

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY JOINT SPECIAL WORKSHOP OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE, AND FINANCE &  
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE SPECIAL JOINT WORKSHOP MINUTES  
JANUARY 17, 2024**

The Joint Special Workshop of the Board of Directors, Water Resources Committee, and Finance & Administration Committee of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:38 a.m. at Hotel Mission de Oro, 13070 South Hwy 33, Santa Nella, with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

**Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance**

**Division 1**

Anthea Hansen, Director  
Ed Pattison, Director

**Division 2**

Justin Diener, Alternate for Ross Franson  
William Bourdeau, Director  
Patrick McGowan, Alternate for Beau Correia, Director  
Bill Diedrich, Director

**Division 3**

Cannon Michael, Chair/Director  
Ric Ortega, Director

**Division 4**

Jim Beall, Alternate for Richard Santos  
Steve Wittry, Director  
Megan Holland, Alternate for Joseph Tonascia

**Division 5**

Allison Febbo, Director  
Manny Amorelli, Director

**Water Resources Committee Members Present**

**Ex-Officio**

Cannon Michael  
William Bourdeau

**Division 1**

Anthea Hansen, Alternate

**Division 2**

Bill Diedrich, Member

**Division 3**

Ric Ortega, Alternate

**Division 4**

Steve Wittry, Alternate

**Division 5**

Manny Amorelli, Alternate

**Finance & Administration Committee Members Present**

**Ex-Officio**

Cannon Michael  
William Bourdeau

**Division 1**

Anthea Hansen, Alternate

**Division 2**

Justin Diener, Member

**Division 3**

Absent

**Division 4**

Dana Jacobson, Alternate

**Division 5**

Manny Amorelli, Alternate

**Friant Water Authority**

Wilson Orvis, Alternate

**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  
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance  
Lauren Neves, Accountant III  
Darlene Neves, Accountant II  
Deanna Ratliff, Accountant II  
Laures Stiles, Director of HR  
Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director  
Jaime McNeill, Engineering Manager  
Chauncey Lee, O&M Manager  
Cheri Worthy, Executive Secretary  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition  
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair William Bourdeau and roll was called.

**2. Agenda Item 2: Board to Consider Corrections to the Agenda of Items**

None.

**3. Agenda Item 3: Opportunity for Public Comment**

None.

**4. Agenda Item 4: Review of Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operations, Maintenance and Replacement (OM&R), and Activity Budgets.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed FY25 OM&R Budget. Arroyave reviewed the process, components of the budget, budget comparison summary, proposed FY25 budget summary, and the detail regarding the routine OM&R and extraordinary OM&R components of the proposed budget. Finance Director Ray Tarka also provided detail regarding the status of excess EO&M Reserve funds. Arroyave and staff answered Board and committee member questions throughout the presentation, including regarding the two new positions included in the proposed budget.

Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the proposed FY25 Activity Budget material included in the packet. Barajas reviewed the FY24 to FY25 Comparison, FY25 Budget Expenditure Summary, FY24 Projected Actual Summary, and the Activity Agreements Budget to Actual. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd and Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided additional information regarding components of the Leg Ops and General Membership budgets, and Mike Wade from the Farm Water Coalition provided additional information on the Water Authority's communication plan. Staff responded to questions from Board and committee members throughout the presentation.

**5. Agenda Item 6: Review Preliminary Illustrative Water Year 2024 OM&R Rates**

Finance Director Ray Tarka reviewed the preliminary illustrative Water Year 2024 OM&R Rates based on 40% and 20% agricultural contractor allocation. Staff sought input regarding what Intertie wheeling cost assumptions should be built into the rates. Tarka reviewed San Luis Joint used budget costs, reserve components, and debt repayment. Tarka responded to questions from Board and committee members throughout the presentation.

**6. Agenda Item 8: Executive Director's Report.**

- a. **Reclamations New Regional Director (RD)**- Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Reclamation announced Karl Stock as their new RD for the California-Great Basin Region. Barajas reported that there will be a Meet and Greet with new RD at the upcoming Water Users Conference.
- b. **Jones Pumping Plant Excitation System & Control Modernization Project** –

Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Water Authority has received approval of a BIL Funding award of \$25 million.

- c. **John Watts-** Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that John Watts is now working as Senior Counsel to Reclamations Commissioner.
- d. **Continuing Resolution (CR) Update** – Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced Water Policy Director Scott Petersen, who reported that the President signed a Continuing Resolution that extends government funding for four appropriations bills, including Reclamation funding, through March 1, and the other 8 appropriations bills, through March 8.

7. **Agenda Items 9-11: Closed Session Report.**

Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 12:30 p.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 1:08 p.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd stated that no reportable actions were taken.

8. **Agenda Item 12: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2 (a) (3)**

No reports.

9. **Agenda Item 13: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:09 p.m.