



Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 2/5/2026 | 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 (ZOOM)
William Bourdeau, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director (item 3)
- Division 3: Chris White, Alternate
Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director
- Division 4: Richard Santos, Director
Dana Jacobson, Director
Joe Tonascia, Director
Brett Miller, Alternate
- Division 5: Manny Amorelli, Director
- Friant Representative:
Johnny Amaral, Alternate

- Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
- Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel (ZOOM)
- Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director (ZOOM)
- Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
- Jaime McNeil, Engineering Manager
- Jacob Bejarano, Senior Civil/Maintenance/
Electrical Engineer
- Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

Others Present

- Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
- Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District
- Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition
- Michelle Paul, Farm Water Coalition
- Allison Febbo, Westlands Water District (ZOOM)
- Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority
- Vince Gin, Valley Water
- Mitch Partovi, Water Agency
- Rusty Areias, California Strategies (ZOOM)
- Levi Johnson, Reclamation (ZOOM)
- Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (ZOOM)

Authority Representatives Present

- Federico Barajas, Executive Director
- Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

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, Director Justin Diener was identified as participating remotely via teleconference 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 4-7: Board to Consider: 4) January 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes, 5) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, and 6) Treasurer’s Report, 7) Acceptance of Staff Reports - M/S - Motion by Vice-Chair/Director William Bourdeau, seconded by Director Joe | |

Tonascia, the Board accepted the January 8, 2026 meeting minutes with a minor edit, financial & expenditure reports, Treasurer's Report and staff reports. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

5. **Agenda Item 8: Water Resources Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendation on Positions on Legislation** Petersen

- a. H.R. 6639 (Gray), Water Agency and Transparency Enhancement Review (Water) Act (Favor & Amend)
- b. H.R. 6640 (Gray), Build Now Act (Favor)
- c. H.R. 6641 (Gray), Central Valley Water Solution Act (Support & Amend)
- d. A.B. 35 (Alvarez), Safe Drinking Water, Wildlife Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedures Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria (Ratify Support Position)

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendations for positions on four legislative bills: H.R. 6639, H.R. 6640, H.R. 6641, and A.B. 35. Petersen answered questions from Board members throughout the presentation.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board adopted the staff recommendations for positions on H.R. 6239 (Gray), H.R. 6640 (Gray), H.R. 6641 (Gray), and A.B. 35. Vote: Ayes - Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

6. **Agenda Item 9: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Award and Execution of Construction Agreement for Jones Pumping Plant Pump Casing & Bifurcation Pipe Recoating Project, and Expenditure of Up to \$1,037,350 Utilizing Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and 2026 EO&M Funds** Arroyave, McNeil

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed the item along with the documents provided to the Board. Arroyave reported that the principal components of the combined recoating work include removing the existing lining material from the suction cup elbow and pump casing of Unit 5, and from the butterfly valves and discharge piping of both Units 5 and 6. Arroyave reported that once this work is completed the new lining material will be applied to the same areas. Arroyave stated that work is expected to be completed this spring and will proceed with other JPP unit recoating in future years.

M/S - On a motion made by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board authorized award and execution of construction agreement for Jones Pumping Plant Pump Casing & Bifurcation Pipe Recoating Project, and expenditure of up to \$1,037,350 utilizing Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and 2026 EO&M funds. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Amorelli, Amaral; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

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7. **Agenda Item 10: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Execution of Sixth Amendment to Agreement for Professional Services Supporting DMC Subsidence Correction Project with CDM Smith and Related Increase in Expenditure of Up to \$216,587 Utilizing FY 2021, FY 2022, and/or FY 2023 EO&M Budget Funds** – Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil reviewed the item. McNeil stated that staff is requesting a sixth amendment to the professional services contract with CDM, increasing the contract by \$216,587. These expenditures would initially be paid with EO&M funds collected in prior fiscal years and later reimbursed with grant funds. Staff answered questions throughout the presentation.
- M/S - On a motion made by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board authorized execution of the Sixth Amendment to Agreement for Professional Services supporting DMC Subsidence Correction Project with CDM Smith and related increase in expenditure of up to \$216,587 utilizing FY 2021, FY 2022, and/or FY 2023 EO&M budget funds. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Amorelli, Amaral – 0; Abstentions – 0.
- Arroyave, McNeil
8. **Agenda Item 11: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Execution of DMC Subsidence Correction Project Advanced Funds Agreement with Westlands Water District** – Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced the item. Barajas outlined the cashflow needs associated with phase one of the DMC Subsidence Correction Project. Barajas reported that Westlands Water District has received board approval to advance the Water Authority \$4.1 million at 4.35% over 5 years, with delegated authority to increase the amount up to \$11 million if necessary. Barajas requested similar delegated authority to increase the amount of advanced funds. Barajas reported that Westlands would be receiving credits on their O&M reserve payments until the balance has been paid off. Staff answered questions throughout the presentation.
- M/S - On a motion made by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board authorized execution of the DMC Subsidence Correction Project Advanced Funds Agreement with Westlands Water District, including delegated authority if necessary. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
- Barajas, Tarka
9. **Agenda Item 12: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation to Approve Water Year 2026 OM&R Water Rates** – Director of Finance Raymond Tarka provided a brief overview of the water rates at both 25% and 50% allocation. Tarka noted a slight decrease in PUE costs and an increase related to the DCI. Executive Director Federico Barajas noted that the Finance & Administration Committee recommended preapproving the rate at 25% and then automatically
- Tarka

increasing to 50% if Reclamation's allocation increases. Staff answered questions throughout the presentation.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Bobby Pierce, the Board approved Water Year 2026 OM&R Water Rates. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Amorelli, Amaral; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

