



# Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 4/9/2026 | 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  
Lea Emmons, Alternate
- Division 2: Justin Diener, Director (ZOOM)  
William Bourdeau, Director  
Lon Martin, Alternate
- Division 3: Chris White, Alternate  
Jarrett Martin, Director  
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director
- Division 4: John Varela, Director  
Aaron Baker, Alternate  
Richard Santos, Director  
Dana Jacobson, Director
- Division 5: Manny Amorelli, Director
- Friant Representative:  
Johnny Amaral, Representative  
Wilson Orvis, Alternate

### Authority Representatives Present

- Federico Barajas, Executive Director
- Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer
- Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
- Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
- Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
- Cindy Meyer, Special Programs Manager (ZOOM)
- Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

### Others Present

- Dan Keppen, Family Farm Alliance
- Cindy Kao, Valley Water
- Kristin Olsen-Cate, California Strategies (ZOOM)
- Levi Johnson, Reclamation (ZOOM)
- Joe Hopkins, Provost & Pritchard
- Don Wright, WaterWrights (ZOOM)
- Kathy Mahan, Senator Adam Schiff’s Office (ZOOM)

## 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. 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.	<b>Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.</b> – No additions or corrections.	
3.	<b>Opportunity for Public Comment</b> – No public comment.	
4.	<b>Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: 4) March 5, 2026 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 William Bourdeau, the Board accepted the March 5, 2026 meeting minutes, financial & expenditure reports, and staff reports. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau,	

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Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

5. **Agenda Item 7: Selection of Fiscal Year 2027 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board Officers** Arroyave

- Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the memo included in the packet. Barajas reported that the Authority's Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement provides for the selection of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Barajas reported that in contrast to the Treasurer, who serves at the pleasure of the Board, the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary hold office for a period of one year commencing the first meeting of each Fiscal Year. Barajas reported that the Authority's Fiscal Year 2027 began March 1, 2026. Barajas expressed his appreciation for both Chair Cannon Michael and Vice-Chair William Bourdeau; Board members also expressed their appreciation for Chair Michael and Vice-Chair Bourdeau's continued service.

M/S - Motion by Director John Varela, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board re-appointed Director Cannon Michael as Chair, Director William Bourdeau as Vice-Chair, and Executive Director Federico Barajas as Secretary. Roll Call Vote: Weisenberger, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

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

- A. **A.B. 1754 (Pacheco), State general obligation bonds: requirements** (Favor)
- B. **A.B. 1772 (Papan), Fish and wildlife: aquatic invasive species: golden mussels** (Watch & Amend)
- C. **A.B. 2013 (Bennett), Fire risk areas: water suppliers: emergency preparedness plan** (not favored unless amended)
- D. **A.B. 2026 (Aguiar-Curry), Water diversion: groundwater recharge: permit** (Watch & Amend)
- E. **A.B. 2032 (Ransom), Fish and wildlife: restricted species permits** (Support & Amend)
- F. **A.B. 2218 (Kalra), Water policy: California Native American Tribes** (Oppose Unless Amended)
- G. **A.B. 2630 (Bennett), Water diversion and use: adoption of regulations** (Oppose)
- H. **A.B. 2728 (Soria), Open and Transparent Water Data Act** (Support)
- I. **A.C.A. 11 (Macedo), California Water Resiliency Act (Support)**
- J. **S.B. 872 (McNerney), Climate Change: funding priorities** (Watch & Amend)

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendation for positions on ten pieces of legislation, which were recommended for adoption by the Water Resources Committee. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation.

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M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the Board adopted the staff recommendations for positions on A.B. 1754, A.B. 1772, A.B. 2013, A.B. 2026, A.B. 2032, A.B. 2218, A.B. 2630, A.B. 2728, A.C.A. 11, and S. B. 872. Roll Call Vote: Weisenberger, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

7. **Agenda Item 9: Water Resources Recommendation Regarding Execution of Agreement with MM Water Resources for Technical Support Services** Petersen

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported on the need to contract with MM Water Resources to support completion and advancement of key Water Authority and CVP contractor efforts to advance exploration of lines of evidence that could lead to operational improvements, at the request of Reclamation. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board approved execution of agreement with MM Water Resources for Technical Support Services. Roll Call Vote: Weisenberger, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

8. **Agenda Item 10: Adoption of Communications Framework and Communications Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2027** Petersen

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the memo included in the packet. Petersen reported that the Communications Framework details strategic communications that will guide the Authority's Communications, in coordination with the Authority Policy Framework and Science Plan. Petersen reported that the Authority has chosen three core themes: reliability, affordability, and accountability in project operations. Petersen reported that these communication themes will be advanced through three different types of communications, as described in the Framework: foundational communications, project communications, and policy communications. Petersen reported that the Communications Action Plan details the annual activities, audiences, and types of communications that will be developed and delivered to implement the Communications Framework and advance the Communications and Policy goals in the Strategic Plan. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Chris White, the Board adopted the Communications Framework and Communications Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2027. Roll Call Vote: Weisenberger, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

9. **Agenda Item 11: Ratification of Execution of North to South Water Transfers CEQA Support Task Order with CDM Smith** Arroyave, Harms  
– Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed the memo included in the packet. Arroyave reported that after receiving CDM Smith's statement of work and

cost estimate for developing subsequent environmental analyses, Authority staff met with Activity Agreement Members, who approved entering a task order with CDM Smith for the development of the subsequent CEQA document. Arroyave reported that the Authority executed the North to South Water Transfers CEQA Support Task Order, which was included in the packet. Arroyave reported that execution of the Task Order in March allowed CDM Smith to begin work on the subsequent environmental analyses immediately, but because this cost was not previously budgeted for and is over the threshold in our Consolidated Procurement Policy, Board ratification of execution of the Task Order is needed.

