

- Access Permit P2402034 issued to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife to temporarily access the Delta-Mendota Canal right-of-way to search, trap, and remove Nutria
- Access Permit P2402035 issued to Del Puerto Water District for a temporary turnout/truck filling station at MP45.78-R
- Access Permit P2402038 issued to Caltrans allowing them to perform underwater bridge inspections for Pool 19 on the Delta-Mendota Canal

The Engineering staff were involved with the following land management projects this month:

- Orestimba Creek Recharge Project
- San Joaquin County Pacific Gateway Project, EIR public comments
- Land lease request from South Valley Water Resources Authority
- PID new proposed turnout near MP 43.25
- Santa Nella WD pipeline installation
- Caltrans bridge inspection report management
- Costco HOM property development

### **SAFETY DEPARTMENT**

The Safety Department worked on the following items this month:

- Provided Job Hazard Analysis support to the crews
- Sent out Safety Topics for the month of December to all SLDMWA staff:
  - 12-1-2023 Job Safety Analysis
  - 12-2-2023 Accident Investigation
  - 12-3-2023 Pay Attention to Distractions
  - 12-4-2023 I Could Have Saved a Life That Day
- Provided Safety Message for December 2023 Newsletter
  - Managing Sleep Feel Awake & Rested
- Scheduled annual hearing tests for selected employees
- Provided FHECP training to contractors
- Provided Confined Space Rescue standby for JPP Penstock inspection
- Provided CPR AED First Aid training to Control Operators – Daniel Bilbay, Rosalio Montijo

## **PROCUREMENT AND WORK & ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Work & Asset Management Department worked on the following items this month:

- WAM Manager completed staff annual PA's.
- Contracts/PO Agreements/LOA's Status Update:
  - F24-OPP-003 Plant Water Storage Tank Rehab – Contract executed with work ongoing. Change Order 1 processed due to unanticipated quality of the tank
  - F24-OPP-013 UPS Battery Replacement – PO 6655 issued for materials
  - F24-OPP-009 Station Battery Replacement – PO 6656 issued for materials
  - F24-ALL-006 Heavy Equipment Rental Master Agreement – Pre-solicitation stage, Scope of Work (SOW) being developed
  - F24-DMC-010 Diving Services Master Agreement – Pre-solicitation stage, developing SOW for contract
  - F24-ALL-005 Biological Survey Master Agreement - Pre-solicitation stage, SOW being developed for contract
  - F24-TFO-002 Fuel Delivery Master Agreement – Pre-solicitation stage
  - F24-TFF-016 Wood Grinding and Pole Disposal Contract – Work ongoing
  - F24-ALL-020 Fire Sprinkler Inspection – Pre-solicitation stage, pending SOW update from Project Manager
  - F24-JPP-025 JPP Pipe Inspection – Ongoing service
  - F24-TFO-024 Tracy Warehouse Roof Reseal – Awarded and Contract Executed on 12/11/23
  - F24-LBAO-029 Auditing Services – Proposal received, Notice of Intent to Award delivered on 12/21/23, pending Board approval.
  - F24-JPP-030 JPP Unit 6 Rotor Repair – Contract executed on 12/11/23
  - F23-ALL-016 NetSuite Support Services – Second Amendment signed on 12/14/23 for an additional 1 year term extension with contract value increasing to a total of \$70,000.00
- Ongoing:
  - Purchasing in support of the O&M crews, and maintaining/replenishing warehouse stock
  - Warehouse receiving, stocking, and distribution
  - Invoicing/vendor bills/vendor credits processing/invoice disputes
  - Janitorial cleaning & disinfecting per COVID-19 guidelines
  - Participated in NetSuite weekly & biweekly meetings
  - Contract management/Administration activities, including bi-weekly contract update meetings with Engineering staff
  - Developing/implementing/updating purchasing/procurement and asset/inventory procedures/boilerplate templates
  - Bi-weekly WAM staff meetings to discuss updates/issues
  - Contract invoice payment reviews, invoice disputes as needed, invoice payments
  - Continuous testing for improvements to procedures in NetSuite, as well as ongoing issues related to NetSuite constraints
  - Development of Blanket Contracts and Blanket Purchase Orders/Agreements
  - Reviewing/closing out old/open PO's in NetSuite
  - Reviewing and marking dead stock inventory for disposal
  - Weekly Shepherd meetings
  - Bi-weekly COO staff meetings

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Information Technology Department worked on the following items this month:

### Administrative Activities:

- Monthly FAC, WRC and BOD meetings with Zoom
- Creating policies for BYOD with Legal
- FY25 RO&M budget
- Created Budget to Actual reports within NetSuite specific to IT EO&M
- Started new MS Project to track/schedule EO&M activities for FY25

### General Network & Desktop Support:

- IT Staff on vacation last week of December; SCADA team and outside support assisted with routine repairs and support with remote assistance from IT Officer
- Completed Sexual Harassment training
- Configured Knowbe4 Phishing Campaign and additional end user Email Training to begin Jan 2024
- Desktop support calls
- Firewall firmware updates
- Research abnormal network activity as reported by Darktrace
- LBAO Board Room sound troubleshoot
- Server Security updates
- Added new Roles to AD Server in Sacramento office
  - Prepped for file history (laptop backups)
- Configured additional AT&T Portals
  - Set all invoices to be emailed to [accounts.payable@sldmwa.org](mailto:accounts.payable@sldmwa.org)
  - Created additional portal access for employees
- Installed additional 2 post rack in server room to move network communications equipment from inside of cabinet to be removed from service

### Ongoing:

- NetSuite
  - User and Administration
  - Bi-Weekly Implementation Team meetings
  - Monitor Citrin Cooper support activities for NetSuite
- Shepherd
  - Weekly progress meetings
- Server refresh prep for deployment to LBFO and OPP
  - WAM Servers, prepping for redeployment
- Cybersecurity
  - Monitor Symantec Anti-Virus Management Console
    - Update Symantec or move to Sentinel One
  - Security updates on Servers
  - Monitor Firewall
  - Monitor Darktrace appliance reporting
  - Update additional AV security settings
  - (MFA) Multi Factor Authentication vendor SurePassID
    - Installed "live" MFA Server after purchase of licenses
  - Cyber Security training and webinars



