

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES AUGUST 10, 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  
Lea Emmons, Alternate for Ed Pattison (arrived after agenda item 11)

**Division 2**

Ross Franson, Director  
William Bourdeau, Director  
Bill Diedrich, Director (arrived after agenda item 10) - Lon Martin, Alternate

**Division 3**

Chris White, Alternate for Dan McCurdy  
Jarrett Martin, Director  
Cannon Michael, Director  
Ric Ortega, Director - Ellen Wehr, Alternate

**Division 4**

Aaron Baker, Alternate for John Varela  
Richard Santos, Director  
Steve Wittry, Director  
Joyce Machado, Alternate for Joe Tonascia, Director

**Division 5**

Bill Pucheu, Director  
Manny Amorelli, Director

**Authority Representatives Present**

Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel (via ZOOM)  
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel  
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance  
Jaime McNeill, Engineering Manager (via ZOOM)  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water  
Vince Gin, Valley Water  
John Wiersma, Water Agency  
Allison Febbo, Westlands Water District

Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District  
 Mike Wade, 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)  
 Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (via ZOOM)  
 Jacob McQuirk, DWR  
 Vince Lucchesi, Patterson Irrigation District (via ZOOM)  
 Steve Stadler, San Luis Water 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.**

No additions or corrections.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

**3. Agenda Items 4-8: Board to Consider: a) July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Treasurer’s Report, d) FY 2023 Governance Letter, e) Staff Reports.**

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Bill Pucheu, the Board accepted the July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes, Financial Expenditures Reports, Treasurer’s Report, Governance Letter, and Staff Reports with a minor correction to the date of the Treasurer’s Report (report correctly dated August 7, 2023). The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Franson, Bourdeau, L. Martin, White, J. Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Wittry, Machado, Pucheu, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**4. Agenda Item 9: Board of Directors to Consider Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Third Adjustment to Water Year 2023 OM&R Water Rates.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item, and reviewed the memo included in the packet. Arroyave then referred to Director of Finance Ray Tarka who discussed the changes created by using the 100% ag allocation and including updated volumes and wheeling information from member agencies.

On a motion of Director William Bourdeau, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board adopted the Finance & Administration Committee’s recommendation for a third adjustment to Water Year 2023 OM&R Water Rates. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Franson, Bourdeau, White, J. Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Wittry, Machado, Pucheu, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**5. Agenda Item 10: Board of Directors to Consider Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendation for Distribution of SFCWA Lower Yolo Ranch Project Funds (Refund Payment) Upon Receipt.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen gave a brief background on the Lower Yolo Ranch Project. Petersen then referred to Director of Finance Raymond Tarka to give further information on how the project was originally funded along with staff’s recommendation regarding how the anticipated refund should be allocated based on prior budget allocations.

On a motion of Director Ric Ortega, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board adopted the Finance & Administration Committee and staff recommendations for distribution of SFCWA Lower Yolo Ranch project funds (refund payment) upon receipt. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Franson, Bourdeau, White, J. Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Wittry, Machado, Pucheu, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**6. Agenda Item 11: Board of Directors to Consider Authorizing Award of Contract, Execution of Construction Agreement with Talley Oil Inc. for DMC Road Maintenance Chip Seal (MP 14.80-39.21) and Expenditure of up to \$311,000 from the FY24 EO&M Budget.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item, and reviewed the memo included in the packet. Arroyave reported that the proposed expenditure of up to \$311,000 will be funded utilizing approved budgeted funds from Fiscal Year 2024 EO&M budget, and that \$562,000 was the budgeted amount for this contract.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Director Chris White, the Board authorized award of contract and execution of construction agreement with Talley Oil Inc. for DMC road maintenance chip seal (MP 14.80-39.21) and expenditure of up to \$311,000 from the FY24 EO&M Budget. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Franson, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, J. Martin, Michael, Orettega, Baker, Santos, Wittry, Machado, Pucheu, Amorelli
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NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

## REPORT ITEMS

### 7. **Agenda Item 12: Presentation on DWR South Delta Permanent Operable Gates Project.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced Jacob McQuirk from the Department of Water Resources. McQuirk presented a PowerPoint presentation on the South Delta Permanent Operable Gates Project. McQuirk answered questions throughout the presentation.

### 8. **Agenda Item 13: Report on State and Federal Affairs.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided updates related to administrative staffing, IRA section 50233 – Drought Mitigation, endangered species, proposed rule on WOTUS, OMB Guidance on Ecosystem benefits, DOJ ADA web accessibility rule, Endangered Species Act working group, hearings, FY24 appropriations, infrastructure streamlining bills, and air resources board activity. Additional information was provided by Dennis Cardoza, Bill Ball, and Kristin Olsen.

### 9. **Agenda Item 14: Executive Director’s Report.**

- a. **Strategic Plan Workshop** – Barajas stated there will be a Strategic Planning Workshop following the Board meeting at the Los Banos Community Center.
- b. **Yuba Tour** – Barajas reported that the Yuba Water Agency tour is scheduled for next month, and for anyone that would like to join to please reach out to him or Water Policy Director Scott Petersen.

