



# Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 12/11/2025 | 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:     Dave Weisenberger, Director  
                  Vince Lucchesi, Alternate  
                  Anthea Hansen, Director  
                  Ed Pattison, Director  
Division 2:     Justin Diener, Director (ZOOM)  
                  Bill Diedrich, Director  
Division 3:     Cannon Michael, Chair/Director  
                  Michael Gardner, Alternate  
Division 4:     Aaron Baker, Alternate  
                  Richard Santos, Director  
                  Dana Jacobson, Director  
Division 5:     Bill Pucheu, Director  
                  Manny Amorelli, Director  
Friant Representative:  
                  Johnny Amaral, Alternate

Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel  
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel  
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance  
Laures Stiles, Director of HR/Administration  
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

### Others Present

Kristin Olsen-Cate, California Strategies (ZOOM)  
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District  
Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition  
Levi Johnson, Reclamation (ZOOM)  
Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority  
Palmer McCoy, Grassland Basin Authority  
Cindy Kao, Valley Water  
Richard Welsh, Hallmark Group  
Beckie Zisser, Valley Water  
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (ZOOM)  
Adam Scheuber, Del Puerto Water District

### Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director

## Agenda

Item	Topic	Lead
1.	<b>Call to Order/Roll Call</b> – The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. by Chair Cannon Michael and roll was called.	
2	<b>Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.</b> – General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd noted that Agenda Item 15 was being moved ahead of Agenda Item 13.	
3.	<b>Opportunity for Public Comment</b> – No public comment.	
4.	<b>Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: 4) November 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes, 5) Acceptance of the Financial &amp; Expenditures Reports, and 6) Acceptance of Staff Reports</b> - M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Dave Weisenberger, the Board accepted the November 6, 2025 meeting minutes, financial & expenditure reports, and staff reports. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen,	

Pattison, Diener, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Pucheu, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

**5. Agenda Item 7: Water Resources Committee Recommendation to Adopt Policy Framework and Policy Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2027-** Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the documents included in the packet. Barajas noted that the Water Resources Committee recommended approval of the Policy Framework and Policy Action Plan. Barajas reviewed the scope of the Policy Framework and reported that staff will implement the Policy Action Plan as part of the Water Authority Policy Framework for FY2027. Barajas explained the rationale behind development of the Policy Framework and Policy Action Plan in connection to the Water Authority's Strategic Plan.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded Director Dave Weisenberger, the Board adopted Policy Framework and Policy Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2027. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Pucheu, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

**6. Agenda Item 8: Recommendation to the Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation on Positions on Legislation** Barajas

- H.R. 6229 (Schrier), the Water Infrastructure finance and Innovation Act Amendments (Support)
- S. 2753 (Risch), Urban Canal Modernization Act (Support)
- H.R. 3171 (Harder), Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2025 (Support & Amend)

Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the staff recommendations for positions on legislation. Barajas answered questions from Board members throughout the presentation.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Aaron Baker, the Board adopted the staff recommendations for positions on H.R. 6229 (Valadao), S. 2753 (Risch), and H.R. 3171 (Harder). Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Pucheu, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

**7. Agenda Item 9: Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement for the Acquisition of Water by the United States, and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority from the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority 2026-2038 and Actions Related Thereto** - Deputy General Counsel Rebecca Harms reported that the Exchange Contractors, Reclamation, and the Water Authority are in the process of finalizing a new 2026-2038 Transfer Agreement, which provides the terms and conditions for the sale and transfer by the Exchange Contractors, and for purchase by Reclamation for refuge supply and the Authority for irrigation and M&I uses, of up to 80,000 acre-feet. Harms reported that upon adoption of the resolution, and following execution of the Transfer Agreement by the Water Authority, it would become effective January 1, 2026.

Arroyave,  
Harms

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board adopted Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement for the Acquisition of Water by the United States, and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority from the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority 2026-2038 and Actions Related Thereto. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Puche, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

**8. Agenda Item 10: Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Execution of the Exchange Contractors 2026-2038 Transfers Activity Agreement and Actions Related Thereto** - Deputy General Counsel Rebecca Harms reported that the Water Authority is in the process of finalizing a new Activity Agreement for the 2026-2038 Transfer Agreement. Harms reported upon adoption of the resolution regarding the Activity Agreement, Water Authority members will have until January 30, 2026 to execute the Activity Agreement. Harms reported that following the execution by at least two member agencies, the Water Authority's Executive Director would execute the Activity Agreement and it would become effective February 1, 2026.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Dana Jacobson, the Board adopted Resolution Authorizing Execution of the Exchange Contractors 2026-2038 Transfers Activity Agreement and Actions Related Thereto. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Puche, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

**9. Agenda Item 11: Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Amendment No. 7 to the Agreement for the Supply and Conveyance of Water by the Department of Water Resources Under the Dry Year Water Purchase Program SWPAO No. 14-803 and Actions Related Thereto** - Deputy General Counsel Rebecca Harms reported that the Yuba-DWR Agreement has been amended several times, the most recent of which is Amendment 7. Harms reported that the Water Authority and the State Water Contractors worked with DWR to negotiate an Amendment 8, which extends the term of the Yuba-DWR Agreement through 2050. Harms reported that Yuba Water Agency approved amendment 8 on November 18, 2025, and DWR is expected to execute the agreement by the end of December 2025. Harms reported the Water Authority worked with DWR to develop an Amendment 7 to the Dry Year Purchase Agreement. Harms reported that Amendment 7 is a restatement of the Dry Year Purchase Agreement, meaning it incorporates the original agreement and all amendments to date. Harms reported that under the Amendment 7, the term of the Dry Year Purchase Agreement is extended through 2050.

