

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES JUNE 8, 2023

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**

David Weisenberger, Director  
Bobby Pierce, Director  
Anthea Hansen, Director  
Ed Pattison, Director - Lea Emmons, Alternate

**Division 2**

Ross Franson, Director  
William Bourdeau, Director  
Beau Correia, Director (arrived during item 11)

**Division 3**

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

**Division 4**

Aaron Baker, Alternate for John Varela  
Richard Santos, Director - Jim Beall, Alternate (via ZOOM)  
Steve Wittry, Director  
Joe Tonascia, Director

**Division 5**

Bill Pucheu, Director  
Kirk Teixeira, Director  
Manny Amorelli, Director

**Authority Representatives Present**

Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel  
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel  
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance (via ZOOM)  
Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director (via ZOOM)  
Lauren Viers, Accountant III  
Darlene Neves, Operational Accounting Supervisor  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Mitch Partovi, Water Agency  
Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District

Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition (via ZOOM)  
 Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)  
 Bill Ball, Foley, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)  
 Kristin Olsen, Calstrat (via ZOOM)  
 Brian Nash, Richardson and Company, LLP (via ZOOM)  
 Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (via ZOOM)  
 Danny Wade, Tranquillity Irrigation District (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.**

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd noted a correction to agenda item 8, replacing FY 2021 with FY 2022.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Ric Ortega, the Board accepted the May 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes, Financial Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, White, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Wittry, Tonascia, Pucheu, Teixeira, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**4. Agenda Item 7: Board of Directors to Consider Resolution Recognizing the Service and Contributions of Rick Gilmore, Former General Manager of Byron-Bethany Irrigation District.**

Executive Director Federico Barajas provide a brief summary of the resolution recognizing Rick Gilmore’s outstanding contributions to the Authority and to water policy in California following his retirement as General Manager of Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID), and untimely death in May 2023. Barajas presented the Golden Bucket Award to BBID’s General Manager Ed Pattison to be added to the display at BBID dedicated to Rick Gilmore’s career achievements. Chair Cannon Michael, and Director Ed Pattinson provided additional comments.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Bill Pucheu, the Board approved resolution recognizing the service and contributions of Rick Gilmore, former General Manger of Byron-Bethany Irrigation District. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, White, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Wittry, Tonascia, Pucheu, Teixeira, Amorelli  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**5. Agenda Item 8: Board of Directors to Consider Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Acceptance of Final Fiscal Year 2022 Audited Financial Statements.**

Finance Director Ray Tarka introduced Brian Nash of Richardson and Company, LLP. Nash briefly reviewed the Fiscal Year 2022 audited financial statements and the management letter highlighting key items. Director Anthea Hansen reported that the Finance & Administration Committee reviewed the audited financial statements in depth, and recommended the Fiscal Year 2022 audited financial statements to the Board, with grammatical changes, for approval. Director Anthea Hansen thanked Authority staff for their good work.

On a motion of Director Anthea Hansen, seconded by Director Bill Pucheu, the Board approved the final Fiscal Year 2022 audited financial statements. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, White, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Wittry, Tonascia, Pucheu, Teixeira, Amorelli  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**6. Agenda Item 9: Board of Directors to Consider Water Resources Committee Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendation for Positions on the following Legislation:**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported and provided staff and Water Resources Committee recommended positions for consideration on the following legislation:

- a. **H.R. 3675 (Boebert)**, Western Water Accelerated Revenue Repayment Act
- b. **S. 658 (Booker)**, EQIP Improvement Act of 2023
- c. **S. \_\_\_ (Feinstein)**, Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Act.
- d. **S. \_\_\_ (Feinstein)**, STREAM Act
- e. **S. \_\_\_ (Feinstein)**, RAIN Act
- f. **AB 754 (Papan)**, Water management planning: automatic conservation plan
- g. **AB 1205 (Bauer-Lahan)**, Water rights: sale, transfer, or lease: agricultural lands

On a motion of Director William Bourdeau, seconded by Alternate Director Chris White, the Board adopted the staff recommendation for positions on federal legislation (HR 3675, S. \_\_{Feinstein}, Canal Conveyance Act, S\_\_ {Feinstein}, STREAM Act – Support; S\_{Feinstein}, RAIN Act – Support and Amend; S. 658 - Oppose). The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, White, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Wittry, Tonascia, Pucheu, Teixeira, Amorelli  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

On a motion of Alternate Director Chris White, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the vote adopted the staff recommendation for positions on state legislation (AB754, AB1205 – oppose). The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, White, Michael, Ortega, Wittry, Tonascia, Pucheu, Teixeira, Amorelli  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: Baker, Santos

