

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 2023

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:35 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  
Vince Lucchesi, Alternate for Bobby Pierce  
Anthea Hansen, Director  
Ed Pattison, Director

**Division 2**

Ross Franson, Director  
Patrick McGowan, Alternate for Beau Correia  
Bill Diedrich, Director

**Division 3**

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

**Division 4**

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate  
Jim Beall, Alternate for Richard Santos  
Steve Wittry, Director

**Division 5**

Bill Pucheu, Director

**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

**Others in Attendance**

Mitch Partovi, Water Agency  
Rusty Areias, Foley, Foley & Lardner, LLP (ZOOM)  
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (ZOOM)  
Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (ZOOM)  
Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition (ZOOM)  
Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District  
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District  
Ellen Wehr, Grasslands Water District (ZOOM)

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water  
Vince Gin, Valley Water  
Lea Emmons, City of Tracy (ZOOM)  
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District (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**

Mitch Partovi from the Water Agency reported that he will be giving out the Water Agency's yearly themed water bottles, with the theme of "Groundwater Recharge".

**CONSENT ITEMS**

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

On a motion of Director John Varela, seconded by Director David Weisenberger, the Board accepted the November 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes (with a minor correction on page 4), Financial & Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**5. Agenda Item 7: Board of Directors to Consider Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025 Objectives.**

Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced the item. Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that in October 2023, the Authority Board adopted an updated Strategic Plan, which charts the policy outcomes and objectives to implement in the coming five years. Petersen reported that the document included in the packet proposes objectives to guide policy in Fiscal Year 2025, consistent with the updated Authority Strategic Plan. Petersen reported that there are four proposed objectives: 1) Restore Central Valley Project water supplies to levels that meet reasonable demands within member agency boundaries and improve the reliability of those water supplies through the development and advocacy of sound water resource management and environmental policy, 2) Restore Central Valley

Project Water Supply for Member Agencies, 3) Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies, 4) Improve Outreach and Education. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation.

On a motion of Director David Weisenberger, seconded by Alternate Director Chris White, the Board adopted Fiscal Year 2025 Objectives. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**6. Agenda Item 8: Board of Directors to Consider Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Technical Service Center for Final Design and Specifications for Upper DMC Rehabilitation, DMC Subsidence Correction Project, and Related Expenditure of up to \$5,700,000 from FY24 EO&M Budget and DWR Conveyance Subsidence Program Grant Funds.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item. Arroyave stated that the Water Authority is in the process of completing the feasibility study and will be moving on to the final design phase of the project. Arroyave then referred to Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil to provide further details on the project. McNeil stated that the cost of the project would be paid in two installments, utilizing EO&M budget funds and DWR grant funds.

On a motion of Director David Weisenberger, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board adopted the resolution authorizing execution of agreement with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Technical Service Center for Final Design and Specifications for Upper DMC Rehabilitation, DMC Subsidence Correction Project, and related expenditure of up to \$5,700,000 from FY24 EO&M Budget and DWR Conveyance Subsidence Program Grant Funds. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**5. Agenda Item 9: Board of Directors to Consider Authorizing Execution of Memorandum of Agreement, Not as a Party, for Coordination of Implementation of a Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reviewed the revisions made by the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (D-M Subbasin) groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) and on March 2, 2023 issued a final determination for the

Subbasin’s plans as “inadequate.” Petersen reported that the determination transfers oversight of the Subbasin and groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) development to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as the GSAs work toward amending the GSPs to reach “approved” status. Petersen reported that the Subbasin Coordination Committee determined to combine the six “inadequate” GSPs into a single GSP. Petersen reported that the original Coordination Agreement was required as a result of the SGMA regulations to outline the rules for implementing multiple GSPs in a single groundwater subbasin and the direction to proceed to a single GSP for the entire subbasin necessitates a change in the framework agreement for implementation. Petersen reported that the proposed Memorandum of Agreement provides the framework for continued cooperation in the implementation of a single GSP and achieving groundwater sustainability for the D-M Subbasin.