- Cyber Readiness Institution Certification Course
- Cyber Security Team
  - Cyber Security Incidence Response Plan
  - Disaster Recovery Plan
  - Business Continuity Plan
- Monitor IBM (MAAS360) Mobile Device Management
- Review Infragard dispatches – FBI Cyber Security group
- Monitoring Darktrace Cyber Security appliance in IT network
  - Advanced configurations IT/OT
- Continue to Troubleshoot Email autodiscover issues
- Deployment of Office 2021
- Gate control planning
  - Tracy gate materials ordered
  - Trofholts (vendor) will tie controls into newly installed security system
- DWR regarding use of Fiber from a 1992 contract agreement
- Document management evaluating quotes
- Logistical and technical support provided to Trofholz, new site security installation vendor hired by USBR
- Review quotes for surface and laptop refresh cycle

## **HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT**

The Human Resources Department worked on the following items this month:

### **General Administrative Activities:**

- Active Recruitments
  - None to report
- Closed Recruitments
  - Equipment Mechanic (Los Banos)
- Candidates Selected
  - Continued review of applicants
- Skills Testing
  - None to report
- New Hire Orientations
  - None to report
- Draft RFP for total compensation survey

### **Trainings:**

- Cyber Security training tracking (all staff)
- Sexual Harassment Prevention training tracking (all staff)
- Defensive Driving training tracking (all staff)
- Ethics training tracking (executive staff)

### **Government Reporting:**

- EEOC tracking/reporting
- Affirmative Action report tracking

### **Ongoing:**

- Performance appraisal tracking
- FMLA notices/follow-ups
- COBRA notices/follow-ups
- Worker's Comp follow-ups

- Monthly safety points distribution
- Health benefits eligibility/employee assistance
- Job description updates
- Policy updates
- Maintain OSHA logs for calendar year
- PIV Cards (USBR)
- Wellness Program

## ***EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS***

### **DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL (DMC)**

#### **Bridge Abutment Repair at MP 92.73 (FY21)**

Status: No changes this month. PG&E has completed the relocation of the 6-inch gas transmission line that crosses under the MP 92.73 bridge serving the City of Dos Palos. In the process of removing the pipeline from the bridge, PG&E's contractor damaged the concrete stem wall. Staff performed a visual inspection with PG&E inspectors and contractor and determined that the damage is within SLDMWA's capabilities for repair. PG&E has agreed to reimburse SLDMWA the full cost of the repair (\$40k estimate), which is currently scheduled to be completed with the erosion repair. Scheduling for the erosion and liner repairs under the bridge abutment was planned during the Mendota Pool Dewatering, however an emergency repair of the concrete liner at Check 18 took priority. Further planning and discussions are required. In the meantime, the bridge remains closed until repairs are complete.

#### **DMC Subsidence Correction Project**

Status: SLDMWA is continuing to work closely with Reclamation on the DMC Subsidence Correction Project (Project) and is managing the \$2.4M CDM Smith Feasibility Study contract, and the \$2.7M Terracon Geotechnical contract. The Feasibility Study is in the final stages, awaiting review comments from Reclamation Policy. CDM Subconsultants submitted the Wetland Delineation and Archeological reports, and staff will begin reviewing these reports and submit comments where applicable. These documents support the environmental and permitting efforts and have no bearing on the Feasibility Study. CDM was asked to prepare a proposal to amend the existing contract to explore funding availability to assist in the cost of the Project. The Proposal is a no cost contract change due to available budget and anticipated to be issued in the next month. Geotechnical consultant Terracon has completed all field explorations and has demobilized. Terracon/USBR/WA met to discuss coordination topics as the focus transitions to the lab testing and reporting portion of the contract. It is anticipated to utilize a consultant to prepare foundation design recommendations to be utilized in the Final Design, with discussions started with Terracon. In anticipation of multiple bridge raises, staff will begin reviewing Caltrans requirements and preparing a solicitation for a multi-disciplined consultant to assist with managing the bridge design deliverables necessary to gain Federal Highway Administration funding for the subsidence project. The deliverables are typically prepared years in advance of project approvals.

Numerous design data collection efforts have been coordinated and continue to be discussed. USBR visited the Lower DMC to assess conditions of the DMC embankments during the planned Mendota Pool dewatering. .

Staff & USBR finalized a funding agreement and project management plan for the final design of the Upper DMC rehabilitation. The first installment of \$2M to TSC is currently being processed.

The SLDMWA continues to provide support to Reclamation as they manage the construction contract with Unico Services to install the two additional pumps at

## **EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS**

the DMC/CA Intertie Pumping Plant (DCI). All field work and commissioning has been completed. USBR is awaiting spare parts from the contractor to issue final acceptance. SLDMWA activities to integrate the pumps into SCADA are in progress and expected to be completed mid January.

### **DMC Turnout Flowmeter Upgrade Program – Phase 3 (FY23)**

Status: The contract agreement for the needed flowmeters in phase 3 has been executed with the notice to proceed issued to McCrometer in November. In this final phase, 50 flowmeters are scheduled to be upgraded. The delivery of the flowmeters will be carried out in batches, with the first batch expected to be delivered in January. The contract agreement is set to be completed by summer 2024.

### **O&M Road Maintenance Program – Phase 2 of 5 (FY24)**

Status: Completed

### **DMC D/S Check 18 Concrete Lining Repair, MP96.82 (ERF)**

Status: Staff completed the repairs to the site the first week of December. Site restoration was completed, with the project reports and billing being processed. The final construction date was 12/1 and site restoration on 12/8. The project remained under budget from estimate provided to the Board for this site.

### **DMC Concrete Lining Repair and Farm Bridge Abutment Stabilization, MP41.49 (ERF)**

Status: Use of the Emergency Reserve Fund was approved by Reclamation in November. Site work will be scheduled when flows decrease in the Upper DMC.

## **C.W. "BILL" JONES PUMPING PLANT (JPP)**

### **JPP Excitation System & Control Cabinet Modernization (FY18)**

Status: SLDMWA is currently in contract with Reclamation through a Letter of Agreement (LOA). The 100% design package (SpecB) is scheduled for completion in February 2024. Once received, SLDMWA staff will begin putting together the solicitation package. SLDMWA has received notice that the application for \$25M of BIL (Aging Infrastructure) funding was approved and is working with Reclamation on repayment details. A public repayment negotiation was held by Reclamation on 12/20/2023. An additional technical session is anticipated to occur in January.

### **JPP Wear Ring Purchase (FY22)**

Status: No activity

### **JPP Unit No. 3 Rewind**

Status: Jones Unit 3 Rewind Project is complete. Reclamation is preparing the substantial complete letter and acceptance of the performance test results. Staff has prepared and submitted the final invoices for the project to the USBR and is awaiting repayment.