### 10. **Agenda Item 15: Chief Operating Officer’s Report**

- a. **Jones Pumping Plant (JPP)** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that JPP had to drop to 1-unit earlier in the morning due to debris issues at the Tracy Fish Facility, and is now back to 3-units.
- b. **Jones Pumping Plant Tour (JPP) & Tracy Fish Facility Tour** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff has been working with Director Dave Weisenberger and ACWA Region 4 to set up a JPP and Tracy Fish Facility tour Wednesday, October 4, and registration is now open through ACWA.
- c. **Delta Cross Channel Gates Public Meeting** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that he attended Reclamation’s Delta Cross Channel Gates public meeting.

**11. Agenda Item 16: 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.

**12. Agenda Item 17: Committee Reports.**

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – August meeting was cancelled.
- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Chair Anthea Hansen reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items.
- c. **O&M Committee** – No report.

**13. Agenda Item 18: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.**

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there was a Board meeting last month.
- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet.
- c. **Farm Water Coalition** – Mike Wade provided an update on the Farm Water Update newsletter that is produced quarterly with the Valley Ag Water Coalition. Wade reported that he spoke at the AG Media Summit in August.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)** – Director Bill Diedrich reported that four Authority member agencies financed a fish study and made the July ACWA newsletter. Director Dave Weisenberger provided additional information on the fish study.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (WBSJV)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Blueprint Board met on July 19, approving the Hallmark Group to advance preliminary work on a new project to analyze and engage in the consultation on the Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP.

Petersen reported that the Board adopted a new funding plan. Petersen reported that the funding changes adopted by the Blueprint Board are focused on increased funding by GSA's. Petersen reported that the proposed changes, if funded, will provide an organizational budget on the order of \$400,000. Petersen reported that the next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Jordan Ag Center in Fresno and can be attended virtually, if you'd like to make your voice heard regarding the changes. Petersen reported that there are some significant questions that were raised by some Board members regarding duplication of funding that may be challenging for some organizations, but the Blueprint Board ultimately voted to adopt the new funding formula.

- f. **SJV CAP** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the San Joaquin Valley CAP Steering Committee adopted the proposed 2023 Work Plan that's included in your Board packet and will be using that for the various Work Groups to guide activities for the CAP during the remainder of the calendar year.
- g. **CVPWA** – Director Anthea Hansen provided a brief report.

**14. Agenda Item 19: Board Member Reports.**

Director Chris White reported that the Exchange Contractors will be hosting the annual California Ag Leadership Foundation Class 52 Summer tour of Central Valley water issues.

Director Anthea Hanse reported that Del Puerto Water District is in the process of recruiting a Program Accountant.

**15. Agenda Items 20-21: Closed Session Report.**

Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:26 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 12:13 p.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

**16. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment.

**17. Agenda Item 22: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**

No report.

**18. Agenda Item 23: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:14 p.m.

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 10, 2023

The Special Workshop of the Board of Directors convened at approximately 12:40 p.m. at Los Banos Community Center, 645 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Banos, California with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

**Board of Directors and Alternate Directors Present**

**Division 1**

Dave Weisenberger, Director  
Bobby Pierce, Director  
Anthea Hansen, Director  
Lea Emmons, Alternate for Ed Pattison

**Division 2**

Ross Franson, Director  
William Bourdeau, Director  
Bill Diedrich, Director

**Division 3**

Chris White, Alternate for Dan McCurdy  
Jarrett Martin, Director  
Cannon Michael, Director  
Ric Ortega, Director - Ellen Wehr, Alternate

**Division 4**

Aaron Baker, Alternate  
Richard Santos, Director  
Steve Wittry, Director  
Joyce Machado, Alternate for Joe Tonascia

**Division 5**

Absent

**Authority Representatives Present**

Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel  
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance  
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel  
Laures Stiles, Director of H.R.  
Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director  
Cheri Worthy, Executive Secretary  
Stewart Davis, IT Manager

**Others in Attendance**

Martin Rauch, Rauch Communication Consultants Inc.  
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water  
Allison Febbo, Westlands Water District  
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District  
Vince Gin, Valley Water

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cannon Michael at approximately 12:40 p.m.

**2. Corrections to the Agenda**

No corrections.

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment.

**REPORT ITEMS**

**4. Discussion regarding Strategic Plan Update**

a. **Discuss Strategic Plan Updates** – Martin Rauch reviewed the current status of the Water Authority’s updated Strategic Plan and reported that it should be ready to present to the Board of Directors in October. Workshop participants reviewed and commented on the draft plan and appendices. Rauch guided the workshop participants through small group exercises in which participants discussed and evaluated issues and challenges relating to proposed Strategic Plan goal areas.

b. **Mission, Vision, and Values** – Martin Rauch requested additional input regarding the draft Mission, Vision, and Values statements. The workshop participants provided suggested edits to the Mission and Vision statements.

c. **Next Steps** – Martin Rauch described the next steps with the Strategic Plan process.

**5. Executive Director’s Report**

No report.

**6. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3).**

No reports.

**7. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:07 p.m.