

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 12, 2019
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District met in regular session in the District Boardroom at 9:00 a.m. President Kamper called the meeting to order and led the flag salute. Upon roll-call the following members were noted present:

DIRECTORS: HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER KUIL ROOS

ABSENT: NONE

Also present were General Manager, Peter M. Rietkerk; General Counsel, Mia Brown; Engineering Department Manager, Forrest Killingsworth; and Clerk of the Board, Betty Garcia.

Public Comment - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Warrants in the amount of \$347,309.86; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$269,936.13; and payroll dated March 1, 2019 in the amount of \$216,130.27.
- B. Approval of the regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2019.
- C. Consent to SSJID's entry of property to read and to maintain flow meter for David & Fanny Lam, APN 247-020-19.
- D. Consent to SSJID's entry of property to read and to maintain flow meter for Jeffrey & Joseph Rampoldi and Dominick Faria, APN 249-030-36 and 249-030-37.
- E. Consent to SSJID's entry of property to read and to maintain flow meter for Nick and Judy Bellino, APN 249-110-50.
- F. Consider approval of encroachment request from City of Escalon at Lateral Ka.

A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Kuil to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER KUIL ROOS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS

Director Kuil said he would be attending the ESJGWA board and Advisory Committee meetings on Wednesday, March 13.

Director Kamper stated that he would not be attending the March Tri-Dam meeting.

Ed Erisman, Water Treatment Plant Manager:

- Staff harvested and shipped several dozen fibers to be tested by Suez for fouling type and severity. They will also perform different cleaning methods on them to determine if another procedure would be more effective. RF McDonald rebuilt the pump and motor for membrane

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train number 5 and have been reinstalled, laser aligned and are back into service. Train number 7 has been removed and the motor was sent to RF McDonald's shop to be rewound and balanced with new bearings. Our newest plant mechanic, Chris Avila worked with the RF McDonald crew to disassemble the pump in our shop. Chris believes that moving forward he will be able to handle the pump rebuilds in-house.

- During a routine inspection of tank #5, a small leak was detected around one of the flange fitting. It was determined that the leak was caused by a small crack in the tank at the flange connection. PolyProcess, the tank manufacturer, was called out to inspect the crack. They determined there were a few options. They could install a 15-bolt patch which has no guarantee; Live with the leak and hope it doesn't get worse; or replace the tank. Since the tank is still under the 5-year warranty, we called Burlingame Engineers to see if a replacement tank would be covered. We are still waiting for their response.

Bere Lindley, Assistant General Manager

- Reported that SDRMA has notified us of workers compensation rates and premiums for the coming coverage year that begins July1, 2019. Our premium is increasing 29% or \$82,000. The largest factor in the increase is the rise in our experience modification from 86% to 104%. The experience modification is total adjusted losses divided by total expected losses. A much lesser factor is a rate increase of 5%, which follows an 8% rate decrease a year ago. The smallest factor in the cost increase is the 3% wage hike at the beginning of the calendar year. He has asked Walt Luihn, Safety Supervisor, to develop a protocol for responding to on-the-job injuries that includes utilizing SDRMA's telephone triage program, and training adjustments to target the causes of injuries.
- He praised the accounting group for maintaining a 10-day accounting close for the last six months. A closing checklist was created in Smartsheet for the closing process.
- He praised all the budgeters for entering their budget variance explanations into a special Smartsheet designed by Sarah Bloom within one day of Sarah's monthly request.

Troylene Sayler, Public Relations Director

- Workforce and Culture Committee are recruiting staff volunteers to participate in the Love Escalon event which is being held on Saturday, April 13, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- SSJID is hosting "Bring Your Child to Work Day" on Thursday, April 25 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The event is open to children/grandchildren of SSJID staff. It will be an opportunity for the children to learn about the District's purpose and how various departments play a role in its operations.
- Retirement party for Betty Garcia will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at 2:00 p.m.
- Boys and Girls Club Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, May 3 at the Manteca Golf Course.
- San Joaquin Farm Bureau is hosting their Annual Taste of San Joaquin Fund Raiser on Thursday, March 21.
- Grower Newsletter will be going to the printer and mailed on Thursday.

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Frank Avila, Irrigation Operations Manager:

- He stated that all projects have been completed and staff is ready start the 2019 water season.

Water Department/Maintenance Department:

- W, Wc, and the Q-F lines are complete and all have new slip meters.
- All float valve projects are ready for operation.
- Maintenance work on the Joint Supply Canal (JSC) and Main Supply Canal (MSC) is complete. We are installing the weeper plugs today and we are planning to bring water into Woodward Reservoir tomorrow.
- Frankenheimer power plant trash rack project is complete; we also performed plaster work on the canal and around the trash rack making Frankenheimer ready for operation.
- Bank work on the MSC next to Condi property was suspended due to safety concerns because of the rain. Weather permitting, staff will be going there next week to complete that project.
- We will be removing the blocks at the radial arm gate today and setting it for summer operations.
- We are removing dirt dams at all slip meter sites.
- Division 4 plaster and repairing of the laterals is finished.
- Division managers are training on the new realignment lines, preparing to run water. They will also be checking gates and will be on the lookout for down vents.

