Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 9/11/2025 | 9:30 AM

Location: SLDMWA Boardroom
842 6th Street, Los Banos

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Present

Division 1: David Weisenberger, Director
Bobby Pierce, Director
Anthea Hansen, Director
Ed Pattison, Director
Division 2: Justin Diener, Director
Aaron Barcellos, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director
Division 3: Chris White, Alternate
Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director
Michael Gardner, Alternate
Division 4: Aaron Baker, Director
Richard Santos, Director
Dana Jacobson, Director
Brett Miller, Alternate
Division 5: Allison Febbo, Director (via ZOOM)
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
Jacob Bejarano, Sr. Civil/Mechanical/Electrical Engineer
Stewart Davis, IT Officer
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

Others Present

Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority
Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
Kristin Olsen-Cate, California Strategies (via ZOOM)
Mitch Partovi, Water Agency
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
Cindy Kao, Valley Water
Don Wright, Water Rights (via ZOOM)
Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition (via ZOOM)
Levi Johnson, Reclamation (ZOOM)

Agenda Item	Topic	Lead
1.	**Call to Order/Roll Call** – The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:32 a.m. by Chair Cannon Michael and roll was called.	
2	**Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq. –** No additions or corrections.	
3.	**Opportunity for Public Comment –** No public comment.	
4.	**Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: 4) August 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes, 5) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, and 6) Acceptance of Staff Reports -** M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director David Weisenberger, the Board accepted the August 7, 2025 meeting minutes, Financial & Expenditure Reports, and Staff Reports. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Barcellos, Diedrich, White,	

Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

5. **Agenda Item 7: Planning Committee and Finance & Administration Committee Recommendations Regarding Adoption of Refinements to Cost Allocation Methodology and Scope for Phase 1 of the Upper Delta-Mendota Canal Portion of the Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project –** Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the memo included in the packet. Barajas then reviewed information regarding proposed Phase 1, Task 1-4 work. Barajas briefly reviewed illustrative scenarios regarding $30 million and $60 million repayments. Barajas

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd clarified that the Finance & Administration Committee, Planning Committee, and staff recommended refinements to Cost Allocation Methodology and Scope for Phase 1 of the Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project, with the understanding that if less than $90M non-reimbursable funding is available, the Planning Committee will need to discuss and approve the cost allocation and distribution of non-reimbursable funds. Board members also discussed staff recommended refinements to scope: Task 1 (2 ft. freeboard raise between MP 3.5 and MP 7.2, est. cost $19.75M); Task 2 (Sag area repairs, est. cost $18.23M); Task 3 (Upper DMC panel repairs, est. cost $27.9M); and Task 4 (Lower DMC panel repairs, est. cost $28M).

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Jarrett Martin, the Board adopted the staff recommended refinements to Cost Allocation Methodology and Scope for Phase 1 of the Upper DMC Portion of the Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project, with the understanding that if less than $90M non-reimbursable funding is available, the Planning Committee will need to discuss and approve the cost allocation and distribution of non-reimbursable funds. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

6. **Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Authorization to Increase Approved Contract Amount to $466,440 for Previously Authorized Agreement for Services for DCI Unit 1 & 2 Motor Control Centers Replacement and Commissioning from the FY26 EO&M Budget** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that In June 2025, the Board of Directors authorized the expenditure up to $400,000 for the Project. Arroyave explained that the repairs were scheduled to be completed in September 2025 during a full DCI outage, but due to updated pumping forecasts and concerns over the potential for lost water, the Project was rescheduled for November. Arroyave reported that the delay led to a renegotiation of certain contract terms with Rexel, which resulted in a cost increase attributed to scheduling delays and changes in union labor rates and jurisdictions. Arroyave

M/S – Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Aaron Baker, the Board authorized an Increase in Approved Contract Amount to $466,440 for Previously Authorized Agreement for Services for DCI Unit 1 & 2

Motor Control Centers Replacement and Commissioning from the FY26 EO&M Budget. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

7. **Agenda Item 9: Recommendation to the Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation on Positions on Legislation** — Petersen

a. **H.R. 4879 (Costa), Emergency Rural Water Response Act of 2025 (Support)**
b. **S.B. 707 (Durazo), Open Meetings: Meeting and Teleconference Requirements (Change to Watch Position)**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendations for positions on legislation. Petersen reviewed outcomes of previous legislation that was brought to the Board. Petersen answered questions from Board members throughout the presentation.

M/S - Motion by Alternate Chris White, seconded by Director Justin Diener, the Board adopted the staff recommendations for positions on H.R. 4879 (Costa), and S.B. 707 (Durazo). Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

8. **Agenda Item 10: Report on State and Federal Affairs** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed documents included in the packet, and reported that Congressman Costa held his Water Forum in the Authority Boardroom, and Congressman Gray and staff toured Water Authority facilities last month. — Petersen

Petersen provided federal updates related to Executive Orders, Senate confirmations/nominations, potential change in Senate rules, Support letters for Dr. Petty nomination, Appropriations process, Expiration of Government funding, Continuing Resolution, and Permitting Reform. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Dennis Cardoza and Kristin Olsen-Cate provided additional updates.

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

a. **Sites Reservoir Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Reclamation is holding public negotiations on the Sites Reservoir this month.
b. **Reclamation Finance/Budget Challenges** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Reclamation is facing challenges regarding invoices and processing payments. Part of this challenge relates to the recent transition of finance department from Reclamation to the Department of Interior.
c. **SLDMWA Audits** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that staff is targeting action next month.

10. **Agenda Item 12: Chief Operating Officer's Report** — Arroyave

a. **Federal Streamlining Review** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that FFA/NWRA are working with Bureau of Reclamation Executive Leadership in DC to look at streamlining different areas including NEPA, OM&R Procurement, and Duplicative Technical

Design Reviews. Arroyave reported that he is participating on the NEPA streamlining team.

b. **North to South EIS Scoping Sessions** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that EIS Scoping sessions are scheduled September 17, 2-5 p.m., and September 18, 6-8 p.m., and comments are due October 3, 2025.

c. **O'Neill Pumping Plant Outages** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the first outage is scheduled October 6-25, 2025.

11.	**Agenda Item 13: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the 90% & 50% Forecasts are included in the packet, and then introduced Levi Johnson from Reclamation. Johnson provided information regarding CVP supply, reservoir storage, allocations, snowpack, and operations. Johnson and Arroyave answered Committee member questions throughout the presentation.	Arroyave, Johnson (USBR)
12.	**Agenda Item 14: Committee Reports** – No reports.	
13.	**Agenda Item 15: Outside Agency/Organization Reports** a. **Family Farm Alliance**– Chair/Director Cannon Michael reported that a DC trip is scheduled for next week. Michael reported that the Annual meeting is scheduled October 30-31, 2025. b. **Farm Water Coalition** – Brandon Souza reviewed the report included in the packet. c. **Association of California Water Agencies** – No report. d. **San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Effort** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Water Policy Memo (included in the packet) from the Water Resources Committee meeting includes detailed information on Blueprint activities. e. **San Joaquin Collaborative Action Plan** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Water Policy Memo (included in the packet) from the Water Resources Committee meeting includes detailed information on SJV CAP. f. **Central Valley Project Water Association** – Director Anthea Hansen reported that a meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.	
14.	**Agenda Item 16: Board Member Reports** – No reports.	
15.	**Agenda Items 17-18: Closed Session** – Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 10:58 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:42 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session.	Akroyd
16.	**Agenda Item 19: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.	
17.	**Agenda Item 20: Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.	