



**VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 17, 2021
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Gene Bays, who was present, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, allowing the meeting to be held via video conference. Board Members connected via Zoom video conference were Bill Koster, Kyle Perez, Zach Maring, Jim Jasper, Pete Lucich and Jarod Lara.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or revisions to the Agenda.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes from the Board Meeting of 1/20/21, Monthly Accounting Reports as of 1/31/21, and Field Operations Report for January were provided in advance for the Board's review. The Board approved the Consent Calendar per roll call vote as follows:

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

5. CLOSED SESSION

A. Conference with Special Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Upon returning from Closed Session, Anthea indicated that there was no reportable action taken and nothing further was reported.

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

C. Upon returning from Closed Session, Anthea indicated that there was no reportable action taken and nothing further was reported.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board to Review and Consider Proposed 2021-22 Agricultural Water Rate

Anthea reported that the District drafted a proposed Ag Water Rate for the 2021-22 water year which included the cost of service assigned from the Bureau of Reclamation as well as the cost assigned by the SLDMWA for the conveyance and delivery of the District's water supply. Also included in the Draft Rate is the Restoration Fund payment and the Trinity Public Utilities District Assessment. This year's water rate was reduced from prior years due to not having to pay the Construction Component of the Cost Service Rate to the Bureau of Reclamation. Per Prop 218 guidance, Staff recommended the rate of \$65/AF for delivered CVP supplies. She asked if there were any questions. Director Koster asked if the rates would be higher if there was a 0% allocation, and Anthea answered that the draft USBR rates would be the same, but if the SJRECWA members do not get 100% of their allocation, the SLDMWA estimated rate would likely be increased. Director Maring asked what caused the price drop from the previous year on the Volta Wells to which Anthea responded that she believed the SLDMWA used an incorrect denominator. After review and discussion, the Board approved the proposed 2021-22 Agricultural Water Rate at \$65/AF by roll call as follows:

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

Abstentions: None
Absent None

B. Board to Review and Consider Draft 2021-22 Administrative Budget

Anthea shared that Staff has produced a Draft Administrative Budget for the Board's consideration. This budget generally covers all administrative activities from the District and is separate from water rates and is charged each March 1st on every irrigable acre in the District. After reviewing the budget detail with the Board, Staff recommended the District's Water Availability charge remain unchanged at \$45/acre. After review and discussion, the 2021-22 Administrative Budget was approved by roll call as follows:

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

C. Board to Review and Consider 2021-2022 Contract Conversion Assessment Rate

Anthea reported that the note with to CoBank for the Contract Conversion payoff was entered into in October, and has an annual debt service of \$804,206.08 as well as a Debt Service Coverage charge of \$80,420.61 per the terms of the loan agreement. With a total assessed acreage of 35,373 acres participating in the financing, the Contract Conversion Assessment required for 2021-22 is \$25 per acre. After review and discussion, the Board approved the 2021-2022 Contract Conversion Assessment Rate by roll call as follows:

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

D. Board to Review and Approve a Resolution Approving and Amendment to the Agreement for the Exchange of Groundwater Between the United States and the San Luis and Del Puerto Water Districts

Anthea provided the Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Agreement for the Exchange of Groundwater Between the United States and the San Luis and Del Puerto Water Districts. She shared that the previous multi-year arrangement had been successful and cost effective, and that the Districts would like to continue that program, which provides for the acquisition of up to 17,000/af a year. She noted that the reason the districts have not been able to perfect that quantity as the groundwater exchange does not have a preferred priority for storage and the waters are generally more developable in the winter months. After review and discussion, she recommended the Board approve the Amendment to extend the agreement for 5 more years. The Board approved the Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Agreement for the Exchange of Groundwater between the United States and the San Luis and Del Puerto Water Districts by roll call as follows:

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

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

Anthea provided the SLDMWA February update on Water Policy/Resources Activities and reported that President Biden's administration would be reviewing the long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project Biological Opinions, but it was unclear what will be analyzed. She noted that coming to some resolution on the litigation that exists between the State and the Federal Water Projects and outside agencies on the Biological Opinions would be a condition of renewed movement forward on voluntary agreement discussions. She provided a Westlands Water District opinion piece titled "Voluntary Agreements: A New Era of Collaboration". She also shared that there had been legislation introduced to extend certain conditions of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), particularly the operational and storage provisions, both of which are very meaningful for the District and its sister agencies south of the Delta that rely on operations of the State and Federal water projects to fulfill their contracts. Congress was delivered the Feasibility Report from Reclamation on the DPCR last December, which placed the project in the eligibility list to for funding under the WIIN act if needed. DWR was currently working on their revised environmental documents and project alternatives for the Delta Conveyance Project, and the timeline

for re-developing the current CEQA process will be in early 2022. Anthea asked if any members of the public had any questions. Being none, the meeting continued.

8. WATER OPERATIONS & SUPPLY

A. CVP/SWP Operations

Anthea reported that the Jones Pumping Plant picked up a unit but believed the USBR was pumping for the State under the COA. San Luis Reservoir had 442 TAF on the federal share. As of the February 1st forecast, the Bureau of Reclamation had formally noticed the Exchange Contractors of a reduced allocation, or "Critical Year" for 2021. A letter request had been sent to the Bureau of Reclamation requesting to re-schedule the District's 10% share of stored 2020 CVP Supply, and developed small quantities of non-project water supplies that could be carried over under the rescheduling guidelines as long as the reservoir does not fill, was also included in the request. She added that despite several inquiries, the Bureau had not provided the current rescheduling guidelines but had communicated that they were not anticipating any material changes. Anthea also reported that the Carryover Calculation Worksheet was in the process of being finalized. Director Jasper asked if the Exchange Contractors stayed at the 75%, would that allow 25% to be moved south of the Delta and would that help the District in keeping their 10% rescheduled supply? Anthea indicated that keeping the 10% of carryover would not be a challenge because that was conditioned on San Luis Reservoir storage, but that a reduced SJREWA allocation as a result not enough inflow to Shasta needed to meet the full Exchange Contractor allocation could provide enough water in storage to slightly increase the allocation to the ag service contractors.

B. Monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 1.31.21

Adam reported in-District use for the month of January at 241 AF and no transfers out for the month, for a total of 241 AF of use in January and a total current use for the year of 63,822 AF. A total of 16,618 AF is estimated for rescheduling into 2021-22 with some NVRRWP, Yuba and groundwater pump-in included along with 14,021 AF of 2020 CVP supply.

C. 2021-22 NVRRWP 1st Assessment Billing & (1) Year Turnback Program Option - Recap

Anthea reported on the Assessment Billing for the NVRRWP, which was billed on January 1st 2021. She reported an availability of 6 inches per acre of estimated supply was available under the program, equating to 20,742 AF estimated for this year. An option to the few customers that did not have a need for this supply was provided under the 1 Year Turnback Program Option, and those supplies will be placed into the Additional Supplies Pool for other users to access for the 2021-22 water year. Currently, there were about 653 AF of turnback into the Additional Supplies Pool. Director Koster asked if the 653 AF of turnback supplies were under the 1 year or 5 year turnback option. Anthea indicated that to her knowledge, they were all under the 1 year option, but she was aware of one customer who was considering the 5 year option and had yet to respond.

D. Landholding / Licensing Updates

Anthea shared that there was no new licensing or projects along the DMC. Staff was getting the database ready for the 2021-22 year as well as finalizing setup of accounts, and readying to implement the increased per-acre allocation from 3.1 AF to 3.2 AF.

9. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Westside Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activities

Anthea reported that the IRWM group was currently monitoring the funding grants that the San Joaquin River funding area had received. Phase II is focusing on disadvantaged communities, providing technical assistance to the Newman Environmental Wetland System Project. SLDMWA Staff is still waiting for the signed Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region Grant Agreement for the Prop 1, Round 1 funding. This Agreement will include an \$800,000 grant for the Orestimba Creek Recharge Project, as well as the \$1 million the NVRRWP received but due to timing of the award, only \$30-40,000 would be used as the project was near completion as of the award date after which funds could be applied.

