



Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 3/5/2026 | 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: Dave Weisenberger, Director
Anthea Hansen, Director
Ed Pattison, Director
Lea Emmons, Alternate
- Division 2: Justin Diener, Director
William Bourdeau, Director
Aaron Barcellos, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director (ZOOM)
- Division 3: Chris White, Alternate
Jarrett Martin, Director
Michael Gardner, Alternate
Ric Ortega, Director (item 11)
- Division 4: Aaron Baker, Alternate
Richard Santos, Director
Brett Miller, Alternate
- Division 5: Bill Pucheu, Director
Allison Febbo, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director
- Friant Representative:
Wilson Orvis, Alternate

- 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
- Jaime McNeil, Engineering Manager
- Jacob Bejarano, Senior Civil/Maintenance/Engineer
- Cindy Meyer, Special Programs Manager (ZOOM)
- Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

Others Present

- John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
- Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District
- Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition
- Michelle Paul, Farm Water Coalition
- Mitch Partovi, Water Agency
- Julian Torres, Pacheco Water District
- Scott Taylor, USBR
- Mat Maucieri, USBR
- Rain Emerson, USBR
- Kristen Olsen-Cate, California Strategies (ZOOM)
- Levi Johnson, Reclamation (ZOOM)
- Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (ZOOM)

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director

Agenda

Item	Topic	Lead
------	-------	------

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. by Vice-Chair William Bourdeau and roll was called.
During roll call, Director Bill Diedrich 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 4-6: Board to Consider: 4) February 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes, 5) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, and 6) Acceptance of Staff Reports** - M/S - Motion by Director Bill Pucheu, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board accepted the February 5, 2026 meeting minutes with minor edits, financial & expenditure reports, and staff reports. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Baker, Santos, Miller, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
5. **Agenda Item 7: Water Resources Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendation on Positions on Legislation** Petersen
a. S. 3738 (Padilla), Making Our Communities Resilient through Enhancing Water for Agriculture, Technology, the Environment, and Residences (MORE WATER) Act (Support & Amend)

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendation for position adoption on one piece of legislation: S. 3738. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board adopted the staff recommendation for position on S. 3738 (Padilla). Vote: Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Baker, Santos, Miller, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
6. **Agenda Item 8: Selection and Appointment of Fiscal Year 2027 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board Officers** – Executive Director Federico Barajas noted the requirement for annual selection of and appointment of Fiscal Year 2027 Water Authority Board Officers. The Vice-Chair William Bourdeau suggested deferring this item to next month.

M/S - Motion by Alternate Chris White, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board unanimously approved deferring this item to next month. Vote: Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Baker, Santos, Miller, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
7. **Agenda Item 9-10: Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Termination of Northern Delta-Mendota Region Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) Services Activity Agreement, and Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Termination of Central Delta-Mendota Region SGMA Services Activity Agreement** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Cost-Sharing Agreement expired when the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs formed the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority (“DM Authority”), entered into an Amended and Restated Memorandum of Agreement, and the DM Authority notified the Authority that its services were no longer needed, in February 2026. Petersen reported that the intent behind the formation of the DM Authority was to create a Joint Powers Authority that could provide the services previously provided by the Authority for the member agencies of the DM Authority. Petersen reported that following adoption of the proposed resolutions, the Water Authority will continue to provide fiscal and

administrative support services for the remaining activities in fiscal year 2026, including the completion of the Annual Report for the Subbasin, which is due for submittal by April 1. Petersen reported that following final invoice submittal all activities formerly provided by the Authority and its staff will be performed by the D-M Subbasin JPA. Petersen reported that the Authority will issue a letter to relevant Activity Agreement members and SS-MOA members terminating the relevant Activity Agreements for approval.

Item 9: M/S - On a motion made by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Jarrett Martin, the Board authorized Termination of Northern Delta-Mendota Region Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) Services Activity Agreement. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Baker, Santos, Miller, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli – 0; Abstentions – 0.

