

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES SEPTEMBER 14, 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

Bobby Pierce, Director
Anthea Hansen, Director
Ed Pattison, Director

Division 2

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

Division 3

Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Director
Ellen Wehr, Alternate for Ric Ortega

Division 4

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate
Richard Santos, Director - Jim Beall, Alternate
Steve Wittry, Director
Joe Tonascia, Director - Joyce Machado, Alternate

Division 5

Allison Febbo, 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)
Cindy Meyer, Special Programs Manager
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others in Attendance

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Irrigation District
Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District
Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition (via ZOOM)

Bill Ball, Foley, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
Kristin Olsen, Calstrat (via ZOOM)
Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (via ZOOM)
Vince Lucchesi, Patterson Irrigation District (via ZOOM)
Heidi Williams, Valley Water
Tom Boardman, Westlands 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 4-6: Board to Consider: a) August 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes, and August 10, 2023 Workshop Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Staff Reports.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the Board accepted the August 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2023 Workshop Minutes, Financial Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, Correia, L. Martin, J. Martin, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Santos, Wittry, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

ACTION ITEMS

4. Agenda Item 7: Board of Directors to Consider Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Award of Contract, Execution of Construction Agreement for O’Neill Pumping-Generating Plant Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation, and Expenditure of up to \$220,000 from the FY 2024 EO&M Budget; CEQA Exemption.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item, and reviewed the memo included in the packet. Arroyave then referred to Engineering Manager Jaime McNeill. McNeill reported the Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation scope includes removing the existing tank liner of the two in-service tanks and installing a new tank lining system on the interior of the two storage tanks. McNeill reported that the tanks will be rehabilitated one at a time to avoid disruption of water service to the Plant. McNeill reported that on August 1, 2023, the Authority formally solicited for the Water Tank Rehabilitation

activities, and received two bids. McNeill reported that both bids far exceeded the budgeted amount. McNeill reported that as a result, staff is proposing to reallocate up to \$110,800 of funds from elsewhere in the FY24 EO&M Budget. McNeill reported that the line item for the O’Neill Pumping-Generating Plant Cooling Water System Rehabilitation Design has excess funds available for Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation. McNeill reported that staff recommends authorizing award of contract and execution of construction agreement with F.D. Thomas, Inc. for O’Neill Pumping-Generating Plant Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation, and expenditure of up to \$220,000 from the FY24 EO&M Budget.

On a motion of Director Bobby Pierce, seconded by Director Beau Correia, the Board approved award of contract, execution of construction agreement for O’Neill Pumping-Generating Plant water storage tank rehabilitation, and expenditure of up to \$220,000 from the FY 2024 EO&M Budget; CEQA Exemption. The vote on the motion was as follows:

- AYES: Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, Correia, L. Martin, J. Martin, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Santos, Wittry, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

5. Agenda Item 8: Board of Directors to Consider Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation.

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

- a. S. 2636 (Bennett), Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities Act - Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies
- b. S. 2250 (Bennett) / H.R. 4902 (Caraveo), Voluntary Groundwater Conservation Act of 2023 - Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board adopted staff recommendation for support positions on legislation. The vote on the motion was as follows:

- AYES: Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, Correia, L. Martin, J. Martin, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Santos, Wittry, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

6. Agenda Item 9: Board of Directors to Consider Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Execution of North to South Water Transfers Activity Agreement.

Deputy General Counsel Rebecca Harms reported that the Authority is now cooperating with Reclamation and local agencies to complete environmental review for a range of potential annual north-

to-south water transfers beginning in 2025 (“Water Transfers EIS/EIR”). Harms reported that the Authority has developed a new North to South Water Transfers Activity Agreement (“Activity Agreement”) for Authority members who desire to participate in the water transfers covered by the Water Transfers EIS/EIR. Harms reported that the Activity Agreement authorizes annual coordination of water transfer activities and specifies that the costs of the water transfers, including preparation and/or defense of the documents prepared pursuant to NEPA and CEQA, will be paid by Activity Agreement Members, and not by non-participating members of the Authority. Harms reported that members must notify the Authority of their intent to join the Activity Agreement by October 31, 2023.

