

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
MINUTES – OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 16, 2023**

The Operations & Maintenance Technical Committee of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Chris White in the Authority's Board Room, 842 6th Street in Los Banos.

**Committee Members Present**

**Exchange Contractors**

Chris White, Chair

**Friant Water Authority**

Chris Hickernell, Member

**Lower DMC Area**

Absent

**Mendota Pool Area**

Absent

**San Felipe Area**

Gary Nagaoka, Member (via Zoom)

**San Luis Canal Area**

Bill Pierce, Member - Kelly Vandergon, Alternate

**SLDMWA Technical Staff**

Bob Martin, Member - Jaime McNeil, Alternate

**Upper DMC**

Bobby Pierce, Member - Paul Stearns, Alternate

**USBR**

Absent

**SLDMWA Staff Members Present**

Federico Barajas, Executive Director

Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

Jim Lenhardt, Electrical Project Specialist

Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel (via ZOOM)

Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel (via ZOOM)

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Chauncey Lee, O&M Manager

Ray Tarka, Finance Director

**Others Present**

Lea Emmons, City of Tracy

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

Committee Chair Chris White called the meeting to order and roll was called.

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

None.

**3. Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment.

**4. Committee to Consider Approval of October 17, 2022 O&M Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

Member Bobby Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Member Bill Pierce seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYE:	White, Hickernell, Nagaoka, Bill Pierce, Martin, Bobby Pierce
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

**5. Committee to Consider Recommendation to the Finance and Administration Committee Regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 OM&R Budget, Including Routine OM&R and Extraordinary OM&R/Capital Improvement Project Budgets.**

- Member Bob Martin introduced the item, and highlighted the revised format.
- O&M Manager Chauncey Lee reviewed the 3% salary placeholder.
- Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave clarified that the August CIP was 3.7, and the new September CIP is 3.9.
- O&M Manager Chauncey Lee reviewed the memo, packet items, and increases in RO&M line items.
- Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave described the new IT position, and answered questions from the committee members.
- Finance Director Ray Tarka described the new accounting position.
- Justification will be presented to the Finance & Administration Committee
- Special Projects Justification Form

- Member Jaime McNeil and O&M Manager Chauncey Lee reviewed.
- Skid Steer hydraulic angle broom attachment – committee discussed adding second item, instead of just one.
- Member Jaime McNeil reviewed the proposed EO&M projects, and staff answered committee member questions.
- Member Chris Hickernell questioned whether the Authority had enough labor to cover these projects including JPP excitation and DMC subsidence. Staff responded to the question in the course of their presentation.
- Member Bob Martin walked through EO&M Program Management consultant agreement request, which would allow staff to focus more on RO&M activities and projects. He indicated that Member Jaime McNeil would manage this contract.
- Electrical Project Specialist Jim Lenhardt reviewed needed heavy equipment (flatbed tilt trailer). Lenhardt reported that staff looked at used trailers, but they were in worse condition than the current Authority equipment.
- Electrical Project Specialist Jim Lenhardt reviewed Authority vehicle needs.
- Member Jaime McNeil reviewed description of facility infrastructure replacement/rehab program.

Committee Member Bobby Pierce motioned for the Committee to Consider recommendation to the Finance and Administration Committee regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 OM&R Budget, including routine OM&R and extraordinary OM&R/Capital Improvement Project Budgets. Member Bill Pierce seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYE:	White, Hickernell, Nagaoka, Bill Pierce, Martin, Bobby Pierce
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd noted that a formal recommendation requires 8 committee members, and only 6 members are present, so the proposed budget will be moving to the Finance & Administrative Committee with an informal recommendation.

#### **6. Review of Status of Current O&M Projects.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave introduced the item, beginning review of the status of current O&M projects. Arroyave described the present need for Emergency Reserve Funds, and how staff would approach the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Finance &

Administration Committee to authorize the use of such funds. Arroyave noted that the new emergency reserve work could be up to \$850,000. Arroyave described the need for up to \$250,000 for a second emergency reserve project as well, to repair damage on the DMC and the risk to the integrity of canal (downstream of Check 18). If approved, the Authority will have up to 5 years to repay the reserve fund. The actions will go to the Finance & Administration Committee, and the Board of Directors.

Member Jaime McNeil then reviewed the status of other current OM&R projects.

**7. Review of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Aging Infrastructure Projects Funding Application Process and Proposed Projects Staff Recommends Including in Application.**

Member Bob Martin reviewed four projects related to the O'Neill Pumping Plant Upgrades Project, including the Pump Bowl replacement.

**8. Review of Capital Improvement Program 10 Year Plan.**

Member Jaime McNeil provided a brief overview of the Capital Improvement Program 10 Year Plan.

**9. Review of Status of Preventive Maintenance Program for the Jones Pumping Plant, Intertie Pumping Plant, O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant, and Delta-Mendota Canal.**

O&M Manager Chauncey Lee reviewed the status of the preventative maintenance (PM) program. He described the need to go through process for all PM's, identify frequency of work, and switch over from Oracle to Shepherd. He described the labor-intensive effort involved in the program. Overall, Lee indicated that manpower has been an issue: staff was short on electricians and an apprentice that is limited, which explains why PM's are a hit or miss.

Member Bob Martin committed to providing information on PMs in monthly Board reports.

**10. Review Action Items from Meeting**

No action items.

**11. Confirm Date, Time, and Location for Next Meeting**

Schedule of next meeting not confirmed.

**12. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Sec 54954.2 (a)(3)**

No reports given.

13.    **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.