

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES JULY 10, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:30 a.m. at Hotel Mission De Oro, 13070 CA-33 in Santa Nella, California, with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance

Division 1

Vince Lucchesi, Alternate for Bobby Pierce
Anthea Hansen, Director
Ed Pattison, Director - Lea Emmons, Alternate

Division 2

Justin Diener, Director
William Bourdeau, Director
Aaron Barcellos, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director (arrived during item 11)

Division 3

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

Division 4

Aaron Baker, Alternate for John Varela
Richard Santos, Director
Joe Tonascia, Director - Brett Miller, Alternate

Division 5

Allison Febbo, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director

Friant Water Authority Representatives

Jason Phillips, FWA Representative

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
Bob Martin, O&M Director
Jacob Bejarano, Senior Civil/Mechanical/Electrical Engineer
Landon Truesdale, Legislative/Legal Policy Clerk
Stewart Davis, IT Officer
Dan Nunes, SCADA Engineer

Others in Attendance

Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District
John Varela, Valley Water
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District #2131
Jeff Bryant, Firebaugh Canal Water District
Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority
Cindy Kao, Valley Water
Vince Gin, Valley Water
Brooke White, CVPWA
Liz Stebbins, Flow West
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
Kristin Olsen-Cate, California Strategies (via ZOOM)
Mitch Partovi, Water Agency
Steve Chedester, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
Kathy Mahon, Senator Adam Schiff Staff (via ZOOM)
Levi Johnson, USBR (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 Corrections to the Agenda of Items**, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq. – No corrections.
3. **Public Comment** – None.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. **Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider:** a) June 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, and c) Acceptance of Staff Reports.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Director Chris White, the Board accepted the June 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes, Financial & Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

ACTION ITEMS

5. **Agenda Item 7: Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation.**

- a. H.R. 3845 (Gray), Valley Water Protection Act
- b. H.R. 1897 (Westerman), ESA Amendments Act of 2025
- c. S.B. 707 (Durazo), Open Meetings: Open Meetings and Teleconferences.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendations for positions on legislation, including the ratification of positions on H.R. 3845 and S.B. 707. Petersen answered questions from Board members throughout the presentation. Director William Bourdeau suggested considering H.R. 1897 separately.

On a motion of Director Justin Diener, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the Committee adopted the staff recommendations for positions on H.R.3845 (Gray) (support), and S.B. 707 (Durazo) (oppose unless amended).

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

Petersen answered questions regarding H.R. 1897 (Westerman), and explained the staff recommendation for a watch position. Petersen clarified the intent to provide information to the California Congressional delegation of key provisions of the proposed legislation that could improve Endangered Species Act implementation for the Central Valley Project.

On a motion of Director Ric Ortega, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Committee adopted the staff recommendation for position on H.R.1897.

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

6. Agenda Item 8: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Application for Extended Repayment/Funding from the Aging Infrastructure Account.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item and reviewed materials included in the meeting packet. Arroyave stated that the Authority is prepared to submit three applications for funding. Arroyave reported that the first two applications for the DMC Subsidence Correction Project and the O'Neill Rehabilitation Project have Board of Directors approval. Arroyave reported the recommendation is for the Board of Directors to approve the third application for the O'Neill Transformer Replacement Project. Arroyave reviewed edits to the proposed resolution provided by the Finance & Administration Committee. Arroyave explained that further action would be required if funds are awarded and there is a need to enter into a repayment contract. Director Anthea Hansen and FWA

Representative Jason Phillips recommended minor changes to the Resolution.

On a motion of FWA Representative Jason Phillips, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board adopted the Resolution Authorizing Application for Extended Repayment/Funding from the Aging Infrastructure Account with proposed edits. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli, Phillips
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

7. Agenda Item 9: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Approval of Adjustment to Water Year 2025 Water Rates.

Director of Finance Raymond Tarka reviewed the proposed changes to the Water Year 2025 water rates and asked for approval of both rates under 55% and 60% Ag allocation scenarios. Tarka noted the increase in DWR wheeling charges for moving water through the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie and the effects on water rates. Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave stated that the Authority would be moving forward with the rates under the 55% Ag allocation scenario.

