



Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 1/8/2026 | 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: Bobby Pierce, Director
Anthea Hansen, Director
Ed Pattison, Director
- Division 2: Justin Diener, Director
William Bourdeau, Director
Aaron Barcellos, Director
Lon Martin, Alternate
- Division 3: Chris White, Alternate
Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director
Michael Gardner, Alternate
- Division 4: Aaron Baker, Alternate
Richard Santos, Director
Dana Jacobson, Director
Joe Tonascia, Director
Brett Miller, Alternate
- Division 5: Allison Febbo, Director (ZOOM)
Manny Amorelli, Director
- Friant Representative:
Jason Phillips, Representative (ZOOM)

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 (ZOOM)
- Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
- Jamie McNeil, Engineering Manager
- Cindy Meyer, Special Programs Manager (ZOOM)
- Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

Others Present

- Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
- Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District
- Ric Ortega, Grasslands Water District (ZOOM)
- John Varela, Valley Water (ZOOM)
- Lea Emmons, City of Tracy (ZOOM)
- Kristin Olsen-Cate, California Strategies (ZOOM)
- John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
- Levi Johnson, Reclamation (ZOOM)
- Cindy Kao, Valley Water
- Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (ZOOM)
- Don Wright, WaterWrights, (ZOOM)

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.
During roll call, two Directors were identified as participating via teleconference: (1) Director Allison Febbo, who was participating remotely pursuant to Government Code section 54953.8.3(c)(1) for just cause, and (2) Friant Water Authority Representative Justin Phillips, who was participating remotely pursuant to Government Code section 54953(b) consistent with traditional teleconference rules.
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) December 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes and December 18, 2025 Special Workshop Minutes, 5) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, and 6) Acceptance of Staff Reports** - M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board accepted the December 11, 2025 meeting minutes with minor edits, December 18, 2025 Special Workshop Meeting Minutes with minor edits, financial & expenditure reports, and staff reports. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
5. **Agenda Item 7: Approval of Executive Compensation for Executive Director and General Counsel** - Chair Cannon Michael orally reviewed the handout and reported on proposed salaries and total benefit packages for the Executive Director and General Counsel. Michael
M/S - Motion by Director Anthea Hansen, seconded Director Manny Amorelli, the Board approved Executive Compensation for the Executive Director and General Counsel. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli, Phillips; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
6. **Agenda Item 8: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Fiscal Year 2027 OM&R Budget, Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Fiscal Year 2027 Activity Budget, and Resolution Adopting the Complete Fiscal Year 2027 Budget** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the memo and attachments included in the packet, and outlined the budget development process for both the OM&R & Activity Budgets, which included a Joint Budget Workshop held in December. Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave provided a review of the OM&R Budget, which includes a 3.5% salary increase for all staff, a 5-step salary schedule, and two new apprentice positions. Arroyave noted that the budget resolution included authorization of a small number of contracts, consistent with past practice. Barajas then provided a review of the Activity Budget including the FY 2027 budget expenditure summary, and membership assessment. Barajas, Arroyave
M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded Director Anthea Hansen, the Board adopted the resolution adopting the complete Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli, Phillips; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
7. **Agenda Item 9: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Fifth Amendment to DMC Subsidence Correction Project Task Order with Hallmark Group Capital Program** Arroyave, McNeil

Management and Related Increase in Expenditure of Up to \$198,580 Utilizing the FY 2021, FY 2022, and/or FY 2023 EO&M Budget Funds –

Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil reported that given the increased work required to further the project this fiscal year, Hallmark’s actual spend rate is currently tracking at \$80,000 a month, leading to a budget deficit necessitating this proposed Fifth Amendment and the need for Board authorization for an increase in expenditure of up to \$198,580 utilizing FY 2021, FY 2022, and/or FY 2023 EO&M budget funds. McNeil reported that EO&M budget funds would be used to cover cash flow needs, which would later be reimbursed utilizing DWR grant funds.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board approved the Fifth Amendment to DMC Subsidence Correction Project Task Order with Hallmark Group Capital Program Management and related increase in expenditure of up to \$198,580 utilizing the FY 2021, FY 2022, and/or FY 2023 EO&M Budget Funds. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli, Phillips; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

8. **Agenda Item 10: Report on State & Federal Affairs** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided federal updates related to ESA comments, WOTUS, appropriation bills, ESA legislation, and golden mussels legislation. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Dennis Cardoza provided additional Federal Affairs updates, including the unexpected and tragic passing of California water champion Congressman Doug LaMalfa, and Kristin Olsen-Cate provided a State Affairs update. Petersen, Cardoza, Olsen-Cate
9. **Agenda Item 11: Executive Director’s Report** Barajas
- a. **South of Delta Drought Plan** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reminded the Board that Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave sent out an email requesting input from participating members regarding districts decisions on restoration of the 1% water loss in advance of meeting with Reclamation.
 - b. **Water Users Conference** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported there will not be any “speed dating” meetings with Reclamation, but Reclamation staff will available for individual meetings upon request.
10. **Agenda Item 12: Chief Operating Officer’s Report** Arroyave
- a. **Intertie Operations** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that all six units at the Intertie were operated yesterday from noon until this morning. Arroyave thanked Reclamation for their assistance with testing.
 - b. **Transformer Rehab** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff is working with Reclamation on rescheduling the outage.

- c. **Estimated Deliveries** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff sent out an email requesting estimated deliveries at 25% and 50% ag contract allocations by January 13, 2026.
 - d. **Golden Mussels** – Special Programs Manager Cindy Meyer provided a brief update on golden mussels.
- 11. **Agenda Item 13: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** – Levi Johnson from Reclamation provided updates regarding operations, CVP supply, and reservoir storage. Johnson and Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave answered Board member questions throughout the presentation. Arroyave, USBR
- 12. **Agenda Item 14: Committee Reports** – No reports.
- 13. **Agenda Item 15: 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.
 - c. **Association of California Water Agencies** – No report.
 - d. **San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Effort** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief update.
 - e. **San Joaquin Collaborative Action Plan** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief update.
 - f. **Central Valley Project Water Association** – No report.
 - g. **Great Valley Farm Water Partnership** – Chair Cannon Michael reported that there is a meeting January 14, 2026 at the Authority office.
- 14. **Agenda Item 16: Board Member Reports** – Chair Cannon Michael acknowledged that today is Friant Water Authority Representative Jason Phillips last meeting.
- 15. **Agenda Items 17-19: 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 11:27 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that the direction to intervene in an action has been given, and the action, the defendants, and the other particulars shall, once formally commenced, be disclosed to any person upon inquiry. The vote on that action of every member was as follows: Ayes – Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Akroyd, Barajas
- 16. **Agenda Item 20: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.
- 17. **Agenda Item 21: Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:29 a.m.