B. SJVDA/Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition Report(s)

Adam provided the Proposed Final Annual Budget which was approved at the February 2nd SJVDA meeting. He also reported that acreage updates had increased the per acre charge a bit due to the removal of some acreage from Grasslands WD. He also shared that a letter from the California Water Board to everyone with a discharge permit was sent requesting for them to comply with the Salt Control Program for irrigated lands. A reminder was given pertaining to the Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Reports and Farm Evaluation Reports due on March 1, 2021. Meetings for BMP requirements seemed to be a challenge due to COVID

because the State Board regulations requires them to be in person, but a solution was being sought. Director Koster asked Adam to explain the Fund 50 and Fund 55 items in the Budget Report, to which Adam explained that Fund 50 pertained to the General Fund and Fund 55 pertained to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

C. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activities

Adam provided the Northern & Central Delta-Mendota GSA Committee Meeting packet and reported that the committees had been working on the budget for the coming year and how they will proceed with monitoring various sites, developing annual reports and what the programs will look like especially in a drought year. He indicated at coordinating with the 6 different GSPs and figuring out how to work as one Subbasin will be especially important moving forward. A projected schedule for the next four months was provided for the Board as well. As part of the annual report and 3rd quarter tracking, he reported that some decreases in water levels were noticed in some of the wells in the northern and central regions, which were being looked into. He also reported that a Request for Proposal on Subsidence Characterization and Project Feasibility Determination for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin was sent out and two proposals from GSI and Provost & Pritchard had been received to date. Anthea added that there had been a series of ongoing discussions between the GSA member agencies and various counties those agencies have lands within. These meetings have been initiated by the counties as they are proposing updates to their groundwater ordinances and changes that they want to implement administratively on well permitting processes and how the GSAs are involved in groundwater well permitting activities.

D. Remote Telemetry Project – Update

Adam reported that this Project was near completion. He received updates for the mobile sites and user website and he can now provide individual users with their own login and password.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. Repayment Contract Construction Obligation Overpayment Issue – Update

Anthea shared that she continued to have discussions with Reclamation about the credit the District has available to use under the Repayment Contract due to the estimated Construction Obligation overpayment, but that they had not yet perfected the mechanisms which will be used to track that credit. Currently no payments have been remitted to Reclamation in lieu of those credits. As the discussion continues and a system-wide process is agreed upon with them, she will keep the Board updated on this matter.

B. Summary of PERS Facts

An annual update from CalPERS on their investment portfolio and pension funds and was provided and reviewed with the Board.

C. Oral Report of District 2021-22 Executive Compensation

Anthea shared that the District is required by code to give an oral report on Executive Compensation. She reported that the General Manager's gross pay in the 2021 budget was \$235,053, the sum total of taxes, medical, CalPERS contributions, other post-employment benefits expense for that position is an additional \$63,249 plus use of the District's vehicle and cell phone for \$7,104, for a total executive compensation of \$305,406. She noted that she has had 22 years of service for the District and falls into the CalPERS classic member category.

D. CVP Financial Matters

Anthea reported renewed interest from water contractors in getting more involved in the financial matters of the CVP, which she believed would benefit in keeping rates precise. She added that Reclamation continued to clean up some old reconciliation issues and was moving forward with developing policy on how repayment would take place in case of a catastrophic event under aging infrastructure PL 111-11. She noted that although the law was passed 9 years ago, a policy is still not in place. She shared that she and Minnie would continue to engage with Reclamation on all things CVP financial related. She asked if there were any questions from members of the public. Being none, the meeting continued.

11. SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A. North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program – Update

Anthea shared that she was still working with the Bureau of Reclamation to receive the residual amounts of the grants awarded to the Program, about \$250,000, which she hoped would leave about \$125,000 back to the NVRWP after retention for their expenditures. She hoped to have a final report to the Board by the March Board Meeting.

