

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES AUGUST 7, 2025**

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
Ed Pattison, Director

Division 2

Justin Diener, Director
William Bourdeau, Director
Aaron Barcellos, Director
Lon Martin, Alternate for Bill Diedrich

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate for Dan McCurdy
Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Director - Michael Gardner, Alternate

Division 4

Aaron Baker, Alternate for John Varela
Jim Beall, Alternate for Richard Santos
Dana Jacobson, Director (via ZOOM)
Joe Tonascia, Director (arrived during item 8 via ZOOM) - Brett Miller, Alternate (via ZOOM)

Division 5

Allison Febbo, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director

Friant Water Authority Representatives

Johnny Amaral, FWA Representative Alternate for Jason Phillips

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer (via ZOOM)
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director (via ZOOM)
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
Jaime McNeil, Engineering Manager
Bob Martin, O&M Director
Stewart Davis, IT Officer
Dan Nunes, SCADA Engineer

Others in Attendance

Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority
Jeff Bryant, Firebaugh Canal Water District
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
Rusty Areias, California Strategies (via ZOOM)
Charles Watson, California Strategies (via ZOOM)
Mitch Partovi, Water Agency
Sarah Woolf, Water Wise
David Roose, DHR Hydro (via ZOOM)
Eric Quinley, Friant Water Authority
Joel Fenolio, Reclamation

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** – None.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. **Agenda Items 4-7: Board to Consider:** a) July 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes and July 10, 2025 Workshop Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Treasurer's Report, and d) Acceptance of Staff Reports.

On a motion of Alternate Aaron Baker, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board accepted the July 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes, July 10, 2025 Workshop Minutes, Financial & Expenditures Reports, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Beall, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

ACTION ITEMS

5. **Agenda Item 8: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Amendments to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Consolidated Procurement Policy.**

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reviewed the documents included in the packet. Akroyd

reported that given the need for flexibility in issuing construction contracts for large projects like the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise & Reservoir Expansion Project and the Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project, staff worked with outside consultants and counsel to develop proposed amendments to the Consolidated Procurement Policy. Akroyd reviewed the changes, including changes reviewed with the Finance & Administration Committee that were not included in the packet related to the informal bidding award and protest processes, and noted that the amendments were approved by the Finance & Administration Committee on Monday, with the caveat that the Board of Directors engage in additional discussion regarding the threshold for informal procurement prior to action. Akroyd and staff answered Board member questions throughout the presentation, and raised the issue regarding threshold for discussion.

On a motion of Director Justin Diener, seconded by Director Aaron Barcellos, the Board adopted the proposed amendments to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Consolidated Procurement Policy, as recommended by the Finance & Administration Committee.

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Beall, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli, Amaral

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

6. Agenda Item 9: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Award and Execution of Construction Agreements for Jones Pumping Plant Excitation Project, and Expenditure of Up to \$25,000,000 Utilizing Aging Infrastructure Account Funds.

Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil reviewed the documents in the packet, which included a memorandum, drafted construction agreements, and the Notice of Intent to Award. McNeil reported that the proposed expenditure of up to \$25,000,000 will be funded utilizing *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)* Aging Infrastructure account funds advanced from Reclamation via repayment agreement. McNeil noted that staff anticipates that additional funds will be needed in late 2027 to complete the final contract, and anticipates incorporating a budget request for \$250,000 in the FY27 EO&M budget package.

On a motion of Alternate Aaron Baker, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board authorized award and execution of Construction Agreements for Jones Pumping Plant Excitation Project, and expenditure of up to \$25,000,000 utilizing Aging Infrastructure Account funds. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Beall, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli, Amaral

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

7. Agenda Item 10: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Award of Contract, Execution of Construction Agreement for DMC Road Maintenance Chipseal, and Expenditure of Up to \$396,466 from the FY26 EO&M Budget.

Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil reviewed the documents in the packet, which included a memorandum, draft construction agreement, and the Notice of Intent to Award. McNeil reported that the FY26 budget includes funds for contracting the installation of 25.32 miles of a Chipseal coat to the 12 foot wide O&M road between MP 86.19 and 111.51 along the Delta-Mendota Canal. McNeil reported that staff recommends authorizing award of contract, execution of construction agreement with Talley Oil Inc. for DMC road maintenance Chipseal, and expenditure of up to \$396,466 from the FY26 EO&M budget.