## **EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS**

### **TSY Switchgear Building UZ11A Repairs (Unplanned Project)**

**Status:** No activity this month. A ground fault incident occurred in October 2021 that damaged the main feeder switchgear and bushing box in switchgear building UZ11A. Partial repairs were made, and the building is currently energized via adjacent switchgear building UZ8A (or UZ6A depending on circumstance). A two-phased contract was issued to Powell, the original designer and installer of the switchgear building, to supply repair materials (Phase 1), and perform the onsite repair work (Phase 2). Phase 1 supply contract has been completed, which included supplying the replacement bushing box, CTs, surge arresters, other damaged components. CVO has provided approval for the two unit outage (U2 & U6). These units are the units connected to the UZ11A Switchgear Building.

Powell started on the repairs for UZ11A on September 18, 2023 and completed them on September 26, 2023. SLDMWA supported Powell with tools, operating heavy equipment, and technician assistance with relay tests. Tasks included replacing bushing box, one set of CTs, bus bars and connections, surge arresters, modifications to seal bottom openings, installing rain hoods, electrical tests of protective relays, power circuit breakers, PTs, CTs, ammeters, voltage circuits, and CT circuits. Powell and SLDMWA worked through the week days and Saturday.

Commissioning was performed September 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> and several issues were encountered with the PTs, the relay settings, and with how the information transmits to WAPA. In order to make the pumps available again, the power was again routed through the adjacent switchgear building as a temporary configuration.

Test Reports for the CTs, PTs, breakers, protective relays, and buses have been received. A meeting was held with Reclamation and Powell to detail the repairs needed and checked works that have yet to be completed. Powell is scheduled to mobilize back to resolve all outstanding issues the week of January 8, 2024.

### **JPP Concrete Slab by Trashrake Dumpster (FY23)**

**Status:** Project is currently in the planning and design phase. Technical specifications that incorporate the Geotechnical Report prepared by a consultant are approximately 90% complete pending internal review, with the design drawings 100% complete. Once all technical specifications have been completed, a schedule will be developed for the solicitation and construction phases.

### **Jones Pumping Plant Unit 6 Rewind Warranty Inspection**

**Status:** JPP Unit 6 was due for its 5 year warranty inspection following its rewind which was completed in 2018. The rotor was removed and placed in the Machine Shop for the inspection. NEC completed the inspection of the stator; no problems were noted other than slight damage to the air gap sensors installed during the contract work. NOTE: These sensors were only installed on Unit 6. Engineering staff recommended the sensors be removed due to them being inoperable and the potential of causing additional damage if they became dislodged. The

## **EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS**

sensors were removed by NEC and no damage was observed to the stator. The unit rotor inspection was conducted and it was observed that there were several cracks in the lower amortisseur shorting ring (original equipment), these shorting bars were not replaced during the rewind and it is recommended that they be replaced before the unit is returned to service. An emergency work order has been authorized by the Board of Director's for the repair and work will be contracted to NEC and the on-site work is scheduled to begin in February 2024. The 8 week delay in starting this work was due to long lead times to procure the material needed for the repair. Unit 6 should be returned to service by March 2024.

### **O'NEILL PUMPING/GENERATING PLANT (OPP)**

#### **Main Transformers Rehabilitation/Replacement**

Status: SLDMWA is currently in contract with Cal Electro Inc. (CEI) to complete the OPP Main Transformers Rehabilitation. The contract was awarded to CEI on May 10<sup>th</sup> and the Notice to Proceed was issued on May 18<sup>th</sup>. SLDMWA entered into a Professional Services Agreement with DHR Hydro Services Inc. to provide project management services for the duration of the CEI contract. Onsite construction is planned during April and May 2024 during a 45-day system outage at OPP, pending favorable hydraulic conditions.

To date, CEI has finalized configurations for ProCore (CDMS) and provided submittals for arresters, high side bushing, relays, and fan kit for the cooling system, and Baseline Schedule. TSC has reviewed and approved the high side bushing, preapproved the fan kit pending fan controls, and arresters are to be corrected and resubmitted. Protective Relays have been received. CEI and DHR are working together on the issues with the bushings and Pennsylvania Transformers (PTI) in an effort to keep the contract schedule intact. Additional inspection on the spare transformer is planned in December which will not require an outage. CEI, TSC, & SLDMWA continued to work on submittals required for the inspection, pre-design meeting, materials, and designs.

The Pre-design meeting was held with Reclamation TSC, CEI, DHR, and SLDMWA. Two days were spent detailing the construction schedule that meets the 45-day outage, and double checking the material list. A 2<sup>nd</sup> oil processing rig has been added in order to meet the outage schedule.

#### **OPP Unit Rehabilitation Project (Previously Pump Bowl Modification & Replacement)**

Status: The Water Authority is moving forward with the projects included in the 10 Year Plan, with many of them identified to be included in an upcoming BIL application. Last month staff developed design and construction cost estimates for the following projects; 1. Unit Woodward Governor Replacement, 2. Unit Rotor & Stator Rewind, 3. Pump Bowl Replacement Program, and 4. Pump Assembly & Penstock Rehabilitation Program. This month, staff worked closely with Reclamation as they completed Certified Cost Estimate Executive Summaries (CCEES) on the projects to include in the BIL applications.

## **EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS**

### **OPP UPS Battery Charging System Replacement (FY22)**

Status: Staff has issued a PO to purchase the materials required for the replacement, with the installation planned to take place during the already planned OPP outage in the spring. Further discussions are required to determine the scope of work for the installation.

### **OPP Station Service Backup Battery System Replacement (FY23)**

Status: Staff has issued a PO to purchase the materials required for the replacement, with the installation planned to take place during the already planned OPP outage in the spring. Further discussions are required to determine the scope of work for the installation.

### **OPP Plant Water Storage Tanks Rehabilitation (FY24)**

Status: The contract was completed the week ending 12/1/23. The final invoices and reports have been completed.

### **OPP Cooling Water System Rehabilitation Design (FY24)**

Status: Design will be performed using internal staff. Rehabilitation is anticipated to be a replacement in kind, with minor modernizations and improvements. Because in-depth design services will not be required, the Board has approved a portion of the design budget to be allocated to supplement construction agreement costs of the OPP Plant Water Storage Tanks Rehabilitation. Upgrades of the installations are planned to occur during the OPP Transformer Rehabilitation outage next Spring and staff is focusing on purchasing the long lead items. Planning of the modernizations and improvements that will be performed during the OPP Transformer Rehabilitation outage are underway.