10. **Agenda Item 13: Water Resources Committee and Finance & Administration Committee Recommendations Regarding Adoption of Resolutions Relating to the DMC Subsidence Correction Project** Arroyave, McNeil

A. Adopting Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/CEQA Findings of Fact and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed the documents included in the packet. Arroyave reported that the Water Authority has determined that the proposed Project, as mitigated, would not have a significant impact on the environment. Arroyave reported that through the proposed resolution, the Board would adopt the MND, including CEQA findings of Fact, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) to require that all reasonably feasible mitigation measures be implemented by means of Project conditions, agreements, or other measures, as set forth in the MMRP. Arroyave reported that following adoption of the resolution, the Water Authority would file a Notice of Determination. Staff answered questions throughout the presentation.

B. Authorizing Execution of Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Agreement - Engineering Manager Jaime provided background on the CMGC agreement, procurement process, and recommendation to execute an agreement with Kiewit Corporation. Staff answered questions throughout the presentation.

13A - M/S: Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Ed Pattison, the Board adopted Resolution Adopting Mitigated Negative Declaration/CEQA Finding of Fact and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

13B - M/S: Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Ed Pattison, the Board Adopted Resolution Authorizing Execution of Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Agreement. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Amorelli, Amaral; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

11. **Agenda Item 14: Expression of Appreciation for Mike Wade, Former Executive Director of the California Farm Water Coalition** – Chair Cannon Michael presented Mike Wade with a letter of appreciation, and Executive Director Federico presented him with tokens of appreciation. Barajas, Michael

Mike Wade expressed his appreciation of his years working with the Board and the Water Authority. Board members also expressed their appreciation for Mike Wade's dedication.

12. **Agenda Item 15: Report on State & Federal Affairs** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided federal updates related to LTO-Action 5, WOTUS, appropriation bills, the GROW SMART Act, and the Farm Bill. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Dennis Cardoza provided additional Federal Affairs updates, and Rusty Areias provided a State Affairs update. Petersen
13. **Agenda Item 16: Executive Director's Report** Barajas
- a. **DMC Subsidence Correction Project** – Richard Welsh from the Hallmark Group reviewed a PowerPoint presentation providing a DMC Subsidence Correction Project Phase 1 Status Update, which was included in the packet. Welsh discussed decision points coming up for Task 1 and 2.
 - b. **Golden Mussels Update** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff continues to be involved in collaborative discussions.
 - c. **South-of-Delta Drought Plan** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that discussions regarding the 2026 Pilot Project are occurring, including regarding operational flexibility.
 - d. **ACWA Vision for Water Future** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that ACWA has established a GM group to assist prioritizing water issues for the new California governor, once elected. Barajas asked for feedback regarding priorities for the new administration. Barajas reported that ACWA is embarking on regional briefings.
 - e. **NOAA Assistant Administrator Tour** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Assistant NOAA Administrator Solér is touring CVP facilities the week of February 23, 2026, and the Water Authority is providing a tour of Jones Pumping Plant. Barajas reported that if Board members are interested in attending to please let Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave know.
 - f. **SLDMWA Branded Item** - Executive Director Federico Barajas stated that items ordered from the Water Authority Store would be available in the small conference room after the meeting.
14. **Agenda Item 17: Chief Operating Officer's Report** Arroyave
- a. **Jones Pumping Plan Operations** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that Jones Pumping Plant is operating at two small units, and will soon be going to two large units. Arroyave reported that this reduction is related to the D-1641 Port Chicago requirement.
 - b. **Water Transfers** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that Yuba/Exchange Contractors transfers are lined up for this

year. Arroyave reported that staff is working on a North-to-South transfer program in case the need arises.

- c. **TFF Outages** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff has received confirmation from Reclamation that there will be an outage at the Tracy Fish Facility from April 15-May 8, 2026. Arroyave reported it will be nine hours a day Monday-Saturday. Arroyave reported that pumping at JPP will be limited to one unit during that timeframe, and pumping will be maximized after the nine-hour outage each day if necessary to prevent loss of water.

- 15. **Agenda Item 18: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that Reclamation is trying to balance upstream releases/exports in light of X2 Port Chicago requirements. Arroyave reported that B120 is expected out anytime and will have implications for X2. Levi Johnson from Reclamation provided updates regarding operations, CVP supply, and reservoir storage. Johnson and Arroyave answered Board member questions throughout the presentation. Arroyave, USBR
- 16. **Agenda Item 19: Committee Reports** – No reports.
- 17. **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 introduced Michelle Paul, new Farm Water Coalition Executive Director.
 - c. **Association of California Water Agencies** – Chair Cannon Michael reported that the DC Conference is coming up at the end of the month. It was also noted the ACWA Legislative Symposium will take place next week.
 - 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** – Director Anthea Hansen reported that the Central Valley Project Water Association had good meetings at the Mid-Pacific Water Users Conference.
 - g. **Great Valley Farm Water Partnership** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen referenced a coordinated initiative.
- 18. **Agenda Item 21: Board Member Reports** – Director Jarrett Martin thanked the Water Authority and the Board on behalf of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin for all the SGMA support services over the years.
- 19. **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 11:31 a.m. Upon return to open session at Akroyd, Barajas

approximately 12:02 p.m., Chair Cannon Michael reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session.

20. **Agenda Item 25: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.
21. **Agenda Item 26: Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:03 p.m.