

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES JUNE 6, 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 Vice-Chair William Bourdeau presiding.

Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance

Division 1

David Weisenberger, Director (arrived item 7)
Bobby Pierce, Director
Anthea Hansen, Director
Ed Pattison, Director (arrived item 7)

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 (arrived item 7)
Ric Ortega, Director

Division 4

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate

Division 5

Bill Pucheu, Director
Manny Amorelli, 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
Jaime McNeill, Engineering Manager
Jacob Bejarano, Senior Civil Engineer

Others in Attendance

Diane Rathmann, Linneman Law
Vince Gin, Valley Water
Steve Blumenshine, CSU-Water
Don Wright, WaterWrights
Seraphina Bedoyan, Water Wise
Mitch Partovi, Water Agency

Daniel Nelson, SLDMWA Retiree
Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority
Dan O’Hanlon, KMTG
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
Kristin Olsen, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (via ZOOM)
Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition (via ZOOM)

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

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair William Bourdeau 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) May 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes and May 16, 2024 Joint Special Workshop Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, and c) Acceptance of Staff Reports.**

On a motion of Director Ric Ortega, seconded by Alternate Director Lon Martin, the Board accepted the May 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes and May 16, 2024 Joint Special Workshop Minutes, Financial & Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Pierce, Hansen, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Lon Martin, White, Ortega, Varela, Pucheu, Amorelli
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

ACTION ITEMS

5. **Agenda Item 7: Adoption of Resolution Recognizing the Service and Contributions of Diane Van Atta Rathmann, General Counsel of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority from 1992-2015 and Outside Counsel Thereafter.**

Executive Director Federico Barajas presented the resolution/Golden Bucket Award, and thanked long-time General Counsel Diane Rathmann for her considerable contributions to the Authority, and the member agencies. Past Authority Executive Director Daniel Nelson, Outside Counsel Dan O’Hanlon, Director Anthea Hansen, General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd, and various staff members also thanked Diane

Rathmann for her years of service and contributions. Diane Rathmann thanked the Board of Directors, and Barajas, and briefly spoke about her years of service, and the people she has worked with over the years.

On a motion of Director Bill Pucheu, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board adopted the resolution recognizing the service and contributions of Diane Van Atta Rathmann, General Counsel of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority from 1992-2015 and Outside Counsel thereafter. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Ortega, Varela, Pucheu, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

REPORT ITEMS

6. **Agenda Item 8: Update on DMC Emergency Repairs.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item and explained that emergency work was recently completed at Check 18 and Salado Creek along the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC). Arroyave then introduced Senior Civil Engineer Jacob Bejarano and Engineering Manager Jaime McNeill to provide additional detail about the emergency repairs. Bejarano reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, and Authority staff answered questions throughout the presentation.

7. **Agenda Item 9: Report on State and Federal Affairs.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided updates related to federal staffing, funding updates, the consultation on Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP, Water Resources Development Act, the Farm Bill, and the federal appropriations process. 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.

8. **Agenda Item 10: Executive Director's Report.**

- a. **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Expansion Project Funding Announcement** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Reclamation has awarded the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project \$75 million in funding in addition to the \$95 million already awarded.
- b. **JPA Amendments** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reminded Board members to provide updated information regarding when member agency home boards will take action to approve the JPA amendments. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported once 14 members take action, the JPA amendments will take effect.

- c. **Planning Committee** - Executive Director Federico Barajas asked Board members to start considering representatives for the new Planning Committee.
- d. **Schedule Regarding Friant-Authority MOU Documents** – General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that the 60-day contractor review of the Cost Recovery Plan ends June 7, 2024, and execution of the 2nd Amended MOU will follow.
- e. **Compensation Survey Year** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that this year is a compensation survey year, and staff is in the process of enlisting a contractor to help the Authority provide an independent assessment of wages and benefits.

9. **Agenda Item 11: Chief Operating Officer’s Report**

- a. **O’Neill Pumping Plant (OPP) Outage** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the Authority is delaying the outage to a later date, with the potential for four separate outages. Arroyave reported that the first outage could potentially occur in October.
- b. **BIL Application** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the funding application is due in July, and staff is looking at resubmitting for the DMC subsidence correction Project and O’Neill Pumping Plant work.
- c. **Operations Update** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that Jones Pumping Plant operations will be increasing to 5 units, up to -5,000 OMR.

10. **Agenda Item 12: 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 13: 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 is scheduled to meet June 24, 2024.

12. **Agenda Item 14: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.**

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)** – No report.
- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet; Water Policy Director Scott Petersen also briefly reported regarding succession planning and the FFA retreat.

- c. **Farm Water Coalition (FWC)** – Brandon Souza provided a brief overview of the report included in the packet.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)** – Director John Varela introduced the Interim Executive Director of CSU-WATER Steve Blumenshine, who provided a brief overview of CSU-WATER efforts.
- 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 reported that the quarterly board meeting is this afternoon.

13. Agenda Item 15: Board Member Reports.

Director Ric Ortega thanked Authority staff for their review of the North Grasslands Intertie Project design.

14. Agenda Items 16-17: Closed Session Report.

After allowing an opportunity for public comment, Vice-Chair William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 10:51 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:15 a.m., Vice-Chair William Bourdeau stated that no reportable actions were taken.

15. Agenda Item 18: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)
No report.

16. Agenda Item 19: Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:16 a.m.