



Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 9/17/2026 | 9:39 AM

Location: SLDMWA Boardroom

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)
Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3: Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director
Mike Gardner, Alternate
Ric Ortega, Director

Division 4: Aaron Baker, Alternate
Richard Santos, Director
Dana Jacobson, Director
Joe Tonascia, Director

Division 5: Giana Olivera, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director

Friant Representative:
Absent

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Chief Strategic & Admin. Officer
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
Jaime McNeil, Engineering Director
Jacob Bejarano, Civil Eng. Manager
Cindy Meyer, Special Programs Manager
Stewart Davis, IT Officer
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

Others Present

Danny Wade, Tranquillity Irrigation District
Wilson Orvis, Friant Water Authority
Cindy Kao, Valley Water
Michelle Banonis
Scott Taylor, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lily MacKay, California Strategies (ZOOM)
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District
Levi Johnson, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (ZOOM)
Don Wright, Water Rights (ZOOM)

Agenda

Item	Topic	Lead
1.	Call to Order/Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:39 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.-6.	Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: 4) August 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes, August 27, 2026 Special Joint 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 Director Aaron Baker, the Board accepted the	

August 6, 2026 meeting minutes, August 27, 2026 Special Joint Workshop minutes, financial & expenditure reports, and staff reports. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Diedrich, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Olivera, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

7. **Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendations for Positions on Legislation:** Petersen

A. A.B. 2728 (Soria), Groundwater: de minimus extractors: fees: exemption – Watch position.

Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen reviewed the staff and Water Resources Committee recommendation for a watch position on the listed piece of legislation. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation.

M/S – Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Ric Ortega, the Board adopted the Staff Recommendation for Position on Legislation. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Diedrich, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Olivera, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

8. **Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Authorization to Execute Task Order with CDM Smith, Inc. and Related Increase in Expenditure of Up to \$887,617 for DMC Subsidence Correction Project Program Management Services** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed the memo included in the packet. Arroyave reported that authorizing execution of the proposed Task Order would allow CDM to provide program level implementation services in support of the DMC Subsidence Correction Project. Arroyave reported that under the new Task Order, CDM would support the Water Authority in its planning for implementation of all remaining tasks in Phase 1 of the Project. Arroyave answered questions throughout the presentation. Arroyave, McNeil

M/S – Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Bobby Pierce, the Board authorized execution of Task Order with CDM Smith, Inc. and related increase in expenditure of up to \$887,617 for DMC Subsidence Correction Project Program Management Services. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Diedrich, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Olivera, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

9. **Award of Golden Bucket in Recognition of Service and Contributions of Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority** – Executive Director Federico Barajas thanked Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave for his years of service, and considerable contributions to the Authority. Following the unanimous vote, Chair Michael and Executive Director Barajas presented Arroyave with the Golden Bucket Award. Arroyave expressed that he was honored to receive the Golden Bucket Award and also thanked his wife for attending in person and his family for joining via ZOOM. Several Board members and others also expressed their appreciation for Arroyave's dedication and service to the Authority. Michael, Barajas

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M/S – On a motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Director Aaron Baker, the Board approved awarding the Golden Bucket in recognition of the service and contributions of Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Diedrich, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Baker, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Olivera, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

10. **Status Update Regarding the DMC Subsidence Correction Project -** Barajas, Arroyave
Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed the PowerPoint presentation included in the packet, which summarized work completed on the project during August, and provided an overview of the project status. Staff responded to questions throughout the presentation.
11. **Update on Status of Golden Mussels –** Special Programs Manager Cindy Arroyave, Petersen, Meyer
Meyer reviewed the memo included in the packet. Meyer reported a significant increase in Golden Mussels at the O'Neill Pumping Plant; and stated that staff is developing a Mussel Control Plan. Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen provided an update on related legislative items. Arroyave and staff responded to questions throughout the presentation.
12. **Report on State & Federal Affairs** Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Petersen, MacKay
Scott Petersen provided federal updates including government funding, legislative items, and reported that there will be a Reclamation Forecasting Workshop October 1-2, 2026. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen introduced Lily MacKay, who provided a State Affairs update. Petersen and MacKay answered questions throughout the presentation.
13. **Executive Director's Report** Barajas
 - a. **Transition** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that, as part of the transition following Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave's departure, responsibilities would be covered by himself, General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd, and Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen. Barajas reported that the vacancy is posted on the Authority's web page and other platforms until October 18, 2026.
 - b. **OPP Repayment Contract** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that a public repayment negotiation session with Reclamation for the O'Neill Transformer Replacement Project took place the previous day.
 - c. **Training** – Chair Cannon Michael reminded Board members to comply with training requirements by submitting their completion certificates. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd informed the Board about SB-827 fiscal training, which is a new requirement.
14. **Chief Operating Officer's Report** Arroyave

- a. **OPP Transformer Rehab Outage** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the outage is going smoothly, and as expected.
 - b. **FY 2028 Budget** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff is working on a FY28 budget proposal that will be presented at the October 19, 2026 O&M Committee.
- 15. **Update on Water Operations and Forecasts** - Levi Johnson provided updates regarding operations, CVP supply, and reservoir storage. Johnson answered questions throughout the presentation. Arroyave, USBR
- 16. **Committee Reports** – No reports.
- 17. **Outside Agency/Organization Reports**
 - a. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in packet. Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen reported that FFA is in DC this week. Petersen reported that the FFA Conference is coming up in late October.
 - b. **Farm Water Coalition** – Report included in the packet. Director Bill Diedrich reported that there is an in-person Strategic Planning Session October 8, 2026.
 - c. **Association of California Water Agencies** – No report.
 - d. **San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Effort** – Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen provided a brief update.
 - e. **San Joaquin Collaborative Action Plan** – Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen provided a brief update.
 - f. **Central Valley Project Water Association (CVPWA)** – Director Anthea Hansen provided a brief update.
 - g. **Great Valley Farm Water Partnership (GVFWP)** – Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen provided a brief update.
 - h. **California Water Plan** – Chair Cannon Michael provided a brief update. Michael and staff responded to questions throughout the update.
- 18. **Board Member Reports** – Alternate Director Aaron Baker commented on the importance of relationships with the CVP as well as with the Authority as he moves into his new role as the Valley Water Chief Executive Officer.
- 19.-21. **Closed Session** – Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:19 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:57 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session. Akroyd, Barajas
- 22. **Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)** – No reports.
- 23. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:58 a.m.