Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 10/09/2025 | 9:30 AM
Location: SLDMWA Boardroom
842 6th Street, Los Banos

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

<u>Board of Directors Present</u>

Division 1: David Weisenberger, Director
Bobby Pierce, Director
Anthea Hansen, Director
Lea Emmons, Alternate
Division 2: Justin Diener, Director
William Bourdeau, Director (item 10)
Lon Martin, Alternate (item 10)
Division 3: Chris White, Alternate
Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director
Michael Gardner, Alternate
Division 4: Aaron Baker, Director
Richard Santos, Director
Joe Tonascia, Director
Brett Miller, Alternate
Division 5: Bill Pucheu, Director
Allison Febbo, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director
Friant Representative:
Johnny Amaral, Alternate

<u>Authority Representatives Present</u>

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
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

<u>Others Present</u>

Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (ZOOM)
Kristin Olsen-Cate, California Strategies (ZOOM)
Mitch Partovi, Water Agency
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
Cindy Kao, Valley Water
Don Wright, Water Rights (ZOOM)
Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition (ZOOM)
Levi Johnson, Reclamation (ZOOM)
Ethan Hanson, Water Wise
Kathy Mahan, Sen. Adam Schiff's Office (ZOOM)

Agenda Item	Topic	Lead
1.	**Call to Order/Roll Call** – The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 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. –** General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd noted that there was a typo in item 10 on the agenda – Warrant Act was corrected to Warren Act.	
3.	**Opportunity for Public Comment –** No public comment.	

4.	**Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: 4) September 11, 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 September 11, 2025 meeting minutes, Financial & Expenditure Reports, and Staff Reports. Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.	
5.	**Agenda Item 7: Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation** a. H.R. 3572 (Valadao), to make projects in certain counties eligible for funding under the rural surface transportation grant program, and for other purposes (Support & Amend) Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendations for positions on legislation. Petersen answered questions from Board members throughout the presentation. M/S - Motion by Director Jarrett Martin, seconded by Alternate Aaron Baker, the Board adopted the staff recommendation for positions on H.R. 3572 (Valadao). Vote: Ayes - Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.	Petersen
6.	**Agenda Item 8: Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Execution of Professional Services Agreement for Public Affairs Services and Expenditures of Up to $110,000 –** Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed memorandum included in the packet. Petersen reported that staff solicited input from a number of public affairs professionals within California, and identified three firms with a combination of capacity, talent, the potential for policy integration, and experience in the water sector. Petersen reported that after review of various proposals, staff recommends engaging Lucas Public Affairs for a 90-day task order specific to the development of a new Communications Plan and website redesign, and expenditure of up to $110,000 utilizing existing Fund 03 – Public Affairs Communication Funds. The Water Resources Committee also recommended engagement of Lucas Public Affairs. M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board authorized execution of Professional Services Agreement for Public Affairs Services and expenditures of up to $110,000. Vote: Ayes - Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.	Petersen
7.	**Agenda Item 9: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Authorization to Issue Notice to Proceed with Phase II of O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant Unit Upgrades Project –** Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed the memorandum included in the packet. Arroyave reported that the Board	Arroyave, McNeil

authorized executing a two-phase agreement with Pentair Fairbanks Nijhuis (Pentair) for O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant Unit Upgrades Project in 2024. Arroyave reported that after completion of Phase 1, there is still approximately $1.1 million of the originally authorized funds remaining. Arroyave reported that funding is available to begin Phase II, and staff is in the process of negotiating additional funding. Staff is requesting the Board authorize issuance of a notice to proceed with Phase II to Pentair, which will allow critical work to continue without the Authority incurring additional costs arising from the delay.