### **OPP Sand Filter System Rehabilitation Design (FY24)**

Status: Preliminary planning activities have begun. Staff have explored the options to replace the existing tanks in-kind, or to rehabilitate the existing tanks in place. Due to the geometry of the configuration, both options present significant difficulties. During original installation, the tanks were placed prior to pouring the floor above, making it impossible to install new tanks without significant torching and welding efforts. In addition, the tanks are placed very close together giving little room to complete rehabilitation-in-place within a timely manner. In response to these difficulties, staff is exploring installing a new filter technology that incorporates a much smaller footprint, through a pilot study. The plan is to install a VAF, V-1000 self-cleaning screen filter at the JPP to test the performance of this system. If successful, the SLDMWA will present the performance results to USBR for consideration as an alternate to the existing sand filter system. Due to the available space at the Jone's Pumping Plant (JPP), the pilot plant will be installed at JPP. Incidental materials are being ordered that will support the installation of the V-1000 unit in early February 2024.

## **EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS**

### **TRACY FACILITIES (TFO)**

#### **TFO Domestic Water Treatment Plant Replacement (FY20)**

Status: Project is nearing completion. The primary water treatment equipment including the multi-media filters, GAC filters, and the membrane skids have been replaced. The building has been rehabilitated with a new roof and paint, and the site has been regraded to prevent flooding of the building. The California State Water Board inspected the new plant on December 18, 2023 and the list of corrective actions were minor and will be addressed by March 2024. Upgrades to the controls both locally and through the SCADA system are underway and are scheduled to be completed by February 2024.

#### **TFO O&M Compound, Seal Coat Surfacing & Striping (Including USBR Lot) (FY23)**

Status: Site work was completed in October. Received final invoice from American Asphalt and was submitted to accounting for payment.

### **MULTIPLE FACILITIES**

#### **TFO/LBFO/DCI Arc Flash Hazard Analysis (FY22)**

Status: No activity this month. The analysis was conducted by Reclamation TSC through a LOA. The onsite surveys for TFO, LBFO, and DCI were completed in September 2022. Final report for LBFO Arc Flash Hazard Analysis has been received. Draft report for DCI Arc Flash Hazard Analysis has been reviewed and responded with feedbacks. TFO Arc Flash Hazard Analysis will be reviewed upon receipt.

#### **SCADA System Evaluation (FY23)**

Status: Staff is close to finishing this project, with the following tasks in progress:

- Developing plan for testing the security, speed, and proper use of DWR fiber
- Developing plan to implement CISA and federal cyber security mandated requirements with the least amount of system downtime.
- Developing ideas for add-on boards to display current conditions on the canal and throughout the plants.
- Testing new SCADA software solutions to see if fully capable to handle our SCADA needs and to see ROI to lowering our yearly support contract
- Testing redundant server solution for the future.





## STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates  
Board Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Cynthia Meyer, Special Programs Manager

DATE: January 08, 2024

RE: Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt 2024 Science Plan

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### Background

As part of our efforts to increase the strategic direction and effectiveness of the Water Authority's Science Program, Authority staff, in conjunction with the Science Coordination Workgroup, is developing a Science Plan. The goal of the Science Plan is to establish a process to better address the scientific priorities impacting Authority members and policymakers, improve coordination amongst member agencies and the science community, and improve communication on the scientific enterprise impacting Central Valley Project operations and associated impacts. The objectives of the Science Plan include guiding science program activities and determining the priority tasks and activities to guide Authority engagement in the scientific enterprise.

The Science Coordination Workgroup, consisting of representatives from each of the five Divisions, provides guidance for the Water Authority's science endeavors, questions, and priorities. Authority staff, and the Science Coordination Workgroup representatives will improve coordination and communication with member agencies and the broader science community related to Water Authority Science Activities. Since September 2023, the Workgroup has met to discuss the goals, objectives, and development of the draft Science Plan.

As the Science Program further develops in coordination with the implementation of the updated Water Authority Strategic Plan, staff intends to continue to increase coordination with Water Authority members, establish and implement the Science Plan, and engage in the scientific community and inform policymakers of the results of Water Authority Science Program outcomes.

### Issue for Decision

Whether the Water Resources Committee should recommend that the Board of Directors adopt the Science Plan.

December 7, 2023

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### Recommendation

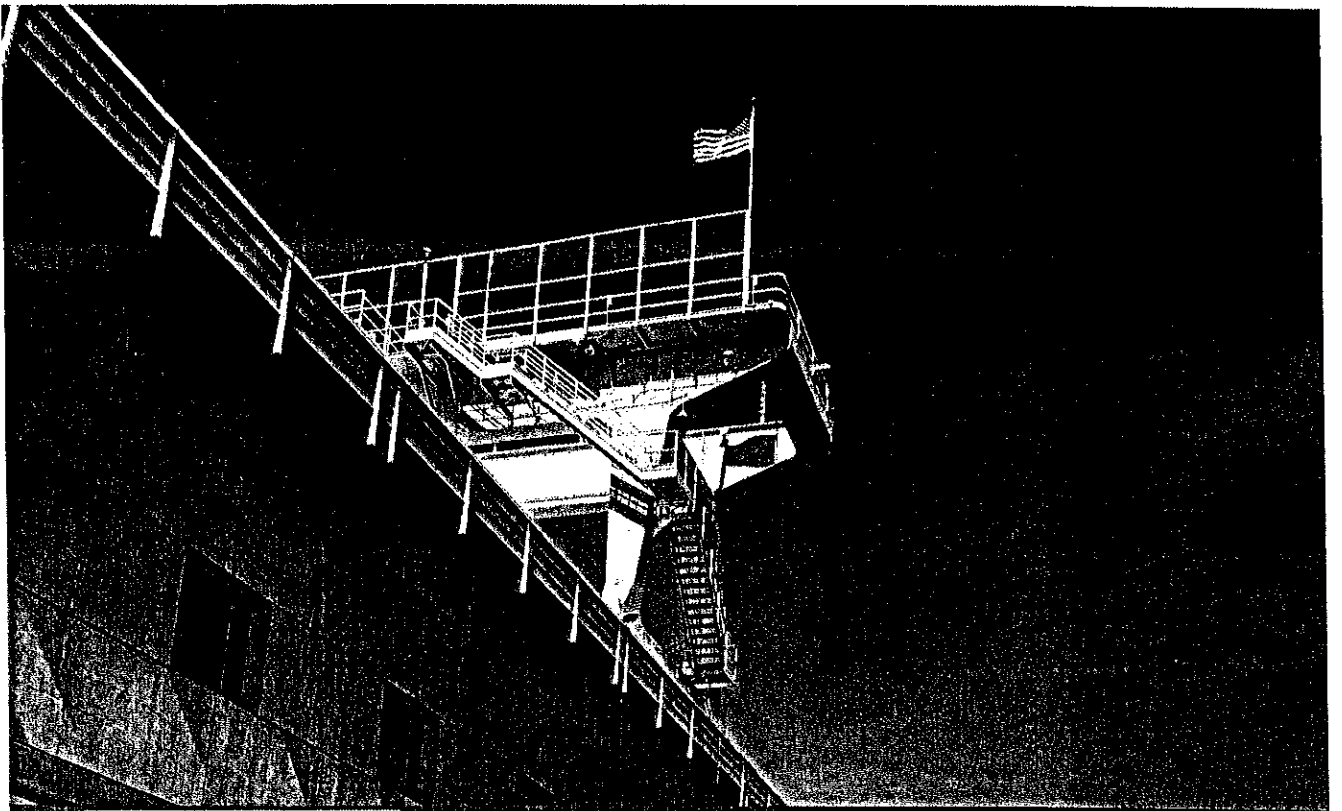
Staff recommends that the Water Resources Committee recommend that the Board of Directors adopt the Science Plan.