On a motion of Director Ric Ortega, seconded by Director David Weisenberger, the Board authorized execution of Memorandum of Agreement, not as a party, for coordination of implementation of a Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**6. Agenda Item 10: Board of Directors to Consider Approval of a Special Projects Agreement for Development of a Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that members of the D-M Subbasin Coordination Committee have directed and approved a transition from six GSP’s in the subbasin to a single GSP for the D-M Subbasin. The transition from multiple GSPs to a single GSP resulted in a desire by some GSP groups to modify the cost share for the development and implementation of a single GSP for the subbasin. The Special Projects Agreement details the associated cost share obligations by the various GSP groups for the development and future implementation work.

On a motion of Alternate Director Chris White, seconded by Director Ric Ortega, the Board approved Special Projects Agreement for development of a Single Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Beall, Wittry, Pucheu
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

## REPORT ITEMS

7. **Agenda Item 15: Report on State and Federal Affairs.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided updates related to Reclamation funding opportunities, including the WaterSMART program, Reclamation Manual updates, the retirement of Speaker ex-officio McCarthy, government funding, legislative hearings, the state budget problem, an upcoming panel at the State Water Resources Control Board, and a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Additional information was provided by Dennis Cardoza and Rusty Areias.

8. **Agenda Item 16: Executive Director’s Report.**

- a. **Jones Pumping Plant Unit Rewind Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas distributed paper weights to board members as a memento for successful completion of Jones Pumping Plan Unit Rewind Project. The paper weights are made from a cut section from one of the 228 stator core windings that are in each Jones Pumping Plant unit.
- b. **Water Authority Rebranding Effort** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that as part of the new Strategic Plan rebranding effort, the Water Authority has launched a logo contest asking staff to submit their ideas for a new logo.
- c. **Budget Workshop** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Budget Workshop is scheduled December 19, 2023.

9. **Agenda Item 17: Chief Operating Officer’s Report**

- a. **Jones Pumping Plant (JPP)** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that pumping at JPP is at 3 units, and will go up to 4 units tomorrow.
- b. **3.8 Earthquake**– Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that there was a 3.8 earthquake last night, and staff inspected all facilities and there was no damage.
- c. **Emergency Reserve Fund use** – Chief Operation Officer Pablo Arroyave presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding “DMC Downstream Check 18 Concrete Lining Repair”.

10. **Agenda Item 18: 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.

11. **Agenda Item 19: Committee Reports.**

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the

committee took action on the proposed FY25 activity budget.

- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Chair Anthea Hansen reported that the committee took action on the TSC agreement.
- c. **O&M Committee** – No report.

12. **Agenda Item 20: 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 reported that the ACWA Conference was very well attended. Varela provided a brief report on DEI Foundation activities, and the need for support. Varela provided a brief report on new leadership in ACWA. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd provided a brief ACWA Legal Affairs Committee report. Water Policy Scott Petersen reported on the retirement/replacement of David Reynolds.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (WBSJV)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen that there is an upcoming meeting December 20, 2023.
- f. **SJV CAP** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that there was a 2-day meeting this week on the Collaborative Action Program.
- g. **CVPWA** – Director Anthea Hansen reported that there is a quarterly board meeting this afternoon. Hansen reported that the Water Users Conference is coming up in January.

13. **Agenda Item 21: Board Member Reports.**

Director Chris White reported provided a brief report on the Mendota Pool dewatering.

Chair Cannon Michael reminded the Board to turn in their training reports by the end of the year.

Director Ric Ortega reported that Grassland Water District hosted a tour for USFWS staff and others, and highlighted multi-species habitat benefit projects.

14. **Agenda Items 22-23: 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 11:17 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 12:37 p.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

15. **Agenda Item 24: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**  
No report.

16. **Agenda Item 25: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:38 p.m.