M/S – Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Justin Diener, the Board authorized issuing Notice to Proceed with Phase II of O'Neill Pumping /Generating Plant Unit Upgrades Project. Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli, Amaral; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

8. **Agenda Item 10: Ratification of Execution of Letter of Agreement 25-WC-20-6367 with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for Administration Work Associated with the Preparation of Warren Act Contracts for Conveyance of Yuba Transfer Water –** Deputy General Counsel Rebecca Harms reported that in July 2025, the Authority requested that Reclamation prepare a series of temporary Warren Act contracts authorizing Yuba water transfer quantities for each Activity Agreement Member that, when combined, would not exceed 100,000 acre-feet per year. Harms reported that on August 27, 2025, the Authority received a Letter of Agreement 25-WC-20-6367 for administrative work associated with the preparation of Warren Act Contracts for Conveyance of Yuba Water from Reclamation. Harms reported that Reclamation requires the Authority to provide documentation of our signatory's authority to sign on behalf of the Activity Agreement members. — Arroyave, Harms

M/S – Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board ratified execution of Letter of Agreement 25-WC-20-6367 with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for administration work associated with the preparation of Warren Act contracts for conveyance of Yuba Transfer Water. Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

9. **Agenda Item 11: Report on State and Federal Affairs** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed documents included in the packet. Petersen provided federal updates related to federal appropriations, federal nominations and confirmations, updates to Endangered Species Act regulations, WRDA, and Surface Transportation. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update and updates regarding California regulatory activity. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Dennis Cardoza and Kristin Olsen-Cate provided additional updates. — Petersen

10. **Agenda Item 12: Executive Director's Report** Barajas

a. Government Shutdown – Executive Director Federico Barajas provided a brief status update. Barajas reported that Reclamation has prior year funding to keep a full staff working through October 18th. Barajas then described that Reclamation's consolidated services such as Accounting and Finance, Human Resources, Communications and Congressional Affairs, Contracts and Financial Agreements, and Information Technology, will for the most part be working with limited staffing and on a case-by-case basis. Barajas reported that Reclamation will not be attending the Fall ACWA Conference.

b. Planning Committee Activity – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there was a Planning Committee (PC) meeting earlier this week. Barajas reported that the PC made a recommendation relating to cost allocations regarding Phase I DMC Subsidence Correction Project.

c. Western Hills Water District (WHWD) Letter to Board – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that WHWD sent a letter to the Board describing interest/need potential access to available Federal Water Supplies such as transfer, exchange, or supply arrangement. Barajas distributed a copy of the letter to the Board and asked that if any members are able to explore the possibility of providing assistance to reach out to Water Policy Director Scott Petersen.

d. O&M Budget – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the O&M Technical Committee is scheduled to meet October 20, 2025 regarding the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

11. **Agenda Item 13: Chief Operating Officer's Report** Arroyave

a. O'Neill Pumping Plant Outages - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the first outage is in process through October 26, 2025. Arroyave thanked Valley Water for their coordination regarding Pacheco Pumping Plant and the needed PG&E switching.

b. DCI Outage – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the DCI Outage is scheduled for November 17-December 17, 2025.

c. Jones Pumping Plant Excitation/O'Neil Pumping Plant Projects – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that Reclamation support continues despite the government shutdown.

12. **Agenda Item 14: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave provided updates regarding operations, CVP supply, and reservoir storage. Arroyave answered Board member questions throughout the presentation. Arroyave

13. **Agenda Item 15: Committee Reports**

a. Water Resources Committee – No report.

b. Finance & Administration Committee – Committee Chair Anthea Hansen reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items; Hansen also reported that the audit was delayed, but staff is targeting next month.

c. O&M Technical Committee – Committee Chair Chris White reported that the next O&M Technical Committee meeting is scheduled October 20, 2025.
d. Planning Committee - Committee Chair Justin Diener reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items, and a follow up discussion would occur regarding benefits of Phase 1.

14. **Agenda Item 16: Outside Agency/Organization Reports**

a. Family Farm Alliance (FFA) – Chair/Director Cannon Michael reported that the FFA conference is scheduled October 30-31, 2025 in Reno.
b. Farm Water Coalition – Report included in the packet.
c. Association of California Water Agencies – No report.
d. San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Effort – 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 Memo (included in the packet) from the Water Resources Committee meeting includes detailed information on SJV CAP.
f. Central Valley Project Water Association – No report

15. **Agenda Item 17: Board Member Reports –** Director Joe Tonascia announced Director Dana Jacobson's wedding, and suggested Board members congratulate him.

16. **Agenda Items 18-20: Closed Session** – Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 10:38 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:10 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session. Akroyd

17. **Agenda Item 21: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.

18. **Agenda Item 22: Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:11 a.m.