On a motion of Director Justin Diener, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board Approved the adjustment to Water Year 2025 Water Rates. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli, Phillips
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

8. Agenda Item 10: Board of Directors to Authorize Execution of SGMA-Related Agreements and Related Expenditures from SGMA Fund 63 for EKI Environment and Water.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the scope and fee for the technical review is \$49,000 and has been approved by the relevant SGMA Management Committees; however, the Authority's Procurement Policy requires this action to go to the Authority's Board of Directors, as it is a contract amendment greater than 10 percent of the underlying EKI Environment and Water contract value. Petersen answered questions from Board members throughout the presentation.

On a motion of Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Jarrett Martin, the Board authorized Execution of SGMA-Related Agreements and Related Expenditures from SGMA Fund 63 for EKI Environment and Water. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli
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NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

REPORT ITEMS

9. Agenda Item 11: Presentation Regarding Central Valley Project Water Association (CVPWA) Activities.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced CVPWA Executive Director Brooke White, and provided a brief background regarding White's history with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. White reviewed a slide deck regarding CVPWA history and mission, membership benefits, the CVPWA Financial Affairs Committee, and 2025 Strategic Objectives and Priority Issues.

10. Agenda Item 12: Discussion Regarding Proposed Amendments to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Consolidated Procurement Policy.

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd stated that staff is working on updating the Procurement Policy to allow for more flexibility for contracting for large construction projects. Staff's intent is to share a draft document with the Finance & Administration Committee and Board of Directors for their review by the end of this week or early next week for action and recommendation at the August meetings.

11. Agenda Item 13: Report on State and Federal Affairs.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Authority and a number of members took a trip to D.C. last month. Petersen reported that Senator Adam Schiff toured the San Luis Reservoir site. Senator Schiff staff member Kathy Mahan thanked Authority staff and members for their participation.

Petersen reviewed documents included in the packet, and provided federal updates related to nominations, changes in Senate staff, NEPA regulations/rules, the Delta Cross Channel Gates draft Environmental Assessment, LTO review, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, and the status of appropriations legislation. Petersen answered questions regarding Reclamation construction authorities pursuant to the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA). Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Dennis Cardoza and Kristin Olsen provided additional updates.

12. Agenda Item 14: Executive Director's Report.

- a. **DMC Subsidence Project Workshop** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that a Joint Workshop is scheduled following the Board meeting.
- b. **FY27 Budget Process** – Executive Director Federico Barajas stated that staff, in coordination with the O&M Technical Committee, has initiated the O&M budget process

for FY27.

13. Agenda Item 15: Chief Operating Officer's Report

- a. **Operations** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff expects to be at 5 units through the summer at Jones Pumping Plant.
- b. **Water Transfers** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave provided an update regarding the Yuba transfers proceeding.
- c. **O'Neill Transformer Outages** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff will focus on first outage late September through November.
- d. **Golden Mussels** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that golden mussels are prevalent in facilities.

14. Agenda Item 16: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the 90% Exceedance Forecast is included in the packet. Arroyave introduced Levi Johnson from the Central Valley Operations Office (CVO) of the Bureau of Reclamation. Johnson provided updates regarding CVP storage, operations, and the latest forecasts. Johnson answered questions throughout his presentation.

15. Agenda Item 17: Committee Reports.

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – No report.
- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – No report.
- c. **O&M Technical Committee** – Committee Chair Chris White gave a brief report on the June 16, 2025 O&M meeting/tour.
- d. **Planning Committee** – July meeting was cancelled.

16. Agenda Item 18: 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)** – Report included in the packet.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)** – No Report.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Water Policy Memo from the Water Resources Committee meeting includes 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 – No Report.

Water Policy Scott Petersen briefly reviewed a report regarding the Great Valley Farm Water Partnership included in the packet.

17. **Agenda Item 19: Board Member Reports – None.**

18. **Agenda Items 20-21: 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 11:13 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:26 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

19. **Agenda Item 22: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:27 a.m.