

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:30 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance

Division 1

Dave Weisenberger, Director
Anthea Hansen, Director
Ed Pattison, Director

Division 2

Ross Franson, Director
William Bourdeau, Director
Patrick McGowan, Alternate for Beau Correia
Lon Martin, Alternate for Bill Diedrich

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate for Dan McCurdy
Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director - Michael Gardner, Alternate
Ric Ortega, Director (arrived during item 4)

Division 4

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate
Richard Santos, Director
Jeff Cattaneo, Director

Division 5

Bill Pucheu, Director
Allison Febbo, Director

Friant Representatives

Wilson Orvis, Alternate FWA Representative

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
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician
Jaime McNeil, Engineering Manager (via ZOOM)

Others in Attendance

- Vincent Gin, Valley Water
- Brett Miller, San Benito County W.D.
- John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
- John Varela, Valley Water (via ZOOM)
- Justin Diener, Westlands W.D. (via ZOOM)
- Chase Hurley, Panoche W.D.
- Mitch Partovi, Water Agency
- Lea Emmons, City of Tracy
- Hugh, Kuhn Solar Power Partners Inc. (via ZOOM)
- Kristin Olsen, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
- Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
- Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (via ZOOM)
- Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition (via 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

No public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: a) August 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, and d) Acceptance of Staff Reports.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the Board accepted the August 8, 2024, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Financial & Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

- AYES: Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Febbo, Orvis
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

ACTION ITEMS

5. Agenda Item 7: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Authorizing Execution of Professional Services Agreement and Task Order with the Hallmark Group for Project Management and Design Review Services for the DMC Subsidence Correction Project and Related

Expenditure of Up to \$470,375 from DWR Grant Funds.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item. Arroyave provided a brief background on the project and discussed the need for project management and design review services. Arroyave then referred to Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil to provide additional detail on the current funding and the purpose and qualifications of hiring the Hallmark Group for the DMC Subsidence project management and design review services.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board authorized execution of Professional Services Agreement and Task Order with the Hallmark Group for project management and design review services for the DMC Subsidence Correction Project and related expenditure of up to \$470,375 from DWR grant funds. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Febbo, Orvis
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

6. Agenda Item 8: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Execution of Task Orders with DHR Hydro Services for Project Management of the O’Neill Pumping Plant Transformer Rehabilitation and Jones Pumping Plant Excitation Cabinet and Control Panel Refurbishment Projects and Related Expenditure of up to \$184,940 from EO&M Budgets.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item. Arroyave provided a brief background on the project and then referred to Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil. McNeil, who then provided additional details on DHR Hydro Services qualifications as project manager for the O’Neill Pumping Plant Transformer Rehabilitation and Jones Pumping Plant Excitation Cabinet and Control Panel Refurbishment projects, as well as upcoming plans for both projects.

On a motion of Member Richard Santos, seconded by Director Ric Ortega, the Board authorized execution of Task Orders with DHR Hydro Services for project management of the O’Neill Pumping Plant transformer rehabilitation and Jones Pumping Plant excitation cabinet and control panel refurbishment projects and related expenditure of up to \$184,940 from the EO&M Budget. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Febbo, Orvis
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

7. Agenda Item 9: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Execution of Financial Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, for the Delta-Mendota Canal – Solar-Over-Canals Project.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item by providing background on the funding and outlining the Solar-over-Canals Project. Arroyave reported that this is a pilot project and all costs of the project, including staff time, will be paid by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Ross Franson, the Board authorized execution of the Financial Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, for the Delta-Mendota Canal – Solar-Over-Canals Project. The vote on the motion was as follows:

- AYES: Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Febbo, Orvis
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

8. Agenda Item 10: Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Execution of Memorandum of Understanding between San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and the Regents of the University of California (UC Merced).

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that in the interest of furthering the Science Plan, Authority staff has engaged with the University of California, Merced (UC Merced), to discuss the development and advancement of a collaborative partnership. Petersen reported that the partnership would serve multiple functions that would contribute to advancing the Authority’s Science Plan and Strategic Plan, improving the Science enterprise associated with water resources management, and building additional capacity for the Authority membership and the Delta Science enterprise. Petersen reported that Authority staff worked collaboratively with university staff to develop the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide engagement for a long-term partnership with UC Merced. Petersen and Executive Director Federico Barajas answered questions throughout the presentation.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board authorized execution of Memorandum of Understanding between San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and the Regents of the University of California (UC Merced). The vote on the motion was as follows:

- AYES: Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Febbo, Orvis
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

REPORT ITEMS

9. **Agenda Item 11: Presentation on Non-Native Fish Population Study Funded by Member Agencies.**

Director Dave Weisenberger introduced a video called “The Missing Piece” regarding abundance and distribution of nonnative fish, and predation of native Salmon, and Steelhead. Weisenberger reported that this research has been commissioned by Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, Patterson Irrigation District, and West Stanislaus Irrigation District. Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided additional information about related research projects and conclusions.

10. **Agenda Item 12: Report on State and Federal Affairs.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed documents included in the packet, and provided updates related to the Continuing Resolution, Congressional Field Hearing last week, Federal Legislation update, and consultation on Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP and the Trinity Division consultation, ESA and CESA listings. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Additional information was provided by consultants Dennis Cardoza and Kristin Olsen.

11. **Agenda Item 13: Executive Director’s Report.**

- a. **VA Process** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Authority is planning a workshop next month regarding the Voluntary Agreements (VAs) / Healthy Rivers & Landscapes Program and proposed fee collection.
- b. **South of Delta Drought Plan** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there are upcoming coordination meetings with Reclamation regarding the South of Delta Drought Plan.
- c. **Planning Committee** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the first Planning Committee met Monday afternoon following the Finance & Administration Committee meeting. Chair Cannon Michael reported that Director Justin Diener is the Chair of the Planning Committee.

12. **Agenda Item 14: Chief Operating Officer’s Report**

- a. **OM&R Budget** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that over the next couple of months Authority staff will be coming to the Finance & Administration Committee/Board to discuss some budget implications associated with a few O&M unforeseen issues, which includes the Intertie, Jones Pumping Plant UPS system, and

O'Neill Unit 5.

- b. **Review of Power Systems** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that there will be joint review of Power Systems with Reclamation at Jones Pumping Plant, O'Neill, and DCI.
- c. **O'Neill Outage** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that there is a tentative planned outage at the O'Neill Pumping Plant October 21-November 1.

13. Agenda Item 15: 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. Kiteck answered questions throughout her presentation.

14. Agenda Item 16: Committee Reports.

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – Committee Chair William Bourdeau reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items.
- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Committee Chair Anthea Hansen reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items.
- c. **O&M Technical Committee** – No report.
- d. **Planning Committee** – No report.

15. Agenda Item 17: 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 provided a brief update on upcoming meetings including the ACWA conference December 3-5, 2024 in Palm Desert. Director Ross Franson described an upcoming Region 6/7 event, and General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd also described upcoming ACWA MCLE panels.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the packet includes the Water Policy Memo from the Water Resources Committee meeting with detailed information on Blueprint activities.
- f. **SJV CAP** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Water Policy Memo from the Water Resources Committee meeting includes detailed information on SJV CAP.
- g. **CVPWA** – Director Anthea Hansen provided a brief report.

16. **Agenda Item 18: Board Member Reports.**

None.

17. **Agenda Items 19-20: 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 11:42 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 12:03 p.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

18. **Agenda Item 21: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**

No report.

19. **Agenda Item 22: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:04 p.m.