

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING AND  
JOINT FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING-SPECIAL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP  
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

The Finance & Administration Committee of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 12:00 p.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Chair Anthea Hansen presiding.

**Members and Alternate Members in Attendance**

**Ex Officio**

Cannon Michael  
William Bourdeau

**Division 1**

Anthea Hansen, Chair/Member

**Division 2**

Justin Diener, Member

**Division 3**

Chris White, Member - Jarrett Martin, Alternate

**Division 4**

Dana Jacobson, Member - Brett Miller, Alternate

**Division 5**

Bill Pucheu, Member - Manny Amorelli, Alternate

**Friant Water Authority**

Wilson Orvis, Alternate

**Board of Directors Present**

**Division 1**

Anthea Hansen, Director

**Division 2**

Justin Diener, Alternate  
William Bourdeau, Director

**Division 3**

Chris White, Alternate  
Jarrett Martin, Director  
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director

**Division 4**

Aaron Baker, Alternate  
Jeff Cattaneo, Director

**Division 5**

Manny Amorelli, Director

**FWA Representatives**

Wilson Orvis, Alternate

**Authority Representatives Present**

Federico Barajas, Executive Director  
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer  
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel  
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel  
Raymond Tarka, Director of Finance  
Lauren Viers, Accounting Manager  
Jaime McNeil, Engineering Manager (via ZOOM)  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer  
Eddie Reyes, Information Systems Technician

**Others in Attendance**

Jordyn Vannorsdel, Water Wise  
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District (via ZOOM)  
Lea Emmons, City of Tracy  
Steven Farmer, Westlands Water District (via ZOOM)

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

Chair Anthea Hansen called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. and roll was called.

**2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda**

No additions or corrections.

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment.

**4. Finance & Administration Committee to Consider Approval of the August 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes.**

Chair Anthea Hansen deemed the August 5, 2024 meeting minutes approved as submitted.

**5. Recommendation to Authorize Execution of Professional Services Agreement and Task Order with the Hallmark Group for Project Management and Design Review Services for the DMC Subsidence Correction Project and Related Expenditure of Up to \$470,375 from DWR Grant Funds.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item. Arroyave provided a brief

background on the project and discussed the need for project management and design review services. Arroyave then referred to Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil to provide additional detail on the current funding and the purpose and qualifications of hiring the Hallmark Group for the DMC Subsidence project management and design review services. On a motion made by Member Bill Pucheu, seconded by Member Dana Jacobson, the Committee recommended the Board of Directors authorize execution of the proposed Professional Services Agreement and Task Order with the Hallmark Group for Project Management and Design Review Services for the DMC Subsidence Correction Project and related expenditure of up to \$470,375 from DWR Grant Funds. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Michael, Bourdeau, Hansen, Diener, White, Jacobson, Pucheu, Orvis  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**6. Recommendation to Authorize Execution of Task Orders with DHR Hydro Services for Project Management of the O’Neill Pumping Plant Transformer Rehabilitation and Jones Pumping Plant Excitation Cabinet and Control Panel Refurbishment Projects and Related Expenditure of Up to \$184,940 from EO&M Budgets.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item. Arroyave gave a background on the project and then referred to Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil. McNeil then provided additional details on DHR Hydro Services qualifications as project manager for the O’Neill Pumping Plant Transformer Rehabilitation and Jones Pumping Plant Excitation Cabinet and Control Panel Refurbishment projects, as well as upcoming plans for both projects. On a motion of Member Justin Diener, seconded by Member Chris White, the Committee recommended the Board of Directors authorize execution of the proposed of Task Orders with DHR Hydro Services for project management of the O’Neill Pumping Plant Transformer Rehabilitation and Jones Pumping Plant Excitation Cabinet and Control Panel Refurbishment Projects and related expenditure of up to \$184,940 from the EO&M Budget. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Michael, Bourdeau, Hansen, Diener, White, Jacobson, Pucheu, Orvis  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**7. Recommendation to Authorize Execution of Financial Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, for the Delta-Mendota Canal – Solar-Over-Canals Project.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item by providing background on the funding and outlining the Solar-over-Canals project. Arroyave noted this is pilot project and all costs of the project, including staff time, will be paid by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. On a motion of Member Bill Pucheu, seconded by Member Dana Jacobson, the Committee recommended the Board of Directors authorize execution of Financial Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, for the Delta-Mendota Canal – Solar-Over-Canals Project. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Michael, Bourdeau, Hansen, Diener, White, Jacobson, Pucheu, Orvis
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

## REPORT ITEMS

### 8. Discussion Regarding Payment of OM&R Water Rates for Water Transfers.

Director of Finance Raymond Tarka introduced the item noting that OM&R water rate payments for water transfers are not consistent. Tarka stated that members purchasing water that is being used within the Authority membership are required to pay timely. However, water transfers from an Authority member to an outside member can take up to two years before repayment is received. Tarka informed the committee of the need to create a more consistent policy to include timely payments. Tarka committed to bring back a recommendation to the Committee at a later meeting, in advance of Fiscal Year 2026.

### 9. FY23 Activity Agreements Budget to Actual Report through 7/31/2024

Director of Finance Raymond Tarka presented the Budget to Actual Report through July 31, 2024 for the Activity Agreement funds. Tarka stated for the five-month period, the budget was trending positive overall with actual spending ending July 31, 2024 at 18.67% of the approved budget.

### 10. FY23 O&M Budget to Actual Report through 7/31/2024

Director of Finance Raymond Tarka reported that for WY24, the self-funded routine O&M expenses through July 31, 2024 were over budget by \$420,664. This is mainly due to the timing of expenditures for O&M expenses in most cost pools and labor expenses that will not be allocated to specific projects until later in the year. The water year 2022 and 2023 final accountings, fiscal year 2023 and 2024 audits, and the Intertie OM&R cost recovery remain outstanding.

**II. Procurement Activity Report**

Director of Finance Raymond Tarka presented the procurement activity report for the period of August 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024. There were no contracts or change orders issued during this time.

**12. Executive Director's Report.** Executive Director Federico Barajas provided the following updates:

- a. **Planning Committee** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the first Planning Committee meeting will take place today at 1:30 p.m. following the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting.
- b. **Draft EIS Comments** – Executive Director Federico Barajas referred to Water Policy Director Scott Petersen to provide an update regarding comments submitted to Reclamation on the draft Environmental Impact Statement on proposed long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.
- c. **Operational Update** – Executive Director Federico Barajas referred to Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave to provide an operations update. Arroyave stated that four of the pumps are operational at the Intertie and the Authority is still working to repair the remaining two damaged pumps. Demand is still being met with the current four operational pumps.

**13. Committee Member Reports**

Member Bill Pucheu provided a brief report regarding recent remarks from former Executive Director Dan Nelson regarding the Water Authority's history.

**14. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Sec 54954.2**

No reports.

**15. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:05 p.m.