



Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 11/06/2025 | 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: Anthea Hansen, Director
Ed Pattison, Director
Division 2: Justin Diener, Director (via ZOOM)
William Bourdeau, Director
Aaron Barcellos, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director
Division 3: Chris White, Alternate
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director
Michael Gardner, Alternate
Division 4: Aaron Baker, Director
Dana Jacobson, Director
Brett Miller, Alternate
Division 5: Allison Febbo, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director
Friant Representative:
Johnny Amaral, Alternate

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
Lauren Viers, Accounting Manager
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

Others Present

Kristin Olsen-Cate, California Strategies (ZOOM)
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
Duane Stroup
Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition (ZOOM)
Levi Johnson, Reclamation (ZOOM)
Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority
Ingrid Sheipline, Richardson & Co. (ZOOM)

Authority Representatives Present

Agenda

Item	Topic	Lead
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| 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. – No Additions or corrections. | |
| 3. | Opportunity for Public Comment – No public comment. | |
| 4. | Agenda Items 4-7: Board to Consider: 4) October 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes, 5) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, 6) Acceptance of Treasurer's Report, and 7) Acceptance of Staff Reports
- M/S - Motion by Director William Bourdeau, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board accepted the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes, Financial & Expenditure Reports, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.
Vote: Ayes – Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, | |

White, Michael, Baker, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

5. **Agenda Item 8: Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Execution of Memorandum of Understanding to Advance a Dredging and Channel Maintenance Strategy** Petersen

- Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the memorandum included in the packet, and provided a brief background regarding siltation and diversion challenges in the south Delta. Petersen reported that the MOU is intended to demonstrate the support of signatory agencies to develop an integrated dredging and channel maintenance strategy to address channel maintenance and siltation removal efforts in the relevant areas of the Delta. Petersen reported that this group would support efforts for streamlined permitting, planning, and implementation of channel-maintenance and dredging projects. Petersen described the connection with Great Valley Farm Partnership. Petersen answered questions throughout his presentation.

M/S - Motion by Director William Bourdeau, seconded Director Bill Diedrich, the Board adopted the staff recommendation regarding execution of Memorandum of Understanding to advance a Dredging and Channel Maintenance Strategy. Vote: Ayes - Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Michael, Baker, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

6. **Agenda Item 9: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Authorization to Execute Fourth Amendment and Related Budget Increase of \$84,100 for DCI Arc Flash Investigation and Fault Analysis Project Task Order with DHR Hydro Services, Inc.** Arroyave, McNeil

– Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item, and provided a brief background. Arroyave reported DHR Hydro Services' (DHR) efforts to restore the DCI Plant back to fully operational have taken considerably more time than previously expected due to Reclamation requirements and difficulties in executing a construction agreement. Arroyave reported that installation of the two new motor control cabinets was originally planned to occur in September, but the outage was cancelled due to pumping concerns, which resulted in additional negotiations with the contractor and a Board issued change order. Arroyave reported that these unexpected delays and complexities have required DHR to almost double the expected support required to complete the project, resulting in this proposed fourth amendment, and the need for Board authorization for a budget increase.

M/S - Motion by Director Aaron Barcellos, seconded by Alternate Aaron Baker, the Board authorized execution of Fourth Amendment and related budget increase of \$84,100 for DCI Arc Flash Investigation and Fault Analysis Project Task Order with DHR Hydro Services, Inc. Vote: Ayes - Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Michael, Baker, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli, Amaral; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

7. **Agenda Item 10: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Acceptance of Final Fiscal Year 2023 Audited Financial Statements** – Director of Finance Ray Tarka introduced Ingrid Shepline from Richardson & Co. Shepline reviewed the audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2023, and provided a high-level summary of significant changes from Fiscal Year 2022 to Fiscal Year 2023. Shepline reviewed the single audit reports, and the corrective action plan. Shepline answered Board member questions throughout the presentation.
M/S – Motion by Director Manny Amorelli, seconded by Director Dana Jacobson, the Board accepted the Final Fiscal Year 2023 Audited Financial Statements. Vote: Ayes - Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Michael, Baker, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli, Amaral; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Tarka
8. **Agenda Item 11: Planning Committee and Finance & Administration Committee Recommendations Regarding Adoption of Cost Allocation Recommendations for Phase 1 of the DMC Subsidence Correction Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the memo, illustrative cost scenarios for Tasks 1, 2, 3, and 4, and the effects of cost allocation recommendations for Phase 1, which were included in the packet. Barajas reported that staff continues to recommend utilizing non-reimbursable grant funding for Phase 1 of the DMC Subsidence Correction Project. Barajas reviewed the key milestone schedule anticipated for Phase 1, Tasks 1-4, which was handed out at the meeting. Barajas answered Board member questions throughout the presentation.
M/S – Motion by Director Justin Diener, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the Board adopted Cost Allocation recommendations for Phase 1 of the DMC Subsidence Correction Project. Vote: Ayes – Hansen, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Michael, Baker, Jacobson, Miller, Febbo, Amorelli, Amaral; Nays – Pattison, Barcellos; Abstentions – 0. Barajas, Arroyave
9. **Agenda Item 12: Adoption of Resolution Adopting 2026 Regular Meeting Calendar for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors, Water Resources Committee, Finance & Administration Committee, and Planning Committee** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the memo included in the packet regarding regular meetings of the Board of Directors, Water Resources Committee, Finance & Administration Committee, and Planning Committee for calendar year 2026, and the proposed resolution for Board approval. Barajas noted the two meeting dates outside of the normal calendar dates due to a holiday and the ACWA conference.
M/S – Motion by Director Bill Diedrich, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board adopted the Resolution adopting 2026 Regular Meeting Calendar for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors, Water Resources Committee, Finance & Administration Committee, and Planning Committee. Vote: Ayes – Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Michael, Baker, Jacobson, Miller, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Barajas