### Budget

The Science Plan will assist in developing budget recommendations for Board consideration, but has no budgetary impact on its own.

### Exhibits

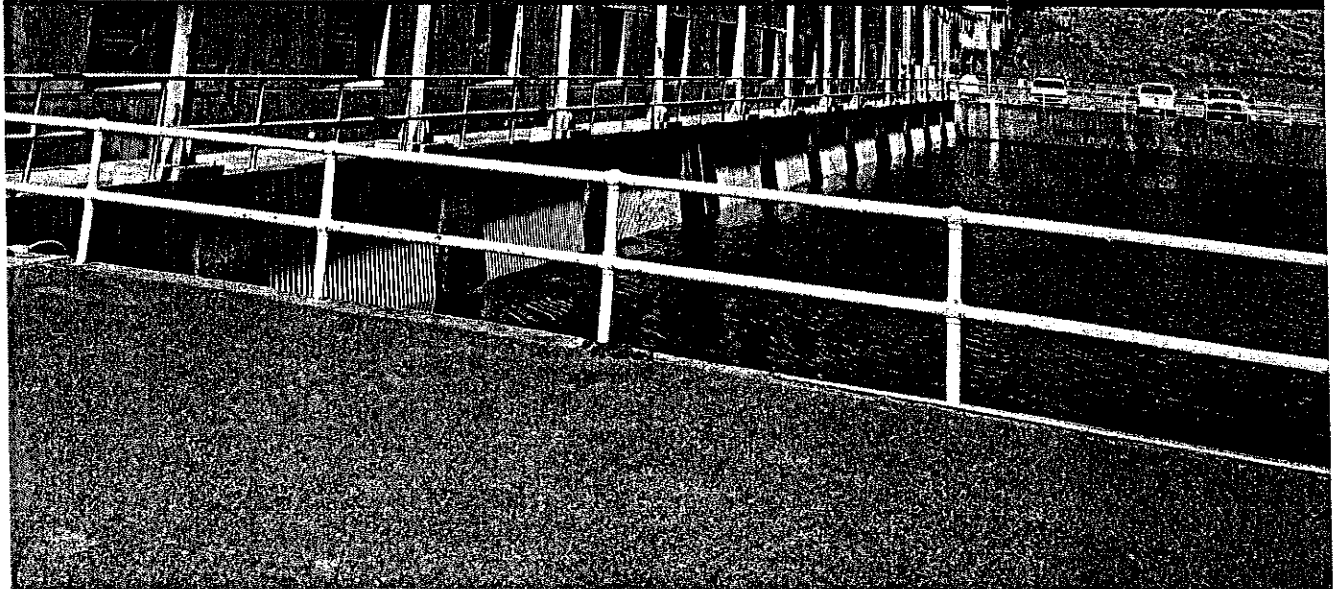
Science Plan



# 2024 Science Plan

## San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Prepared by: Cynthia Meyer, Ph.D.





## Officers<sup>1</sup>

Cannon Michael, Chair  
William Bourdeau, Vice Chair  
Ray Tarka, Treasurer  
Federico Barajas, Secretary

## Directors

### Division 1:

David Weisenberger, Director, Banta-Carbona ID  
James Thoming, Alternate, Banta-Carbona ID  
Bobby Pierce, Director, West Stanislaus ID  
Vince Lucchesi, Alternate, Patterson ID  
Anthea Hansen, Director, Del Puerto WD  
Kyle Perez, Alternate, Del Puerto WD  
Ed Pattison, Director, Byron Bethany ID/CVPSA  
Lea Emmons, Alternate, City of Tracy

### Division 2:

Ross Franson, Director, Westlands WD  
Justin Diener, Alternate, Westlands WD  
William Bourdeau, Director, Westlands WD  
Ernie Costamagna, Alternate, Westlands WD  
Beau Correia, Director, Panoche WD  
William Diedrich, Director, San Luis WD  
Lon Martin, Alternate, San Luis WD

### Division 3:

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Chris White, Alternate, Firebaugh CWD  
Jarrett Martin, Director, Central California ID  
Eric Fontana, Alternate, Central California ID  
Cannon Michael, Director, Henry Miller R.D. 2131  
Kimberly Brown, Alternate, Columbia CC  
Ric Ortega, Director, Grassland WD  
Ellen Wehr, Alternate, Grassland WD

### Division 4:

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Aaron Baker, Alternate, Valley Water  
Richard Santos, Director, Valley Water  
Jim Beall, Alternate, Valley Water  
Steve Wittry, Director, San Benito Co. WD  
Doug Williams, Alternate, San Benito Co. WD  
Joseph Tonascia, Director, San Benito Co. WD

### Division 5:

Bill Pucheu, Director, Tranquillity ID  
Lance LeVake, Alternate, Pacheco WD  
Allison Febbo, Director, Broadview WD  
Kirk Teixeira, Alternate, Turner Island WD  
Manny Amorelli, Director, James ID  
Riley Chaney, Alternate, James ID

## Water Authority Management Staff

Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel  
Laures Stiles, Director of HR & Administration  
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance  
J. Scott Petersen, Director of Water Policy  
Bob Martin, Director of O&M Facilities  
Jaime McNeil, Engineering Manager  
Chauncey Lee, Operations & Maintenance Manager  
Cynthia Meyer, Special Programs Manager

<sup>1</sup>Roster is current as of December 1, 2023



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## Water Authority Overview

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The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (“Water Authority”) was established in January of 1992 and consists of 27 member agencies providing water service to over one million acres of irrigated agriculture, over two million people, and an estimated 130,000 acres of managed wetlands and associated habitat within the western San Joaquin, San Benito, and Santa Clara Valleys.