Shop Department

- James was on vacation last week and is returning on Thursday, March 14.
- Welding crews are installing the slides on the cut down pour over wall project.
- Safety rails have been installed on a few control boxes and four trash racks have been built.
- Installed a control gate on the Va-line.
- The main shop is preparing the Division trucks for water season while keeping the remaining fleet running performing maintenance as needed.
- Distribution of new uniforms from UniFirst was put on hold; James wanted to be at work to help distribution of the uniforms.

MDC/Telemetry Department

- Telemetry Department continues to work on the installations of the new gates and the Slip-Meters at the W, WC lines and QF-lines. They also installed two IQ-Meters on the Q-line control boxes.
- Working on SCADA and Radio communications for all sites preparing the system for water.

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Forrest Killingsworth, Engineering Department Manager:
Canyon Tunnel

- Mr. Mangante has signed and returned our access agreement however, as of last Thursday, Mr. Bruner indicated he had not yet reviewed the document. As a result, the initial alignment survey has been postponed a week.

Master Encroachment Agreements

- We have started the process to develop a Master Encroachment Agreement with the City of Escalon utilizing the same form established for the City of Ripon. We hope to have a draft for the board to consider in the next Board Meeting or two.

Pleasant Valley Road Bridge

- Stanislaus County has shut down the Pleasant Valley Road Bridge over the Main supply canal about a half mile upstream of Victory Road. The bridge has been shut down due to safety concerns related to deterioration of the timber support structure. Our Engineering staff will be meeting with representatives from the County tomorrow to discuss future plans for the bridge.

Peter Rietkerk, General Manager:
He reported on the following items:

Water Supply Update:

- Precipitation
 - San Joaquin River 5 Station Index is measuring approximately **39.4 inches** or **135 percent** of average precipitation to date for the 2018 - 2019 water season.
 - Northern Sierra 8-Station Index indicates approximately **52.9 inches** or **138 percent** of average precipitation to date for the 2018-2019 water season.
- Snowpack
 - Northern California Sierra snow sensors are measuring approximately **148-percent** of April 1 average and **156-percent** of normal to-date.
 - Central California Sierra snow sensors are measuring approximately **153-percent** of April 1 average and **165-percent** of normal to-date.
 - Southern California Sierra snow sensors are measuring approximately **150-percent** of April 1 average and **161-percent** of normal to-date.
- Reservoir Storage
 - New Melones storage is currently at **2,052,424 AF**, or **86-percent** of capacity. Top of Conservation Storage limit is 1,970,000 acre-feet. The top of conservation limit starts increasing on April 1, ramping to 2,420,000 acre-feet by June 1 – September 15, then ramping down to winter levels by November 1st.
 - Stanislaus River flows are increasing to 2,000 cfs as of February 27.
 - California River Forecast center currently estimates 1,010,000 acre-feet as most probable inflow into New Melones for the current water year, with 90-percent exceedance estimate of 600,000 – 700,000 acre-feet of projected inflow.

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NEWS:

New Melones Spring Operations :

Districts held a call with Reclamation on March 8, 2019 regarding New Melones operations plans for the 2019 year. Reclamation provided tentative assumptions and operations plans given the current hydrology. Districts expressed concerns that (1) significant changes in weather could cause the heavy snowpack to melt quickly and threaten use of the New Melones spillway; (2) assumptions for water demands on the system for the Districts, including New Melones CVP contractors are not conservative enough; and (3) that fall operations, if not done appropriately, could strand salmonids in the Stanislaus River system. Operations for the spring as currently projected include continued flows of 5,000 cfs with a reduction in flow to approximately 1,300 cfs at some point in March, and Above Normal 2e flows with 3,000 cfs peaks for pulse flows in the April-May timeframe.

SGMA Technical Workshop:

Districts participated in a workshop on February 28, 2019 regarding technical work to support the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority. The workshop included discussion surrounding groundwater model development, details of the basin-wide water budget, schedule for draft work product for the groundwater sustainability plan, and identification of policy decisions related to the water budget accounting and GSP preparation.

Talent Acquisition

Job postings for the Water Resources Coordinator and Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board closed on March 8, 2019. District received six (6) applications for the Water Resources Coordinator and fifty-three (53) applications for the Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board. Staff is reviewing applications and will soon begin scheduling for testing and interviews.