On a motion of Director Bobby Pierce, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board authorized award of contract, execution of Construction Agreement for DMC Road Maintenance Chipseal, and expenditure of up to \$396,466 from FY26 EO&M Budget. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Beall, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli, Amaral
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

8. Agenda Item 11: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Execution of Change Order for O'Neill Pumping-Generating Plant Power Transformer Rehabilitations and Increase in Expenditure of Up to \$2,156,500 from the FY24 and FY26 EO&M Budgets.

Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil reviewed the documents in the packet, which included a memorandum and the Draft Change Order. McNeil reported that the Authority has enough funds budgeted for the project to cover these costs. McNeill reported that direction was provided to divide the O'Neill Pumping Plant Rehabilitation Project into a project with four separate outages, which resulted in increased costs.

On a motion of Director Justin Diener, seconded by Director Manny Amorelli, the Board authorized execution of Change Order for O'Neill Pumping-Generating Plant Power Transformer Rehabilitations and increase in expenditure of up to \$2,156,500 from the FY24 and FY26 EO&M Budgets. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Beall, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli, Amaral
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

9. Agenda Item 12: Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Contributed Funds Agreement and Spend Plan, Exhibits to B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and San Luis Reservoir Expansion Project Management and Cost Share Agreement.

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reviewed the documents in the packet, and explained that adoption of the proposed resolution would authorize execution of a Contributed Funds Agreement and Spend Plan, exhibits to the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and San Luis Reservoir Expansion Project Management and Cost Share Agreement. Akroyd reported that the Contributed Funds Agreement is the agreement by which Activity Agreement Members, through the Authority, will contribute to the cost of the Project. Akroyd reported that the Contributed Funds Agreement explains that Reclamation and the Authority have agreed to an initial 70% Authority/30% Federal share of Project costs, and that the Authority will provide funds to Reclamation as required in the Spend Plan. Akroyd reported that the Spend Plan dictates what funds must be deposited in what timeframe to maintain the overall 70%/30% cost share. Akroyd reported that the Spend Plan will enable Reclamation and the Authority to track costs and account for funds expended, and may be revised to reflect updated Project costs. Akroyd reported that all six of the Activity Agreement members approved the Authority's execution of these documents.

On a motion of Alternate Aaron Baker, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board authorized execution of Contributed Funds Agreement and Spend Plan, Exhibits to B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and San Luis Reservoir Expansion Project Management and Cost Share Agreement. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Beall, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

REPORT ITEMS

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

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Secretary of Interior toured Jones Pumping Plant and Tracy Fish Collection Facility.

Petersen reviewed documents included in the packet, and provided federal updates related to Senate confirmations, NEPA regulation comment letters, and the status of appropriations legislation. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Dennis Cardoza, Rusty Areias, and Charles Watson provided additional updates.

11. **Agenda Item 14: Executive Director's Report.**

- a. **DMC Subsidence Correction Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Planning Committee met earlier this week, and there will be a Special Planning Committee Workshop coming up.
- b. **Sites Negotiations** – Executive Director Federico Barajas stated public negotiations for the Sites Project will begin in Sacramento on August 18th.

12. **Agenda Item 15: Chief Operating Officer's Report**

- a. **Operations** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that that O'Neill Pumping Plant is currently operating at 5 units, which is sufficient for current demand. Arroyave reported that there is a scheduled outage October 6 - 25, and that Central Valley Operations (CVO) has indicated no associated water supply impact.
- b. **Water Transfers** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the Exchange Contractors and Yuba transfer programs are being discussed.

13. **Agenda Item 16: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo introduced Joel Fenolio, Deputy Operations Manager, from the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Operations Office (CVO). Fenolio provided updates regarding CVP storage, operations, and the latest forecasts. Fenolio answered questions throughout his presentation.

14. **Agenda Item 17: Committee Reports.** – No reports.

15. **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)** – Mike Wade reviewed the report included in the packet.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)** – No report.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint)** – No report.
- f. **SJV CAP** – No report.
- g. **CVPWA** – Director Anthea Hansen reported that the next Financial Affairs Committee is August 26, 2025.

16. **Agenda Item 19: Board Member Reports** – Chair Cannon Michael noted that Director Jarrett Martin was featured on a "We Grow California" Podcast.

17. **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 10:43 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:26 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

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

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

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