Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 7/9/2026 | 9:30 AM
Location: SLDMWA Boardroom

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Present

Division 1: Dave Weisenberger, Director
Vince Lucchesi, Alternate
Anthea Hansen, Director
Lea Emmons, Alternate
Division 2: Justin Diener, Director (ZOOM)
William Bourdeau, Director
Aaron Barcellos, Director
Division 3: Chris White, Alternate
Jarrett Martin, Director
Mike Gardner, Alternate
Division 4: John Varela, Director
Richard Santos, Director
Dana Jacobson, Director
Joe Tonascia, Director
Division 5: Allison Febbo, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director
Friant Representative:
Wilson Orvis, Alt. FWA Rep.

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 (ZOOM)
Cindy Meyer, Special Programs Manager (ZOOM)
Jordan Freed, Legal/Legislative Policy Clerk
Stewart Davis, IT Officer
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

Others Present

Patrick McGowan, Panoche Water District
Mitch Partovi, Water Agency
Kristin Olsen-Cate, California Strategies (ZOOM)
Cindy Kao, Valley Water
Rain Emerson, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
Joe Hopkins, Provost and Pritchard
Levi Johnson, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Michelle Paul, Farm Water Coalition
Giana Olivera, Tranquillity Irrigation District
Scott Taylor, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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 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.	**Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: 4) June 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes, 5) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, and 6)**	

Acceptance of Staff Reports - M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director Aaron Barcellos, the Board accepted the June 4, 2026 meeting minutes, financial & expenditure reports, and staff reports. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

5. **Agenda Item 7: Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Authorization to Execute Agreement with Invariant and Related Expenditure of Up to $175,000 from the FY 2027 Leg Ops Budget -** Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen reviewed the memo and attachments included in the packet. Petersen reported that former Representative Dennis Cardoza has departed from Foley & Lardner, resulting in an analysis of Foley & Lardner's capacity to continue to meet the needs of the Water Authority and its member agencies. Petersen reported that in response to this analysis and in coordination with the Federal Affairs working group, Water Authority staff prepared and released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Federal Affairs and Coalition Coordination Services. Authority staff received two responses to the RFP, and in coordination with the Federal Affairs Workgroup, recommend executing an agreement with Invariant in the amount of $175,000. Petersen provided a brief background on Invariant and answered questions throughout the presentation. Petersen

On a motion made by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board authorized execution of agreement with Invariant and related expenditure of Up to $175,000 from the FY 2027 Leg Ops Budget. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

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

A. **A.B. 1436 (Avila Farias), State Air Resources Control Board: air pollution regulations: private fleets: exception** – Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Peterson removed this item from action, as bill is no longer moving forward.

B. **A.B. 1881 (Ramos), California Indian Freedom Act of 2026 –** Oppose Unless Amended

Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen reviewed the staff recommendations for position on the listed piece of legislation. Petersen answered questions throughout the presentation.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board adopted Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

7.	**Agenda Item 9: Recommendation to Adopt Resolution Authorizing Execution of Letter Agreement for Los Banos Creek Detention Dam Reservoir Re-Operation Project and Los Banos Creek Detention Dam Reservoir Re-Operation Project Activity Agreement -** Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the memo and attachments included in the packet. Barajas reported that adopting the proposed resolution and executing the proposed Letter of Agreement will enable the Water Authority to access non-reimbursable funds awarded for the project. Barajas reported that executing the proposed Activity Agreement will provide the mechanism for the Water Authority to utilize non-reimbursable funds with participating Agencies to carry out all activities necessary for completing the project. Barajas reported that while both the draft Letter of Agreement and draft Activity Agreement are near final, it is possible that some edits may be required before the documents are finalized and executed. Barajas reported that staff is requesting authorization to execute the draft Letter of Agreement and draft Activity Agreement in substantial form. Barajas answered questions throughout the presentation. M/S - Motion by Alternate Director Vince Lucchesi, seconded by Director Anthea Hansen, the Board adopted Resolution authorizing execution of Letter Agreement for Los Banos Creek Detention Dam Reservoir Re-Operation Project and Los Banos Creek Detention Dam Reservoir Re-Operation Project Activity Agreement. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.	Barajas
8.	**Agenda Item 10: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Adopting 2026 Revised Investment Policy for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority –** Director of Finance Ray Tarka reported that the Water Authority's Investment Policy's reference to specific statutes required an update to align it to the current law. Tarka reported that while updating the policy for the correct legal references, staff also refined the description of monies to invest and updated the investment selection criteria from a single word to a more detailed description of each. M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board adopted Resolution adopting 2026 Revised Investment Policy for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.	Tarka
9.	**Agenda Item 11: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Adopting Policy Providing for Prioritization of Use of OM&R Revenues and Superseding Resolution No. 2020-454 –** Director of Finance Ray Tarka reported that notable changes in the policy providing for prioritization of use for OM&R Revenues included adding a reference to the Water Authority executing	Tarka

the Second Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding with Friant Water Authority Relating to Allocation, Collection, and Payment of Operation, Maintenance & Replacement Costs on July 8, 2024, and on that same date, the Water Authority's Second Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for Authority became effective. Tarka reported that both of these documents are referenced in the definitions section of the policy, while the Friant MOU is further referenced in Section 2.4 of the policy. Tarka reported that updates to these references are necessary within the policy document.