One of the primary purposes of establishing the Water Authority was to assume the operation and maintenance (O&M) responsibilities of specific Central Valley Project (CVP) facilities (Project Works) at an optimum level and with greater control over project timing and anticipated lower cost than if the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) were to perform the work. The Project Works include C.W. “Bill” Jones Pumping Plant, Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC), Delta-Mendota Canal – California Aqueduct Intertie Pumping Plant, O’Neill Pumping-Generating Plant, Mendota Pool, San Luis Drain, and as requested by Reclamation on a more project-by-project basis, the Delta Cross Channel and the Tracy Fish Collection Facility.

In addition, the Water Authority provides unified representation on common interests of Water Authority members.

The governing body of the Water Authority consists of a 19-member Board of Directors (Board) classified into five divisions, with Directors selected from within each division. Each Director, and respective Alternate Director, is a member of the governing body or an appointed staff member or other representative of a member agency.

The Delta-Mendota Canal is designed to deliver up to 3,000,000 acre-feet of water within the Water Authority’s member agency service area annually. Of this amount, up to 2,500,000 acre-feet are delivered to highly productive agricultural lands, up to 150,000 to 200,000 acre-feet are delivered for municipal and industrial uses, and up to 250,000 to 300,000 acre-feet are delivered to wildlife refuges for habitat enhancement and restoration.

Over the last decade, as a result of regulatory, physical, and hydrological constraints, the reliability of the surface water supplies conveyed by the DMC has been dramatically reduced. For example, during the period from 2014-2023, the federal allocation to south-of-Delta agricultural water service and repayment contractors averaged 35 percent and the federal allocation to south-of-Delta municipal and industrial users was 65 percent.



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## Introduction to the Science Plan

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The Water Authority aims to establish a Science Program to support the scientific needs for natural resource and environmental management challenges and priorities. The Water Authority Strategic Plan, adopted in October 2023, provides guidance for the Science Program activities including:

- OBJECTIVE 1.3: The Water Authority engages in regulatory, legislative, legal, and administrative venues to optimize water supply.
- OBJECTIVE 1.4: The Water Authority's scientific studies and communication are considered credible in relevant legislative, scientific, regulatory, and public arenas.

This Science Plan provides a description of goals and objectives, support for scientific projects, and establishment of the Science Workgroup. The intent of the Science Plan is to adapt with changes in the Strategic Plan and needs of the members and science community. The Science Plan will be reviewed every five years, or as needed, to remain current with the needs of Water Authority member agencies and the Central Valley Project water management scientific enterprise.

The Science Program is coordinated and led by the Water Authority's Special Programs Manager. The anticipated budget will be set by the Board on an annual basis, and is anticipated to vary between \$500,000 to \$1,500,000. Consideration for project level funding will be based on scientific merit and need, importance to the member agencies, and coordination with the science and policymaking community. The Science Coordination Workgroup will be established to represent the member agency science needs and priorities. The potential projects will be presented to the Science Coordination Workgroup for review and recommendations.

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## Goal and Objectives

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The goal of the Science Plan is to establish a process to better address the scientific priorities and improve coordination and communication with member agencies and the science community. The objectives of the Science Plan include guiding science program activities and determining the priority tasks and activities. In addition, the Science Plan intends to enhance engagement with the science community.

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## Priority Tasks and Activities

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The initial development of the Science Plan includes potential priority tasks and activities. This list is not comprehensive and is anticipated to change with the input of the Science Coordination Workgroup.



## **PRIORITY TASKS**

To achieve the goals of the Science Plan, several short-, mid-, and long-term tasks will include:

### Short-term Tasks (Year 1)

- Identify the highest priority science/knowledge gaps
- Recruit and contract with scientific experts to support the priority activities
- Establish a process for the identification, review, and selection of high-priority projects
- Develop templates and standard procedures for scientific proposals, reviews, invoices, reporting, communication, outreach, and fact sheets
- Create metrics of success for this Science Plan
- Annually fund \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 in science

### Mid-term Tasks (Years 1-3)

- Develop management questions and priority science needs, in coordination with the Science Coordination Workgroup and member agencies
- Create an objective peer review strategy for science outcomes that can quickly and credibly reach decision-makers
- Increase capacity for Water Authority science through multiple avenues, including partnerships and scientific community capacity building
- Develop a funding strategy that explores ways to secure sustainable/ongoing funding to advance Water Authority Science Program objectives
- Create and implement a Science Communications Plan
- Publish annual reports describing science outcomes

### Long-term Tasks (3-5+ years)

- Refine priority science needs and management questions
- Assess and adjust/revise the Water Authority Science Plan via programmatic review
- Secure sustainable/ongoing funding to advance Water Authority priorities

## **PRIORITY ACTIVITIES**

1. Review and provide strategic, unifying direction for regulatory compliance documents
  - Review, comment, and provide strategic direction for:
    - ESA/CEQA/NEPA documents and processes
    - State Water Resource Control Board products, such as Bay-Delta Plan updates
    - Voluntary Agreement Science Committee
    - Permits and biological opinions related to the Central Valley Project





## 2. Integrate and collaborate with the scientific community

- Continue participation in Collaborative Action Management Team/Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CAMT/CSAMP)
- Participate in Adaptive Management Programs such as Delta Coordination Group
- Engage in Interagency science efforts such as Interagency Ecological Program (IEP), the Sacramento River Science Program, and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program Science Program
- Aid in public water agency Science coordination and communication
- Coordinate with the Delta Science Program initiatives
- Foster shared mechanisms and processes to enhance science funding
  - Coordinate with State Water Contactors
  - Delta Science Program
  - Other agencies and organizations