Meetings

- 2/28/2019 – Groundwater Sustainability Plan Workshop
- 3/6/2019 – SJTA Meeting
- 3/7/2019 – Nevada Irrigation District Meeting
- 3/11/2019 – Tuolumne Utilities District Meeting

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #2 – Consider start of Water Season Date

Frank Avila stated that he will start bringing water into the Woodward Reservoir on Wednesday, March 13 and the Division Managers will start preparing to run water on Monday, March 18; they will be contacting the growers to let them know. The Board gave direction to staff to start water deliveries on Wednesday, March 20.

Item #3 – Due to possible lack of quorum for the March 26 Board meeting, consider adjourning the meeting to Tuesday, April 9

Director Holbrook will be attending the SDRMA Safety Event in Sacramento and unable to attend the board meeting. Director Kuil will be out of town and unable to attend the board meeting. Peter Rietkerk will be on vacation during the week of March 25.

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A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Kuil to adjourn the board meeting of March 26, and if necessary, a meeting could be scheduled on March 27 or 28. The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER KUIL ROOS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Item #4 – Consider approval of Irrigation Service Abandonment for Patricia Amador, APN 249-070-39

A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the Irrigation Service Abandonment for Patricia Amador, APN 249-070-39. The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER KUIL ROOS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Item #5 – Consider budget amendment for South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA)

Mr. Bere Lindley, Assistant General Manager, proposed a budget amendment to accomplish three things:

- To reconcile the SSJID budget to the SSJGSA budget.
- For the second half of the year, when the SSJGSA is a distinct accounting entity, to remove the GSA costs and member contributions from the SSJID budget, except for SSJID's \$88,395 expense for its share of member contributions during the second half of 2019.
- To appropriately allocate carryover funds from 2018 between the two halves of 2019.

Mr. Lindley explained that the SSJGSA is not yet a formal entity distinct from SSJID and that SSJID administers all functions of the SSJGSA including finances. Once the SSJGSA becomes a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) around July 1 this year, it will be a formal accounting entity distinct from SSJID.

A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Holmes to approve the 2019 budget amendment #1 bringing the SSJID budget for 2019 into agreement with the 2019 budget adopted by the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA). The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER KUIL ROOS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

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Item #6 – Consider approval of Alternate Work Schedules for office, clerical and technical members of IBEW

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, General Manager, informed the Board that after meeting with the union business representative, the District was able to reach a tentative agreement on a side-letter, specific to the positions of Water Conservation Coordinator, GIS Engineering Technician, and the Accounting Technician, that would allow for an option to implement a 9/80 work schedule.

A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the side-letter with IBEW Local 1245 regarding the Alternative Work Schedules for Office, Clerical, and Technical employees. The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER KUIL ROOS
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

Item #8 – Consider appointment of ad hoc board committee for insurance discussion

After a brief discussion regarding the services offered by Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) in connection with all of our property, liability, and workers compensation insurance, a motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Kuil to terminate the service fee agreement between SSJID and Interwest Insurance Services, LLC. The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER KUIL ROOS
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

General Counsel announced that all items in closed session, except for item #9C, would be discussed. The Board took a short break at 10:56 a.m. and convened to closed session at 11:12 a.m.

Item #9 – Closed Session

9. a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9
- 3 cases

- b. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9
- 3 cases

- d. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9
- 4 cases

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*SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY, et al., vs. CALIFORNIA
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD*

County of Tuolumne Superior Court

Case No. CV62094

SSJID vs. PG&E

Appeal from Judgment of Dismissal Pending:

In the Court of Appeal for the State of California, Third Appellate District

Case No. C086319

Superior Court for San Joaquin County

Case No. STK-CV-UED-2016-0006638

PG&E vs. San Joaquin LAFCo; SSJID, Real Party in Interest

In the Court of Appeal for the State of California, Third Appellate District

Case No. C086008

Superior Court for San Joaquin County

Case No. STK-CV-UJR-2015-0001266

SSJID vs. Lakeview Ranch Partners

Superior Court for Stanislaus County

Case No. 2028441

- e. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8
Property: Water
Agency Negotiator: General Manager
Negotiating Parties: OID, Stockton East Water District (SEWD)
Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment

- f. IBEW Labor Negotiations
California Government Code Section 54957.6
Agency Negotiator: General Manager
Employee Organization: IBEW Local 1245

The Board reconvened to open session at 12:33 p.m.

Disclosure of reportable actions taken in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1: There were no reportable actions taken in Closed Session.

Item #7 – Discuss and consider action regarding protocol in the appointment or election of Board officers

The Board discussed protocol in the appointment or election of Board officers. Legal counsel explained that regardless of any past practice or custom of generally filling offices by rotation, the Water Code requires that Board officers be “elected” and any automatic rotation of office as a matter of right would be contrary to law and policy

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The Board took no action on this item.

Item #10 – ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Director Holmes and seconded by Director Holbrook to adjourn the meeting at 12:46 p.m. The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER KUIL ROOS
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

ATTEST: _____
Betty L. Garcia, Clerk of the Board