M/S - Motion by Director Richard Santos, seconded by Alternate Director Chris White, the Board adopted Resolution adopting policy providing for prioritization of use of OM&R Revenues and superseding Resolution No. 2020-454. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Emmons, Diener, Bourdeau, Barcellos, White, Jarrett Martin, Gardner, Varela, Santos, Jacobson, Tonascia, Febbo, Amorelli, Orvis; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0.

10. **Agenda Item 12: Status Update Regarding the DMC Subsidence Correction Plan -** Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the DMC Subsidence Correction Project that was included in the packet. Arroyave reported that the contract with Kiewit was executed in the amount of $37.5 million. Arroyave reviewed the current status of the project including biological clearances and den destruction, potholing, wildlife exclusion fencing, equipment mobilized for construction setup, office laydown yard setup, risks/issues, next 30-days, and briefly touched on Phase 1-Task 2 preconstruction. Arroyave and staff answered questions throughout the presentation. — Barajas, Arroyave

11. **Agenda Item 13: Update on Status of Golden Mussels –** Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that golden mussels were detected in the Port of West Sacramento. Arroyave reported that golden mussels have been attaching to aquatic vegetation such as hyacinth. Arroyave reported that at O’Neill Pumping Plant there was a build-up of golden mussels in the suction elbow of Unit 3, but there are no operational impacts at this time. Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen provided an update on legislative items. Special Programs Manager Cindy Meyer provided additional updates including funding for monthly coordination calls, and the need for construction decontamination. Arroyave and staff answered questions throughout the presentation. — Arroyave, Petersen, Meyer

12. **Agenda Item 14: Report on State & Federal Affairs** Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen provided federal updates including ESA regulations, acting U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Commissioner Aubrey Bettencourt, Green Sturgeon, Trinity Consultation comments, Congressional action, ESA reform, surface transportation reform, draft Farm Bill, and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen introduced Kristin Olsen-Cate, who provided a State Affairs update. Petersen and Olsen-Cate answered questions throughout the presentation. — Petersen, Olsen

13.	**Agenda Item 15: Executive Director's Report** **a. DMC Groundbreaking -** Executive Director Federico Barajas reported the Water Authority is working with Reclamation and Friant Water Authority to schedule an event to highlight OBBBA funding for the Delta-Mendota Canal and the Friant-Kern Canal. **b. Temperature Management -** Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that included in the packet is a letter exchange between Reclamation and State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on temperature management Plan. **c. Tribal Beneficial Use (TBU) Guidance Document –** Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the State Water Resources Control Board has scheduled a public workshop July 22, 2026. Barajas reported that comments on the draft TBU guidance are due by the end of August 2026. **d. Board Member Update –** Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the funeral for Director Bill Pucheu's wife is taking place July 10, 2026 in Fresno. e. **Headshots for Website** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported headshots are available in the small conference room, which will be used for the new website.	Barajas
14.	**Agenda Item 16: Chief Operating Officer's Report** **a. Transfers** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported the Water Authority has been working with Yuba Water Agency and DWR to make Yuba transfer water available starting in July. b. **Operations –** Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave provided a brief update on various maintenance projects.	Arroyave
15.	**Agenda Item 17: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts –** Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave referenced the latest forecasts included in the packet**.** Arroyave provided updates regarding operations, CVP supply, and reservoir storage. Arroyave answered questions throughout the presentation.	Arroyave, USBR
16.	**Agenda Item 18: Committee Reports** – No reports.	
17.	**Agenda Item 19: Outside Agency/Organization Reports** **a. Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** – Report included in packet. Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen reported that there is an upcoming Strategic Planning session this month. **b. Farm Water Coalition** – Michelle Paul reviewed the report included in the packet and provided additional information. **c. Association of California Water Agencies** – Director John Varela provided an update on the selection of new Executive Director Karla Nemeth, who will begin service in September, and suggested inviting her to a future Board meeting. **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 reported that FWA Alternate Representative Wilson Orvis is the new president of the CVPWA Board of Directors. Wilson Orvis provided a brief update on the strategic planning meeting that occurred earlier this week. Director Anthea Hansen provided additional information.

g. Great Valley Farm Water Partnership (GVFWP) – Chief Strategic & Administrative Officer Scott Petersen reported GVFWP met yesterday, and had discussions regarding sediment removal work, governance, and organizational framework. Director Anthea Hansen provided additional information.

18. **Agenda Item 20: Board Member Reports** – No reports.

19. **Agenda Items 21-23: Closed Session** – Vice-Chair William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:12 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:50 a.m., Vice-Chair William Bourdeau reported that no reportable actions were taken in closed session. Akroyd, Barajas

Agenda Item 24: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3) – No reports.

Agenda Item 25: Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:51 a.m.