## 3. Build capacity for the Water Authority's Science Program

- Create robust and transparent processes to support high-impact science
- Enhance partnerships with academia, including San Joaquin Valley based universities, such as the University of California, Merced
- Develop opportunities for fellowships/apprenticeships
- Expand positions for scientific modelers/technical expertise
- Foster relationships/networking through participation in conferences, presentation, and outreach activities

## 4. Provide guidance for science priorities and management questions

- Reference the Delta Science Action Agenda as a starting point to develop a detailed and integrated science work plan to address topics relevant to the Water Authority, develop a prioritized list of science actions and management questions
- As a 'living science plan,' the tasks, management needs, science priorities, and processes will be revisited with sufficient frequency to ensure relevancy under dynamic conditions (no more than every 5 years)
- Annual progress reports will communicate results

## **Science Coordination Workgroup**

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The Science Coordination Workgroup aims to provide guidance to Water Authority staff for science endeavors, questions, and priorities. The representatives will work with Authority staff to improve coordination and communication with member agencies and the science community



related to Water Authority Science Program activities. In addition, they will contribute to the development and updates of the Science Plan.

The Science Coordination Workgroup will consist of representatives from each of the member divisions. These appointees will assist in determining the scientific priorities, guidance, and funding for the science program. The representatives will be expected to:

1. Coordinate amongst the member agencies within their division on Science Program priorities,
2. Communicate interests and priorities of the division,
3. Attend workgroup meetings,
4. Provide feedback on reports and project deliverables, and
5. Indicate any potential issues or necessary science reviews



The current representatives are listed in the table below.

Division	Representative (as of 11/2023)	Affiliation
1	Vince Lucchesi Dave Weisenberger	Patterson Irrigation District Banta-Carbona Irrigation District
2	Allison Febbo	Westlands Water District
3	Ric Ortega Steve Chedester	Grassland Water District San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
4	Heidi Williams	Valley Water
5	TBD	

## Funding

All funded science projects and programmatic endeavors will be based on best available science, defined as information and data generated through the application of a transparent and repeatable scientific process for informing management and policy decisions at a given point in time (Delta Science Plan 2019, Sutherland and Woodroof 2009). The tenets of best available science adopted by the Water Authority include relevance, inclusiveness, objectivity, transparency/openness, timeliness, and peer review (Appendix 1A in Bay-Delta Plan). With a modest budget, the Water Authority is committed to collaborating with partners in academia, government, non-profit, and the private sectors to maximize the benefit of funded projects to meet the needs of the science community and priorities identified in the Water Authority Strategic Plan (2024).

In order to be considered for funding, each project must meet one or more of the following criteria (or directly address one of the following science themes/objectives):

- Reliable and sustainable water supply
- Floodplain restoration
- Improvement of habitat and ecosystem functions
- Multi-benefit projects
- Collaborative science efforts
- Socioeconomic impact studies and strategies
- Support efforts for necessary scientific studies and analyses
- Collection of necessary datasets and improvement of analysis and synthesis



Concept and/or full proposals will be screened by the initial criteria, and then vetted by the Science Coordination Workgroup. This group will provide additional input on the need/urgency, merits, and benefits of the proposal. The group may request an independent review as necessary. Such a review would be conducted by the Science Program Manager with two or more reviewers including a member agency technical expert, and a discipline-relevant non-agency scientist. Each review will consider the proposal's scientific merits, feasibility, and qualifications of the investigator(s). The results of the review will be presented to the Science Coordination Workgroup for a final recommendation to the Water Resources Committee and Board for final approval, consistent with SLDMWA's adopted procurement policy.

Considerations for funding may include single and multi-year commitments as determined by the approved Water Authority budget. The proposed budget will be provided to the Water Authority Board and include the priority science activities, hold-overs, obligations, new expenditures, consultants, and joint funded science.

## Science Program Communication

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### REPORTING

The Science Coordination Workgroup will provide an annual report to the Water Authority Board including updates on science activities, expenditures, and future projects. The report will focus on the recent funded studies, research, and accomplishments. In addition, the report will identify potential science needs.

### OUTREACH

The Water Authority will develop an outreach plan to better communicate the accomplishments and studies funded by the Science Program. This strategy will aim to promote effective science communication with a diverse communication strategy. In addition, it will encourage publication of information in open access journals, reports, and science community forums.

## References

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Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Science Program. 2022. Delta Science Action Agenda. <https://scienceactionagenda.deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/2022-2026-science-action-agenda.pdf>

Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Science Program. 2019. Delta Science Plan: Vision, principles, and approaches for integrating and coordinating science in the Delta. <https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/pdf/2019-delta-science-plan.pdf>  
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Cannon Michael, Chair

William Bourdeau, Vice Chair

Ray Tarka, Treasurer

Federico Barajas, Secretary



## MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: Rebecca R. Akroyd, General Counsel  
Rebecca L. Harms, Deputy General Counsel

DATE: January 11, 2024

RE: Adoption of Resolution Adopting Amendment to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Bylaws Regarding Limited Disclosure of Confidential Information Obtained in Closed Session

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### BACKGROUND

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority ("Water Authority") is governed by the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code section 54950 et seq. pertaining to open and public meetings of California public agencies ("Brown Act"). The Brown Act generally prohibits confidential information obtained in closed session from being disclosed to any person outside the closed session absent approval from the legislative body of the public agency. (Gov. Code, § 54963.) Nonetheless, Government Code section 54956.96 permits the legislative body of a joint powers authority to adopt "a policy or bylaws or includ[e] in its joint powers agreement provisions that authorize..." the disclosure of closed session confidential information with "direct financial or liability implications" for the joint powers authority member by a joint powers authority legislative body member, or alternative member, to their member agency legal counsel or to the member agency legislative body in closed session.

Article 15 of the Water Authority's Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement ("JPA"), dated January 1, 1992, authorizes the Board to adopt "such bylaws, rules and regulations for the conduct of its affairs as may be required." Article VIII of the Water Authority Bylaws ("Bylaws"), dated April 8, 2021, allows for the Bylaws to be amended by resolution of the Board which requires a majority Board vote pursuant to Article III, Section 3.07 of the Bylaws.

The proposed amendment would authorize disclosure of certain confidential information obtained in the Water Authority's closed sessions to Board member agency legal counsel or to their member agency legislative bodies in closed session as provided for in Government Code section 54956.96. This disclosure would help increase the efficiency of communications between the Board and member agency legislative bodies.