M/S - Motion by Member Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Aaron Baker, the Board adopted Resolution Authorizing Execution of Amendment No. 7 to the Agreement for the Supply and Conveyance of

Water by the Department of Water Resources under the Dry Year Water Purchase Program SWPAO No. 14-803 and Actions Related Thereto. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Pucheu, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

10. **Agenda Item 12: Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Consent to Assignment of Operation and Maintenance Services Associated with the Grassland Bypass Project from Panoche Drainage District to Grassland Basin Authority** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the Assignment of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Services would result in Grassland Basin Authority (GBA) entering into two agreements with the Authority for the provision of the certain O&M activities described in the Agreements and Addendum. Arroyave reported that Panoche Drainage District's assignment of its obligations, rights, interests, duties, and obligations in and to the Agreements and Addendum to GBA will result in no change in the O&M activities performed pursuant to the Agreements and Addendum. Arroyave reported that staff feels confident that GBA can perform the O&M activities described in the Agreements and Addendum, and that this furthers the Water Authority's long-term goal of transitioning Grassland Basin Drainers Steering Committee to GBA.

M/S - Motion by Member Richard Santos, seconded by Director Dave Weisenberger, the Board adopted Resolution Authorizing Consent to Assignment of Operation and Maintenance Services Associated with the Grassland Bypass Project from Panoche Drainage District to Grassland Basin Authority. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Pucheu, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

11. **Agenda Item 15: Report on State & Federal Affairs** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that an updated State Water Resources Control Board Staff Report relating to the Bay-Delta Plan update is expected to be released for public review tomorrow. Dennis Cardoza provided the Federal Affairs update, and Kristin Olsen-Cate provided State Affairs update.

12. **Agenda Item 13: Report on Strategic Plan Implementation** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the memorandum included in the packet, which provided an end of Fiscal Year 2026 update on Strategic Plan implementation progress for the priority items. Barajas reported that staff reviews and tracks progress associated with core/high priority items throughout the year.

13. **Agenda Item 14: Update on Invasive Species Impacts and Responses: Golden Mussels** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave provided an update on the status of Golden Mussels. Arroyave reported that they were first detected in the system in October 2024, and are now detected throughout the system, including in Mendota Pool. Arroyave reported that not many have been found at Jones Pumping/Generating Plant possibly

due to the velocity of the water. Arroyave reported that staff is most concerned with O'Neill Pumping Plant. Arroyave reported that staff is looking at various possible treatments, and will have more to share next spring. Arroyave answered questions throughout the presentation.

14. **Agenda Item 16: Executive Director's Report** Barajas

- a. **Rebranding Efforts** – Director of HR/Administration Laures Stiles reported that the company store is open until tomorrow, and that she will be available after the meeting for anyone wanting to place an order.
- b. **Action 5** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that last week Reclamation issued a record of decision on Action 5, which provides more flexibility for CVP Ops.
- c. **DMC Subsidence Correction Project** – Richard Welsh from the Hallmark Group provided a status update and reviewed the preliminary schedule for DMC Subsidence Correction Project Phase 1.
- d. **OPP Repayment Contract** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Water Authority staff had a very successful repayment negotiation session with Reclamation. Barajas reported that staff is expecting to bring this to the Board for action soon.
- e. **Budget Workshop** - Executive Director Federico Barajas that there is a Budget Workshop scheduled for next week.
- f. **Consolidated Place of Use** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Reclamation will convene a CVP meeting to discuss the Consolidated Place of Use.

15. **Agenda Item 17: Chief Operating Officer's Report** Arroyave

- a. **OPP Repayment** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the Water Authority will have more clarity next week, but is more confident that with execution of the Repayment Contract, there will be no cash flow issues requiring substantial collection as part of the FY 2027 budget.
- b. **DCI** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that DCI work is complete.
- c. **OPP Spare Transformer** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that testing indicated that no foreign material was present, and staff can move forward in rescheduling the transformer rehabilitation work.

16. **Agenda Item 18: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** – Levi Johnson from Reclamation provided updates regarding operations, CVP supply, and reservoir storage. Arroyave and Johnson answered Board member questions throughout the presentation. Arroyave, USBR

17. **Agenda Item 19: Committee Reports** – No reports.

18. **Agenda Item 20: Outside Agency/Organization Reports**

- a. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet.

- b. **Farm Water Coalition** – Mike Wade reviewed the report included in the packet, and provided additional information. Wade announced his retirement, and reported that Michelle Paul was selected as the new Executive Director. Chair Cannon Michael reported that Mike Wade received that Lifetime Achievement Award at ACWA.
- c. **Association of California Water Agencies** – Chair Cannon Michael reported that the Fall ACWA Conference was very successful.
- 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 reported that the Executive Director is soliciting CPWA Board members to respond to a Doodle Pool for a Strategic Planning Session.
- g. **Great Valley Farm Water Partnership** – No report.

19. **Agenda Item 21: Board Member Reports** – Director Richard Santos gave thanks to the Board Chair, Executive Director, and General Counsel for all their hard work this year, and presented them with a Firefighters Prayer Coin.

Director Anthea Hansen reported that last week Del Puerto Water District and the Exchange Contractors published a draft Environmental Impact report for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir for a 30-day review. Hansen reported that the EPA will publish the EIS for the project.

Chair Cannon Michael thanked the Board for their service this year, and wished them happy holidays.

20. **Agenda Items 22-24: Closed Session** – Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:09 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, Barajas

21. **Agenda Item 25: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.

22. **Agenda Item 26: Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:59 a.m.