

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES MARCH 7, 2024

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:31 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

**Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance**

**Division 1**

David Weisenberger, Director  
Bobby Pierce, Director  
Anthea Hansen, Director  
Ed Pattison, Director - Lea Emmons, Alternate (via ZOOM)

**Division 2**

Justin Diener, Alternate for Ross Franson (via ZOOM)  
William Bourdeau, Vice-Chair/Director  
Patrick McGowan, Alternate for Beau Correia  
Bill Diedrich, Director

**Division 3**

Chris White, Alternate for Dan McCurdy  
Jarrett Martin, Director  
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director

**Division 4**

John Varela, Director  
Steve Wittry, Director  
Joe Tonascia, Director - Megan Holland, Alternate

**Division 5**

Bill Pucheu, Director  
Allison Febbo, Director  
Manny Amorelli, Director

**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  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Katie Schoettler, Foley, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)  
Kristin Olsen, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)  
Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (via ZOOM)  
Karl Stock, Bureau of Reclamation  
Sarah Hadden, Bureau of Reclamation

Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition (via ZOOM)  
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water  
Vince Gin, Valley Water  
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District  
Vince Lucchesi (via ZOOM)  
Erick Johnson, The Water Agency (via ZOOM)

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cannon Michael and roll was called.

**2. Board to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**

No additions or corrections.

**3. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

**4. Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: a) February 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Acceptance of Staff Reports.**

On a motion of Director/Vice Chair William Bourdeau, seconded by Director David Weisenberger, the Board accepted the February 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Financial & Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Wittry, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**ACTION ITEMS**

**5. Agenda Item 7: Selection and Appointment of Fiscal Year 2025 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board Officers.**

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 a 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 2025 begins March 1, 2024.

On a motion of Director John Varela, seconded by Director David Weisenberger, the Board r e -

appointed Director Cannon Michael as Chair, Director William Bourdeau as Vice-Chair, and Executive Director Federico Barajas as Secretary. The vote on the motion was as follows:

- AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Wittry, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

**6. Agenda Item 8: Consent to the Admission of Eagle Field Water District and Patterson Irrigation District to the North to South Water Transfers Activity Agreement.**

Deputy General Counsel Rebecca Harms reported that after the North to South Water Transfers Activity Agreement was executed, two additional Authority members, Eagle Field Water District and Patterson Irrigation District, requested to become Activity Agreement members. Harms reported that the Activity Agreement states that no new Authority members may become Activity Agreement members without written consent from all of the other Activity Agreement members and the Authority Board of Directors. Harms reported that the seven current Activity Agreement members provided their written consent to the admission of Eagle Field and Patterson. Harms reported that staff recommends that the Authority Board of Directors consent to the admission of Eagle Field Water District and Patterson Irrigation District to the North to South Water Transfers Activity Agreement.

On a motion of Alternate Director Joe Tonascia, seconded by Director Bobby Pierce, the Board consented to the admission of Eagle Field Water District and Patterson Irrigation District to the North to South Water Transfers Activity Agreement. The vote on the motion was as follows:

- AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Pattison, Diener, Bourdeau, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Varela, Wittry, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

**REPORT ITEMS**

**5. Agenda Item 9: Presentation from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation California-Great Basin Region Regional Director.**

Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced Bureau of Reclamation California-Great Basin Regional Director Karl Stock. Stock then introduced Executive Assistant to the Regional Director Sarah Hadden. Stock provided an overview of Regional priorities and highlighted the roles of each of his Deputy Regional Directors. Stock discussed CVP contract allocation considerations, and asked for input regarding

the contractors risk tolerance relevant to contract allocations. Stock reported that he is coordinating a listening session prior to the March allocation update. Stock answered Board questions at the end of his presentation.

6. **Agenda Item 10: Report on State and Federal Affairs.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided updates related to federal staffing changes, B.F. Sisk Dam Raise negotiation sessions, Colorado River, the consultation on Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP, National Academy's Science Panel on CVP consultation, and government funding. Petersen provided a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Additional information was provided by consultants Katie Schoettler and Kristin Olsen.

7. **Agenda Item 11: Executive Director's Report.**

- a. **Partnership with the World Bank Conference/Water Security Seminar, Brazil Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported a Partnership with the World Bank that includes participation in an upcoming Conference/Water Security Seminar in Brazil later this month. Barajas reported that Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave will be attending and presenting for the Authority.
- b. **RFP – Salary Surveys** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the salary survey RFP was sent out earlier this week.

8. **Agenda Item 12: Chief Operating Officer's Report**

- a. **JPP Excitation Negotiation** – Chief Operating Office Pablo Arroyave reported that the next negotiation session with Reclamation is March 19, 2024 for the JPP Excitation Project Repayment Contract.
- b. **O'Neill Pumping Plant (OPP) Outage** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that there is a need for a 45-day outage at OPP to rehabilitate all three transformers, which should give the Authority 10-15 years before full replacements will need to be done. Arroyave reported that after discussion with the Reclamation's Front Office and CVO, staff decided to wait until March 20 before making any final decisions regarding the OPP Outage.

9. **Agenda Item 13: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced Liz Kiteck from the Central Valley Operations Office (CVO) of the Bureau of Reclamation. Kiteck provided updates regarding CVP storage, operations, and the latest forecasts.

10. **Agenda Item 14: Committee Reports.**

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – Chair William Bourdeau reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items.
- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Chair Anthea Hansen reported that the committee met and addressed agenda items.
- c. **O&M Committee** – Chair Chris White reported that the committee met and considered updating the thresholds.

11. **Agenda Item 15: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.**

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)** – No report.
- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in the packet. Chair Cannon Michael reported that long-time president Pat O’Toole passed away.
- c. **Farm Water Coalition (FWC)** – Brandon Souza provided a brief overview of the report included in the packet.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)** – Director John Varela reported that the ACWA Spring Conference is May 6-7 in Sacramento.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that included in the packet behind tab 5 is the Water Policy Memo from the Water Resources Committee with detailed information on the Blueprint.
- f. **SJV CAP** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that included in the packet behind tab 5 is the Water Policy Memo from the Water Resources Committee with detailed information on SJV CAP.
- g. **CVPWA** – Director Anthea Hansen reported that the quarterly Board meeting is March 21, 2024, and the Financial Affairs meeting is March 22, 2024.

12. **Agenda Item 16: Board Member Reports.**

No reports.

13. **Agenda Items 17-18: Closed Session Report.**

After allowing an opportunity for public comment, 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 11:58 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

14. **Agenda Item 19: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**

No report.

15. **Agenda Item 20: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:59 a.m.