**ISSUE FOR DECISION**

Whether the Board of Directors should consider a resolution adopting an amendment to the Bylaws regarding limited disclosure of confidential information obtained in closed session.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends adoption of the proposed resolution.

**ANALYSIS**

The Bylaws provision regarding closed session currently states in full:

Section 3.05 CLOSED SESSIONS

The Board may enter into a closed session during a regular, adjourned regular, special, or adjourned special meeting to consider matters as may lawfully be considered in such sessions. The Board shall comply in all respects with closed session requirements and procedures of the Brown Act.

(Bylaws, Art. III, Section 3.05.) The resolution for the Board's consideration proposes to *add* the following language to the above existing provision:

(1) A Director, or Alternative Director attending a Board closed session in place of a Director, may disclose confidential information that has direct financial or liability implications for the Member to that Member's legal counsel for purposes of obtaining advice on whether the matter has direct financial or liability implications for that Member; and

(2) A Director, or Alternative Director attending a Board closed session in place of the Director, may, upon the advice of its legal counsel pursuant to paragraph (1) above, disclose confidential information that has direct financial or liability implications for the Member to that Member's legislative body in a closed session of the Member's legislative body so long as that closed session is properly noticed and conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.

No Additional Basis for Water Authority Closed Sessions; An Additional Basis for Member Agency Closed Sessions – The above proposed provisions would not provide the Water Authority with an additional basis for convening closed sessions. Rather, the Water Authority would be required to continue to comply with the requirements of the Brown Act, including Government Code section 54954.5, which limits the topics that may be discussed in closed session and that require the Water Authority's agenda to identify an acceptable basis for each of its closed session items. *However, the proposed Bylaws provisions above would provide member agencies with an additional basis for meeting in closed session.* Government Code section 54954.5(j) lists



“conference involving a joint powers agency” pursuant to Government Code section 54956.96 as an acceptable basis for a closed session item.

Director or Alternate Consults with Member Agency Counsel First – Government Code section 54956.96(c) states, “[T]he legislative body of the local agency member, upon the advice of its legal counsel, may conduct a closed session in order to receive, discuss, and take action concerning information obtained in a closed session of the joint powers agency....” This means that if the Water Authority were to adopt the proposed Bylaws provisions above, the proper order of operations would be: (1) Director or Alternate participation in a Water Authority closed session, (2) Director or Alternate determination that information received in closed session “has direct financial or liability implications for that local agency,” (3) Director or Alternate shares information with member agency counsel and obtains agreement, and (4) member agency holds closed session and discloses Water Authority closed session information to member agency. Members are not required to obtain Water Authority approval before commencing these steps.

#### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The budget is not impacted by the adoption of this amendment to the Bylaws.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

Proposed Resolution



**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-\_\_**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE SAN LUIS &  
DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BYLAWS REGARDING  
LIMITED DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION  
OBTAINED IN CLOSED SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (respectively, the “Board” and the “Water Authority”), pursuant to the Water Authority’s procedures and the California Government Code, from time to time, may adopt policies for the efficient and lawful administration of the Water Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 15 of the Water Authority’s Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement dated January 1, 1992 (“JPA”), provides “the Board may adopt from time to time such bylaws, rules and regulations for the conducts of its affairs as may be required;” and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to JPA Article 15, on April 8, 2021, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2021-480, thereby adopting the “San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Bylaws” (“Bylaws”) and superseding all prior Board resolutions on Board conduct, and the Bylaws now generally govern Board conduct, permissions, limitations, and operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Article VIII of the Bylaws allows for the Bylaws to be amended by resolution of the Board which requires a majority Board vote pursuant to Article III, Section 3.07 of the Bylaws; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Authority, as a California public agency, is governed by the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code section 54950 et seq. pertaining to open and public meetings of California public agencies (“Brown Act”); and

**WHEREAS**, section 54963 of the Brown Act generally prohibits confidential information obtained in closed session from being disclosed to any person outside the closed session absent approval from the legislative body of the public agency; and

**WHEREAS**, section 54956.96 of the Brown Act nonetheless permits the legislative body of a joint powers authority to adopt “a policy or bylaws or includ[e] in its joint powers agreement provisions that authorize...” the disclosure of closed session confidential information with a “direct financial or liability implications” for the joint powers authority member by a joint powers authority legislative body member, or alternative member, to their member agency legal counsel or to the member agency legislative body in closed session; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that adopting an amendment to the Bylaws in accordance with section 54956.96 would help preserve the integrity of the Water Authority and Board and increase the efficiency of communications between the Board and member agency legislative bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to adopt an amendment to the Bylaws in accordance with section 54956.96, thereby, permitting closed session confidential information to be disclosed without Board consent in certain situations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS, THAT:**

The facts stated in the recitals above are true and correct, and the Board so finds and determines. Further, the recitals set forth above, and definitions contained therein, are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.

Section 1. The Board hereby resolves that Section 3.05 of the Bylaws is amended to read as follows:

Section 3.05 CLOSED SESSIONS

The Board may enter into a closed session during a regular, adjourned regular, special, or adjourned special meeting to consider matters as may lawfully be considered in such sessions. The Board shall comply in all respects with closed session requirements and procedures of the Brown Act.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.96, a provision of the Brown Act, the Board hereby authorizes disclosure of confidential information obtained in a closed session of the Board in the following situations and manners. Such disclosure shall not violate a Director's general obligation to maintain as confidential closed session discussion.

(1) A Director, or Alternative Director attending a Board closed session in place of a Director, may disclose confidential information that has direct financial or liability implications for the Member to that Member's legal counsel for purposes of obtaining advice on whether the matter has direct financial or liability implications for that Member; and

(2) A Director, or Alternative Director attending a Board closed session in place of the Director, may, upon the advice of its legal counsel pursuant to paragraph (1) above, disclose confidential information that has direct financial or liability implications for the Member to that Member's legislative body in a closed session of the Member's legislative body so long as that closed session is properly noticed and conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.

Section 2. Except as expressly provided herein, all other sections and provisions of the Bylaws shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. This Bylaws amendment shall remain in full force and effect from year to year, until and unless it is revoked or modified by the Board.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_ day of January, 2024, by the Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cannon Michael, Chairman  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Federico Barajas, Secretary

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2024-\_\_ was duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority at the meeting thereof held on the \_\_ day of January, 2024.

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Federico Barajas, Secretary