Item 10: M/S - On a motion made by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Jarrett Martin, the Board authorized Termination of Central Delta-Mendota Region (SGMA) Services Activity Agreement. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Baker, Santos, Miller, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli – 0; Abstentions – 0.

8. **Agenda Item 11: Report on State & Federal Affairs – Water Policy** Petersen
Director Scott Petersen introduced Dennis Cardoza, who provided updates regarding DC trip, elections, and federal affairs. Petersen added additional details including opportunities for appropriation requests, congressional letter on Port Chicago Standard, CVP initial allocations, and the Farm Bill. Petersen introduced Kristin Olsen-Kate, who provided a State Affairs update. Petersen, Cardoza, and Olsen-Kate answered questions throughout the presentation.
12. **Agenda Item 12: Executive Director’s Report** Arroyave
- a. **USBR Update** – Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced Mat Maucieri, Senior Advisor for Operations in DC, who is serving as Acting Regional Director in Sacramento for a couple of weeks. Maucieri introduced Scott Taylor and Rain Emerson. Maucieri provided an update on DC activities, regional priorities, and recent funding allocation announcements. Mr. Maucieri answered Board member questions throughout his presentation.
 - b. **Golden Mussels Update** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed the memo included in the packet. Special Programs Manager Cindy Meyer presented a PowerPoint presentation with additional information on the Golden Mussels. Water Policy Director Scott Petersen also provided additional information.
 - c. **Training** – General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reminded the Board of the training requirements for ethics, sexual harassment, and the new financial training, and to please send in their training certificates.

- d. **Social Luncheon** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Water Authority will be recognizing Dan Keppen next month as he marks his retirement after more than two decades of outstanding leadership as Executive Director of the Family Farm Alliance. Dan Keppen will be attending the April Board meeting, and there will be a social luncheon after the meeting.

- 13. **Agenda Item 13: Chief Operating Officer’s Report** Arroyave
 - a. **Jones Pumping Plan Operations** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the Unit 5 repairs at Jones Pumping Plant is the top priority at this time.
 - b. **Colgate Penstock Failure at Yuba** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that due to the Colgate Penstock failure, the groundwater substitution component of the Yuba Transfer Program will not be in play for 2026. Arroyave reported that they are still waiting to hear on the surface water supplies.
 - c. **Volta Wasteway** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported an amendment was executed to extend the Volta Wasteway Project.
 - d. **Consolidated Place of Use** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that he sent an email out on behalf of Reclamation seeking input to pursue a Consolidated Place of Use.

- 14. **Agenda Item 14: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** - Levi Johnson from Reclamation provided updates regarding operations, CVP supply, and reservoir storage. Johnson answered Board member questions throughout the presentation. Arroyave,
USBR

- 15. **Agenda Item 15: Committee Reports** – No reports.

- 16. **Agenda Item 16: Outside Agency/Organization Reports**
 - a. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet.
 - b. **Farm Water Coalition** – Michelle Paul reviewed the report included in the packet and provided additional information.
 - c. **Association of California Water Agencies** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that ACWA conference in DC was very good. Barajas reported that there is a GM group working on preparation for the new governor. Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported on ACWA DC conference speakers.
 - 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. Petersen noted that Director Jarrett Martin was recently added to the Steering Committee. Director Jarrett Martin reviewed the SJCAP report that was included in the Water Resources Committee packet.
 - f. **Central Valley Project Water Association** – Director Anthea Hansen reported that there is a Finance meeting next week.

- g. **Great Valley Farm Water Partnership** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen identified high priority items of the group. Petersen reported that there is an upcoming meeting/tour in Turlock next week. Director Anthea Hansen provided additional information.

- 17. **Agenda Item 17: Board Member Reports** – No reports.
- 18. **Agenda Items 18-20: Closed Session** – Vice-Chair William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:24 a.m. Upon returning to open session at approximately 11:51 a.m., Vice-Chair William Bourdeau reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session.
- 19. **Agenda Item 21: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.