On a motion of Alternate Director Lon Martin, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board adopted resolution authorizing execution of North to South Water Transfers Activity Agreement. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, Correia, L. Martin, J. Martin, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Santos, Wittry, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

REPORT ITEMS

7. Agenda Item 10: Report on State and Federal Affairs.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided updates related to Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update, California Water Plan Update 2023, California Legislature (AB929, AB1594, Bond proposals), administrative staffing, IRA section 50233 – Drought Mitigation, endangered species, proposed rule on WOTUS, hearings, FY24 appropriations, and the Farm bill. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Additional information was provided by Bill Ball and Kristin Olsen.

8. Agenda Item 11: Executive Director’s Report.

- a. **Strategic Plan Update** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the updated Strategic Plan will be going out to the Board for a final review before it comes to the Board next month for adoption.
- b. **Jones Pumping Plant Rewind Project**– Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Jones Pumping Plant unit rewind project has been completed, and all six units are fully functional. Barajas reported that staff will present an overview at next month’s meeting.
- c. **Solar Over Canals Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that he had an introductory meeting with Reclamation and a private solar company regarding floating solar

panels over large canals. Barajas reported that Reclamation has an internal call for proposals that would make funding available for this type of pilot project. Barajas stated Authority staff will review further details and will bring this item to the Water Resources Committee and Board of Directors for further consideration/action.

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

- a. **Intertie** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported the 5th and 6th pumps have been installed at the Intertie.
- b. **O’Neill Pumping Plant Outage** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported there is a potential for a 45-day outage next mid-April through the end of May for the O’Neill transformer rehab project. Arroyave reported that Authority staff will be working with Reclamation to plan for the outage.
- c. **Jones Pumping Plant Operations/Outage** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that a significant storm in November 2021 caused damage to building UZ11A, which affected the ability of that building to provide power to Jones Pumping Plant units 2 and 6. Since that time, there has been a short term fix, but it is critical to now repair building UZ11A. Arroyave reported that Board-approved work for a permanent fix is scheduled to occur between September 18, 2023 and October 6, 2023, and that efforts will be made to complete construction sooner to minimize the outage.

10. **Agenda Item 13: 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 provided updates regarding CVP storage, operations, and forecasts.

11. **Agenda Item 14: 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 there will be a meeting next month.

12. **Agenda Item 15: 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** – Mike Wade reported that the Farm Water Coalition’s recent

influencer tour was very successful.

- d. **Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)** – Director John Varela provided a brief report on ACWA’s Diversity Equity Inclusion Foundation. Varela reported that they are developing a scholarship program, and plan on awarding the first one at the fall ACWA conference.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (WBSJV)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Blueprint Board met on August 16, 2023.
- f. **SJV CAP** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported Authority staff continues to work with CAP management staff and Reclamation to obligate \$750,000 for CAP, and we anticipate beginning work with the budget office in October, assuming that there isn’t a challenge with Reclamation operating on a continuing resolution (CR). Petersen reported that if Reclamation is operating on a CR, staff anticipates additional delays in obligating the funding from the FY22 appropriations bill and the CAP Steering Committee is actively exploring alternative funding opportunities for stopgap funds to continue supporting the program.
- g. **CVPWA** – Director Anthea Hansen provided a brief report.

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

Director Richard Santos gave credit to Director Anthea Hansen for chairing the recent LVR JPA meeting.

Director John Varela reported that Director Richard Santos recently celebrated his birthday.

14. **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 11:03 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:35 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

15. **Opportunity for Public Comment**
No public comment.

16. **Agenda Item 22: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**
No report.

17. **Agenda Item 23: Adjournment.**
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:36 a.m.