B. Orestimba Creek Recharge & Recovery Project – Update

Anthea provided a Memo pertaining to the Project and she reported that the facility's 30% design was completed and she and Adam had a meeting the next day with the engineers and design team to have a review session and finalize specifications for the proposed facilities, which could then be costed and put out to contract bid when ready. Further visits with local landholders in the area will also be taking place in the near future to discuss water quality sampling and locating the extraction wells. Once a plan is in place, Staff will come back to the Board for final approval to move forward. Anthea also reported that the OCRRP received a second award from the Prop 1 Stormwater Grant application that was submitted. The award letter states that the full award to the District and CCID is \$5.597 million in funding, with the District's local cost share being an additional \$1.639 million, totaling almost \$7.5 million dollar towards the completion of this project. She will be working with CCID's General Manager, Jarett Martin to get information back to the Boards for approvals.

C. Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project – Update

Anthea reported that Staff had been reviewing the scope of work needed to move forward, which will be primarily focused on hiring design contractors to get the Project to a 30% design, including utility relocation, corridors, permitting, road access, etc., and any remaining activities to get the District to its next decision-point.

D. Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project - Update

Anthea shared that in addition to the potential benefits of LVRE for DPWD, this project has provided an opportunity for her to understand the intricate steps to perfecting increased surface water storage. Contra Costa Water District Staff is currently working to finalize their fee structure and working on the next levels of permitting, agreements, and design on their facilities and have also started on a requirement to go through a process with the Department of Safety of Dams as well as a Technical Review Board to review their 50% design plans. She believed these extra levels of development that go into developing a safe and workable dam facility are necessary and the process for DPCR will be similar because many of the steps are the same. She reported that in the next week, the contractors participating in the local agency group will be meeting with Reclamation to talk about the potential supply increases that might be developed through the participation in the LVRE.

E. BF Sisk Dam Raise Project - Update

Anthea reported that at the end of the year the project received its Feasibility Determination from Reclamation and is now moving forward in furtherance of its environmental work and funding and operational discussions.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

A. Office Building Expansion Project – Update

Anthea shared that a temporary occupancy permit had been granted and that she was able to move in to her new office. She thanked the Board for allowing the expansion.

B. Contract Conversion Update

This item was discussed on Item 6.C.

C. Report on Finalization of the District's Agricultural Drain Loan Program

Final payment to the Ag Drain Loan Program with the State was made in January and the District has officially completed the program, funding of over 80 loans at a 2.3% interest and varying terms between 4 and 10 years. She shared that the District was still in the scoring consideration for 2022 under the State's CWSRF Program and hoped a score high enough would allow another opportunity to enact another loan program.

13. SLDMWA Report

A. SLDMWA Minutes, Reports and Issues Updates

Anthea provided the minutes and O&M report from the SLDMWA for their review. She shared that the Authority had been working on their budgets, the San Luis Transmission Project and progressing in the CEQA side of things for the BF Sisk Dam Raise Project. She reminded the Board that if they ever had any questions regarding

the SLDMWA, she as well as Directors Perez and Koster, who represent the DPWD on the SLDMWA Board of Directors, are all available to answer questions.

14. ARTICLES/CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC OUTREACH

Anthea provided ACWA JPIA's President's Special Recognition Awards for the District on low ratio "Paid Claims and Case Reserves", "Deposit Premiums", an article on ACWA Sponsored Bills, and a Family Farm Alliance memo.

15. CLOSED SESSION

Upon return from Closed Session, Anthea reported that the Board met in Closed Session to talk with special legal Counsel to discuss existing litigation listed on the Agenda as court case No. 20005164005164 Friant Water Supply Protection Association – vs – DPWD and Exchange Contractors as well as court case No. CV20-005913 Sierra Club et al –vs- DPWD. It was just an update and no recordable actions were taken.

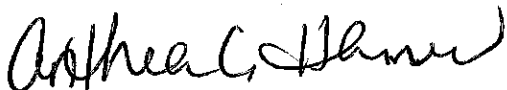
16. ITEMS TO DISCUSS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54954.2

There was nothing to report on this item.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthea G. Hansen
Secretary