M/S - Motion by Director John Varela, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board approved ratification of execution of North to South water transfers CEQA support task order with CDM Smith. Roll Call Vote: Weisenberger, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Lon Martin, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

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| 10. | <p><b>Agenda Item 12: Expression of Appreciation for Dan Keppen, Former Executive Director of Family Farm Alliance</b> – Chair Cannon Michael presented Dan Keppen with a letter of appreciation, and Executive Director Federico presented him with Water Authority items as tokens of appreciation. Dan Keppen expressed his appreciation of his years working with the Authority and the Board. Board members also expressed their appreciation for all of Dan Keppen’s accomplishments.</p>   | Barajas,<br>Michael  |
| 11. | <p><b>Agenda Item 13: Presentation of Resolution of Commendation to the San Luis &amp; Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors by the DM Subbasin JPA</b> – Director Jarrett Martin, and Joe Hopkins presented a resolution honoring the Authority, the Board, and staff for all their support.</p>  | Petersen             |
| 12. | <p><b>Agenda Item 14: Status Update Regarding the DMC Subsidence Correction Project</b> – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that Kiewit is working to develop Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Task 1 for the construction phase of the project and preconstruction work related to Task 2. Arroyave reported that the Task 1 GMP will go to the Finance &amp; Administration Committee and the Board for approval in May and will be followed by a Notice to Proceed with construction. Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed a letter received by Reclamation regarding the award of \$235 million of non-reimbursable funding for the DMC Subsidence Correction Project from authorities in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.</p> | Barajas,<br>Arroyave |
| 13. | <p><b>Agenda Item 15: Report on State &amp; Federal Affairs</b> – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that Dennis Cardoza is resigning from Foley effective April 15, 2026, and staff is evaluating support options. Petersen provided an update regarding the government shutdown, President Trump’s budget requests, DMC Subsidence Correction Project awards, WRDA discussions, and the Farm Bill. Petersen introduced Kristin</p>   | Petersen             |

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Olsen-Kate, who provided a State Affairs update. Petersen provided additional information regarding California Air Resources Board Advanced Clean Fleet regulations, and the Bay-Delta Plan Update, including the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. Petersen and Olsen-Kate answered questions throughout the presentation.

14. **Agenda Item 16: Executive Director’s Report** Barajas
- a. **ACWA Vision for Our Water Future** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the handout and highlighted four priority themes: Lead on Water, Project Affordability, Deliver Critical Infrastructure, and Modernize Water Management.
  - b. **Golden Mussels Update** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed the memo included in the packet. Arroyave reported that staff is implementing mitigation measures that were recommended in the assessment completed by the consultant, including bio boxes, installation of hot water taps, development of control plan, and coordination of field testing. Arroyave also reported that coordination meetings continue. Staff answered questions throughout the presentation.
  - c. **Strategic Plan** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the management team is convening later this month to identify priority actions for FY 2027.
  - d. **Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Books** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the hard copies of the budget books are available for Board members that requested them.
15. **Agenda Item 17: Chief Operating Officer’s Report** Arroyave
- a. **Outages** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave provided a brief update on outages, including the Tracy Fish Facility outage beginning next week, and Unit 5 outage work underway.
  - b. **North to South Water Transfers** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff is actively working with Reclamation and Activity Agreement Members on potential 2026 North to South Transfers. Arroyave reported that any transfers would be limited consistent with the environmental coverage that Reclamation has in place, which covers the short term 2026-2027 calendar year.
  - c. **O&M Technical Committee Meeting** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the O&MTC meeting/tour is scheduled May 4, 2026, and the regular O&MTC meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2026.
16. **Agenda Item 18: 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
17. **Agenda Item 19: Committee Reports** – No reports.
18. **Agenda Item 20: Outside Agency/Organization Reports**

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- a. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet.
  - b. **Farm Water Coalition** – Report included in the packet.
  - c. **Association of California Water Agencies** – Director John Varela provided an update regarding the Executive Director interviews.
  - 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 a strategic plan effort is underway.
  - g. **Great Valley Farm Water Partnership (GVFWAP)** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that GVFWAP continues to advance three priority projects.
19. **Agenda Item 21: Board Member Reports** – Alternate Chris White provided information regarding the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam Project and upcoming ribbon cutting.
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 11:29 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that the direction to participate as amicus in an action has been given, and that the action, the parties, 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 – Weisenberger, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.
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 11:30 a.m.