

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES MAY 16, 2024

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:32 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
Ed Pattison, Director (arrived during item II)

Division 2

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

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate for Dan McCurdy
Cannon Michael, Chair/Director
Ric Ortega, Director

Division 4

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate
Richard Santos, Director
Jeff Cattaneo, Director
Joe Tonascia, Director - Megan Holland, Alternate (via ZOOM)

Division 5

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

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer (via ZOOM)
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance (via ZOOM)
Stewart Davis, IT Officer
Eddie Reyes, IS Technician

Others in Attendance

Kristin Olsen, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP (via ZOOM)
Liz Kiteck, Bureau of Reclamation (via ZOOM)
Mike Wade, Farm Water Coalition (via ZOOM)

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
Richard Switzer

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 4-7: Board to Consider: a) April 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report for the Quarter Ending March 31, 2024, and d) Acceptance of Staff Reports.

On a motion of Director William Bourdeau, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board accepted the April 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Financial & Expenditures Reports, Treasurer’s Report, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

ACTION ITEMS

5. Agenda Item 8: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Adoption of the Second Amended and Restated San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Actions Related Thereto.

6. Agenda Item 9: Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Adoption of Amendments to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Bylaws.

Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced the items and noted the Finance & Administration Committee’s recommendation to adopt both proposed resolutions, and then referred to General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd to review the memo provided to the Board. Akroyd outlined the proposed changes to the JPA per the amended MOU with Friant Water Authority. Akroyd then reviewed the resolution included in the packet.

Next, General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reviewed the resolution that outlined the proposed changes to the Bylaws per the amended MOU with Friant Water Authority.

On a motion of Director Bill Pucheu, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board adopted the resolution authorizing adoption of the Second Amended and Restated San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and actions related thereto. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

On a separate motion of Director Bill Pucheu, seconded by Director Richard Santos, the Board adopted the resolution authorizing adoption of amendments to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Bylaws. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

7. Agenda Item 10: Water Resources Committee Regarding Adoption of Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation.

- a. **A.B. 2661 (Soria), Electricity: Transmission Facility Planning: Westlands Water District – Support and Amend**
- b. **A.B. (Bennett), Groundwater Extraction: Large-Diameter, High-Capacity Water Wells: permits – Oppose Unless Amended**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed the memo included in the packet describing staff recommendations for positions on legislation, and highlighted the Water Resources Committee recommendation regarding the same. Petersen answered Board member questions throughout the presentation.

On a motion of Director Joe Tonascia, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the Board adopted the Water Resources Committee recommendation to adopt staff recommendation for positions on legislation. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

8. **Agenda Item 11: Adoption of Strategic Plan Implementation Plan including FY25 Priorities.**

Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed the memo, copy of the Strategic Plan, and the Implementation Plan spreadsheet included in the packet. Barajas reported that staff developed a Strategic Implementation Plan including proposed Fiscal Year 2025 priorities. Barajas reported that staff highlighted items from the implementation plan as high priority items for the current Fiscal Year 2025. Barajas reported that high priority actions are defined as “must do” actions, and may include new or additional efforts for staff to undertake to fulfill goals and/or objectives. Barajas reported that staff will provide update on the Strategic Plan implementation progress in 6 months.

On a motion of Director Bill Diedrich, seconded by Director Ric Ortega, the Board adopted the Strategic Plan implementation plan including FY25 priorities. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Pattison, Franson, Bourdeau, McGowan, Diedrich, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Santos, Cattaneo, Tonascia, Pucheu, Febbo, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

REPORT ITEMS

9. **Agenda Item 12: Presentation Providing Brown Act Overview.**

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd introduced Jeffrey Mitchell from the law firm of Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard. Mitchell walked through a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the Ralph M. Brown Act. Mitchell answered Board member questions throughout the presentation

10. **Agenda Item 13: Report on State and Federal Affairs.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided updates related to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior Department nominee, funding announcements, the consultation on Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP, Water Resources Development Act, and the Farm Bill. Petersen additionally provided a California legislative update. Petersen answered Board questions throughout his presentation. Additional information was provided by consultants Dennis Cardoza and Kristin Olsen.

II. **Agenda Item 14: Executive Director’s Report.**

- a. **Media Training** – Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced Nick Janes from JComm, Inc., and informed the Board that Janes also represents the Authority on the ACWA Communications Committee. Janes introduced Kris Pickel, Director of Content Development and Media Engagement, who presented a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Media

Training Program. Janes also discussed video production services.

- b. **Reclamation's San Luis Reservoir Accounting Spreadsheet** - Executive Director Federico Barajas requested that member agencies provide feedback on the new accounting spreadsheet that Reclamation sent out regarding the San Luis Reservoir water supply Accounting.
- c. **Byron Bethany Irrigation District Event** - Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced Director Ed Pattison. Pattison reported that there will be a building dedication in honor of Byron Bethany Irrigation District's former General Manager, Rick Gilmore, on June 13, 2024.

12. Agenda Item 15: Chief Operating Officer's Report

- a. **O'Neill Pumping Plant (OPP) Outage** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that there may be a potential 45-60-day outage at O'Neill Pumping Plant beginning July 8, 2024, to perform necessary maintenance work. Arroyave reported that high delivery demands are anticipated, which would allow demands to be fully met using Jones Pumping Plant. Arroyave reported that minimal loss of San Luis Reservoir storage is anticipated.
- b. **Emergency Reserve Funds** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that emergency reserve funds were used for the repair of Check 18 concrete lining and DMC concrete repair/farm bridge at Mile Post 41.49. Arroyave reported that both repair projects were completed under budget, and the Authority will begin a 2-year payback.
- c. **Jones Pumping Plant Outage** - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that there will be an outage next week to allow Reclamation replace gates at the Tracy Fish Facility.

13. Agenda Item 16: 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.

14. Agenda Item 17: Committee Reports.

- a. **Water Resources Committee** - No report.
- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** - No report.
- c. **O&M Committee** - No report.

15. Agenda Item 18: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)** - No report.
- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)** - Report included in the packet.

- c. **Farm Water Coalition (FWC)** – Mike Wade provided a brief overview of the report included in the packet.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)** – Director John Varela reported that there was an increase in attendance at the ACWA Spring Conference last week. Varela reported that membership has also increased.
- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint)** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the packet includes the Water Policy Memo from the Water Resources Committee meeting with detailed information on the Blueprint.
- f. **SJV CAP** - Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Water Policy Memo from the Water Resources Committee meeting includes detailed information on SJV CAP.
- g. **CVPWA** – No report.

16. **Agenda Item 19: Board Member Reports.**
No reports.

17. **Agenda Items 20-21: 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 11:40 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 12:03 p.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd stated that no reportable actions were taken.

18. **Agenda Item 22: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**
No report.

19. **Agenda Item 23: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:04 p.m.