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10. **Agenda Item 13: Update on O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant Rehabilitation Project.** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item. Arroyave reported that contractor welding actions and resulting issues made the spare transformer inoperable, and unable to be put into service. Arroyave reported that the important relay work was completed, which will shorten the needed outages in the future by several days. Arroyave, McNeil
11. **Agenda Item 14: Report on State and Federal Affairs – Water Policy** Director Scott Petersen reviewed documents included in the packet. Petersen provided federal updates related to federal confirmations, USFWS regulatory action, government funding/shutdown, proposed Endangered Species Act regulatory changes, legislative activity, and Supreme Court activity. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update and updates regarding California regulatory activity. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Kristin Olsen-Cate provided additional updates. Petersen
12. **Agenda Item 15: Executive Director's Report** Barajas
- a. **Government Shutdown** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that throughout the government shutdown, Reclamation has been able to get approval to remain operational, through the end of next week. However, Department of Interior consolidated services have been impacted during the government shutdown.
 - b. **SOD Drought Plan** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that staff is coordinating with Reclamation regarding the loss factor associated with water available in the drought pool. Barajas reported that staff is also coordinating with Reclamation on greater operational flexibilities with drought pool use.
 - c. **FY2027 Budget** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the OM&R Budget has been presented to the O&M Committee, and has been brought to the Finance & Administration Committee. Barajas reported that a Budget Workshop with the board is scheduled for December.
 - d. **ACWA Social Event** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Authority will be hosting a member agency social luncheon on Thursday at the ACWA conference, and an invite will be coming out soon.
13. **Agenda Item 16: Chief Operating Officer's Report** Arroyave
- a. **Golden Mussels** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the Authority is considering engaging with a consultant to do a Golden Mussel assessment, which would be a facilities specific assessment.
 - b. **DCI Outage** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the DCI Outage is scheduled to proceed as planned November 17, 2025 through mid-December.
14. **Agenda Item 17: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** – Levi Arroyave, Johnson from Reclamation provided updates regarding operations, CVP Johnson
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supply, and reservoir storage. Arroyave and Johnson answered Board member questions throughout the presentation.

15. **Agenda Item 18: Committee Reports**
 - a. Water Resources Committee – No report.
 - b. Finance & Administration Committee – No report.
 - c. O&M Technical Committee – Committee Chair Chris White reported that the O&M Technical Committee meeting met October 27, 2025, and recommended the proposed budget for adoption.
 - d. Planning Committee – No report.
16. **Agenda Item 19: Outside Agency/Organization Reports**
 - a. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet. Director/ Vice-Chair William Bourdeau spoke briefly on the annual conference. Water Policy Director Scott Petersen noted new Board President Marc Hanson.
 - b. **Farm Water Coalition** – Brandon Souza reviewed the report included in the packet, and provided additional information.
 - c. **Association of California Water Agencies** – Chair Cannon Michael reported that the ACWA Conference is coming up in December. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that Legal Affairs has recommended ACWA sign on to several amicus briefs.
 - 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** – Director Anthea Hansen provided a brief update regarding recent meetings.
 - g. **Great Valley Farm Water Partnership** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen met regarding priority activities including MOU channel maintenance, SOD gates, and improving conveyance/storage.
17. **Agenda Item 20: Board Member Reports** – None.
18. **Agenda Items 21-23: Closed Session** – Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:38 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:58 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session. Akroyd
19. **Agenda Item 24: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.
20. **Agenda Item 25: Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:59 a.m.