

**SAN LUIS & DELTA MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
MINUTES - OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Committee Chairman Chris White at the Authority's Board Room, 842 6th Street in Los Banos.

**Committee Members Present**

**Exchange Contractors**

Chris White, Central California Irrigation District

Chase Hurley, Henry Miller Reclamation District, Alternate

**Friant Water Authority**

Chris Hickernell, Friant Water Authority

Eric Wilson, Friant Water Authority, Alternate

**Lower DMC Area**

Jeff Bryant, Firebaugh Canal Water District

**Mendota Pool Area**

Danny Wade, Tranquility Irrigation District

**San Felipe Area**

Robert Haskins, Santa Clara Valley Water District

**San Luis Canal Area**

Dan Pope, Westlands Water District

Dennis Falaschi, Panoche Water District

Bill Pierce, Westlands Water District, Alternate

**SLDMWA**

Steve Larsen, Maintenance Manager

Bob Martin, Engineering & Planning Manager, Alternate

**Upper DMC**

Bobby Pierce, West Stanislaus Irrigation District

**USBR**

David Tsao, Reclamation, SCCAO, Tracy Office

**SLDMWA Staff Members Present**

Jason Peltier, Executive Director

Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director

Paul Stearns, Operations Manager

Guy Wamocho, Supervisor of Accounting

Jim Lenhardt, Safety Engineer

Jon Rubin, Senior Staff Counsel

### **Others Present**

Janet Gutierrez, San Luis Water District  
Lon Martin, San Luis Water District  
Steve Ottemoeller, Friant Water Authority

### **Corrections or Additions to the Agenda**

None

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

None

### **Committee to Consider Approval of October 17, 2014 O & M Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**

Steve Larsen made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Jeff Bryant seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was follows:

AYE: White, Hickernell, Wade, Haskins, Falaschi, Pope, Bryant, Larsen and Pierce.

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

### **Committee to Consider or Recommendation to the Finance & Administration Committee Approval of the O&M Budget including the Extra-Ordinary and Routine O & M Budget for FY17/18**

Frances Mizuno began the budget discussion by noting that there is a considerable increase in the proposed budget from the current year budget. This increase is mainly due to the filling of three vacant positions and adding three new positions. She noted that during the last budget meeting, it was noted that the Authority had been cutting costs, but these reductions could not be sustained for long. The Authority staff has reviewed the status of the deferred work and deemed it necessary to fill vacant positions and to increase the staffing level. With approval from the chair (Chris White), the staff reviewed the justifications for the staffing. Paul Stearns reviewed the filling of the vacant positions (Maintenance Worker and Equipment Operator), and then reviewed the conversion of the Assistant Water Operations Superintendent to an Operations Foreman. Steve Larsen reviewed the need for two new electrician positions, and Frances Mizuno discussed the need for an Accountant position. Jeff Bryant and Dennis Falaschi were concerned of the plant reliability might be compromised if the positions are not filled. Dan Pope was concerned with the age of the equipment and noted that it would need considerably more attention due to its age. Danny Wade was in agreement for all positions. Steve Ottemoeller was concerned that the new Operations Foreman was not fully justified. Frances Mizuno then noted that Steve Larsen had let her know that he intended to retire next year and having an Operations Foreman is needed to assist with the necessary transition. Jeff Bryant noted that he knows that both Paul and Chauncey Lee are overwhelmed with work due to both the normal workload and the drought activities.

Danny Wade made a motion to approve the positions as presented. Dennis Falaschi seconded the motion. There was a call for discussion. Dan Pope stated that the risk of not operating JPP was more important than the increase in the budget. Chris Hickernell stated that he knows that older equipment needs to be maintained to keep it operating. Discussion was closed

AYE: White, Pierce, Hickernell, Haskins, Larsen, Pope, Wade, Falaschi, Bryant and Tsao

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Steve Larsen then presented an overview of the balance of the Routine O&M budget. He provided information on the parts, materials, services and new equipment.

Dan Pope made a motion to approve the Routine O&M as presented. Bobby Pierce seconded the motion. There was a call for discussion. No discussion by the members

AYE: White, Hickernell, Wade, Haskins, Larsen, Falaschi, Pope, Pierce, Bryant and Tsao

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Bob Martin, Steve Larsen and Jim Lenhardt provided an overview of the EO&M projects listed on the summary sheet for FY 17 and the Reserve Funds for equipment, vehicles, facilities and computers. The discussions went over the need for the individual projects and the impacts should they be deferred. The members were in support of all of the projects and only had minimal comments on the equipment and vehicles.

Jeff Bryant made a motion to approve the Extra Ordinary O&M as presented. Danny Wade seconded the motion. There was a call for discussion. Dan Pope asked what projects, if any, could be deferred should there be a need to reduce the budget. Bob Martin thought that the only project that could be deferred without substantial impacts to the overall reliability to our system would be the O&M Road maintenance project (chip seal). Committee members commented that a deferral of this work would only cause greater damage to the road and would ultimately increase maintenance cost.

AYE: White, Hickernell, Wade, Haskins, Larsen, Falaschi, Pope, Pierce, Bryant, and Tsao

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

## Review Actions Items from Meeting

**Confirm Date, Time, and Location for Next Meeting**  
Committee will not convene again until April 2016 or later.

## Reports Pursuant to Government Code Sec 54954.2

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.