**7. Agenda Item 10: Board of Directors to Consider Authorizing Increase in B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project Activity Agreement Budget of \$2.5 Million.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that two cash calls of \$10M will be necessary from the Activity Agreement Members prior to proceeding to the construction phase of the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project (Project). Arroyave reported that the first cash call of \$10M is expected to cover pre-construction and preliminary design activities from July 2023-September 2024. Arroyave reported that the second cash call of \$10M would be used for final design activities and would be required by approximately October 1, 2024. Arroyave reported that the present action, a requested budget increase of \$2.5M, is the first quarterly payment toward the initial \$10M commitment. Arroyave reported staff's expectation that these funds will mostly go toward planning and design activities related to the Highway 152 component of the project, including coordination with Caltrans. Arroyave reported that this is an Activity Agreement action, and there are no budget impacts to any other Authority activities. Arroyave reported that the Authority will invoice each Activity Agreement member their allocated share of the funding following agreement.

On a motion of Alternate Director Aaron Baker, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board authorized an increase in the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project Activity Agreement Budget of \$2.5 million. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, White, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Wittry, Tonascia, Pucheu, Teixeira, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

## REPORT ITEMS

### 8. **Agenda Item II: Report on State and Federal Affairs.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that staff will be going to Washington, DC next week along with a few member agencies, and are looking forward to a successful trip. Petersen encouraged the Board members to reach out if their agency is interested in coordinating/participating in future trips.

Petersen provided administrative and legislative updates related to staffing, the recent debt ceiling legislation and associated NEPA provisions, the reinitiation of consultation on the long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, the Farm bill, and the state budget and bond proposals.

### 9. **Agenda Item I2: Executive Director's Report.**

- a. **Strategic Plan Workshop** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the second Strategic Plan Workshop is scheduled later this month at the Los Banos Community Center.
- b. **New Building** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the architects have provided the renderings of the new building, which will be shared at a later date.
- c. **Panoche Water District**- Former General Counsel Diane Rathmann will be retiring from Panoche Water District in the near future, and there will be an event next month.

### 10. **Agenda Item I3: Chief Operating Officer's Report**

- a. **Jones Pumping Plant** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the Bureau has a 5-day maintenance scheduled at the Tracy Fish Facility, which means Jones Pumping Plant will be completely shut down between 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Arroyave reported that staff will be working closely with the Bureau to avoid early incursion of San Luis Reservoir drawdown.
- b. **Repayment Contract Discussions** – Arroyave reported that the Authority is beginning repayment contract discussions with the Bureau regarding the Jones Pumping Plant Excitation System Project, and the Delta Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project.
- c. **Jones Pumping Plant Rewind** – Arroyave reported that the last Jones Pumping Plant

unit rewind will be completed next month. Facilities O&M Director Bob Martin provided additional details.

**11. Agenda Item 14: 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 to provide an overview of CVP water operations and the latest forecasts. Kiteck reviewed storage levels for various CVP facilities. Kiteck further reported on excess conditions in the Delta, contractor demands, and projected San Luis Reservoir drawdown.

**12. Agenda Item 15: Committee Reports.**

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – Chair William Bourdeau reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items.
- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Chair Anthea Hansen reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items.
- c. **O&M Committee** – Chair Chris White reported that the committee had a tour of project facilities in May.

**13. Agenda Item 16: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.**

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the next SFCWA meeting is July 21, 2023.
- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet.
- c. **Farm Water Coalition** – Brandon Souza reported that they recently published a newsletter in coordination with the Valley Ag Water Coalition regarding water rights. Souza reported that their popular social media influencer tours are returning to the San Joaquin Valley in August.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies** – General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd provided a brief legal affairs update.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (WBSJV)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the next Blueprint meeting is June 21, 2023.
- f. **SJV CAP** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that workgroups continue to meet and discuss priorities and drafting for their respective areas: Safe Drinking Water; Sustainable Water Supplies; Ecosystem Health; Land Use, Demand Reduction and Land Repurposing; Implementation. Petersen reported that the Steering Committee members continue to meet to discuss the proposed budget and work with Reclamation regarding the requested funding. Petersen reported that the Plenary Group met on May 23, and the

meeting summary, and a presentation given to the Sustainable Water Supply Workgroup is included in the packet.

- g. CVPWA – Director Anthea Hansen reported that membership is increasing, and they are looking at dues. Hansen reported that there will be a Financial Affairs meeting June 23, 2023.

14. **Agenda Item 17: Board Member Reports.**

No reports.

15. **Agenda Items 18-19: Closed Session Report.**

Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 10:56 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 12:08 p.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

16. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment.

17. **Agenda Item 20: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**

No report.

18. **Agenda Item 21: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:09 p.m.