

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 28, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) met in person in regular session in the District Boardroom at 9:00 a.m., with public access provided via the online Zoom meeting platform. President Weststeyn called the meeting to order. Director Holbrook led the flag salute. Upon roll call the following members were noted present:

DIRECTORS:           HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS WESTSTEYN  
ABSENT:               SPYKSMA

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

**Public Comment** – None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approval of Checks in the amount of \$231,890.10; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$645,087.97; and Payroll dated March 24, 2023 in the amount of \$277,202.45 and March 24, 2023 in the amount of \$4,307.19.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2023
- C. Financial Statements through January 2023

Director Holbrook inquired about the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Net Income Loss from Operations indicated on page 20. Ms. Sarah Bloom, SSJID Assistant Finance and Administration Manager, responded that the loss amount is indicative of depreciation costs which are not billed for reimbursement to the cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca and Tracy.

- D. Investment Report for January 2023

Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Finance and Administration Manager, noted recent discussions with the District's investment broker, Mr. Kevin Martin, Cambridge Financial Advisor, regarding the status of SSJID's investments in light of the current issues surrounding the Country's financial institutions. She reported that the District's investments remain secure with positive ratings, are not held in any of the reported failed banks, and are Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured.

Director Kamper inquired on the timeliness of receiving the January 2023 Financial Statements and Investment Report in March, to which Ms. Williams responded that finalizing the year end audit has been time consuming, and that ending balance numbers cannot be finalized without the completion of the Actuarial reports for both pension and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB). Additionally the Tri-Dam Project 2022 audit has not been completed, causing a delay in the District's year-end financials.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Roos to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 28, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AYES:           HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS WESTSTEYN  
NOES:           NONE  
ABSTAIN:       NONE  
ABSENT:        SPYKSMA

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Item #1 – Directors’ Reports**

Director Roos reported that he attended the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) Spring Education Day on March 22, in Sacramento. Topics included safety, and cyber security.

Director Kamper shared about a recent camping trip at an East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EDMUD) facility and commented on the potential benefits for staff to visit other agency facilities to observe various modes of operation.

Director Kamper noted a recent observation of San Joaquin County (SJC) staff inspecting a bridge crossing on District property at the location of Jack Tone Road at Lateral R. Mr. Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Engineering Department Manager, stated that the County is required to inform the District of such inspections and that he will follow up with SJC as he had not received prior notification.

Director Holbrook noted discussion at the Tri-Dam Board meeting, held March 16, regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Shoreline Management Conference and commented that it could be beneficial for District staff to attend to acquire information on topics including trespassing and/or encroachment issues. Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, stated that he would follow up with Ms. Summer Nicotero, Tri-Dam General Manager, regarding the potential for attendance.

President Weststeyn reported that he participated remotely in the FloodMAR Quarterly Workshop on March 22. Highlighted speakers included Ms. Karen Ross, Secretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and representatives from Turlock Irrigation District. Discussion included lessons learned from winter 2022-23, groundwater recharge, groundwater recharge projects, and issues regarding solar-powered Rubicon gates. President Weststeyn offered to share the link for any Members interested in viewing the workshop.

President Weststeyn announced the cancellation of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau (SJFB) Water Committee meeting on March 28. The next SJFB Water Committee meeting will be held on April 25.

**Item #2 – Various Reports**

President Weststeyn thanked the Senior Leaders for the thoroughness of the monthly Managers’ Reports of departmental updates submitted for March 28.

Ms. Katie Patterson, SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager, provided the Board with information and status updates on Assembly Bill (AB) 460 – State Water Resources Control Board: Interim Relief; and the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Rule. Discussion surrounding the ACF Rule included regulatory changes, District fleet compliance, electric vehicle concerns, forklift regulations, and to include projected costs in the upcoming Proposition 218 process.

Mr. James Ferguson, SSJID Shop Department Supervisor, provided the Board with information on AB 1346 – Air Pollution: Small Off-Road Engines effective January 2024; California emissions inspections conducted

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 28, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

quarterly on heavy-duty trucks effective in 2027; and the District's current forklift status and pending action regarding the upcoming AFC Rule.

Mr. Rietkerk provided the Board with current hydrology status following the recent rain events and stated that the projected rainfall measurements for the upcoming storm have decreased.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) continues to work on the implementation of a strategic plan. SJTA discussions include Agency goals; the "One Voice," and "Tell Our Story" campaigns; the potential hiring of an Executive Director; and formation of a Strategic Plan Committee.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that the SSJID Senior Leaders have been discussing 2023 goals including long-term support of the Water Master Plan (WMP), and the SSJID Strategic Plan Update. Proposed 2023 goals will be presented for Board direction at a future board meeting.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that he is developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking a consultant to assist the District in the update of the SSJID 2017-2023 Strategic Plan. Revisions to the Strategic Plan will consider changes including new Directors, staff, and challenges. Mr. Rietkerk will provide updates to the Board on the RFP schedule and status.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he's been in discussions with Mr. Ferguson regarding moving forward with purchases for the District fleet, and with Ms. Williams regarding budget and financing of the potential purchases. Mr. Ferguson has identified necessary vehicles to ensure continued fleet efficiency.

Director Holbrook commended Mr. Rietkerk on his informative General Manager's Report for March 28. He expressed appreciation at the updates pertaining towards future goals.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #3 – Consider Amendment to Service Abandonment Agreement for Jerry and Aileen Stueve Family Trust, APN 249-030-02**

Mr. Killingsworth addressed the Board regarding approval of the amendment to the Service Abandonment Agreement (SAA) for APN 249-030-02. He provided detailed explanations of the original SAA (Agreement #709) entered into with the District by the previous owner in 1992; the existing parcel planted in almonds and currently irrigated by a private well; the current owner's intent to submit a structure permit application to install a new pressurized system connected to the private pipeline already connected to District Lateral Da; and that there are no unauthorized encroachments on the subject property. The Engineering and Water Departments have verified that Operations can provide service per District specifications on a regular rotation as designated and approved by the District.

Staff recommended approval of the agreement to amend the SAA subject to specific conditions regarding flood irrigation, sprinkler or drip irrigation, and rescinding the one-year wait period for the subject property to receive District water. Final approval shall be subject to the terms and conditions specified in the revised policy entitled, "Policy for Rescinding Irrigation Service Abandonment."

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the Amendment to Service Abandonment Agreement for Jerry and Aileen Stueve Family Trust, APN 249-030-02 subject to the terms and conditions specified in the revised policy entitled, "Policy for Rescinding Irrigation Service Abandonment."

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 28, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	SPYKSMA

**Item #4 – Discussion Regarding Current Hydrology and the State of the 2023 Irrigation Season**

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board and provided details of his email to them, sent the week of March 20, in regard to delaying the start of the 2023 Irrigation Season to April 13, due to the approaching storm. He explained that the extended start date will provide the District maintenance and construction crews ample time to complete projects and any necessary clean up following the incoming rain event.

Board discussion included the unpredictable weather patterns, the current condition of the Joint Supply Canal (JSC), and the water quality and water levels of Woodward Reservoir. President Weststeyn confirmed that the start date of the 2023 Irrigation Season is April 13, and that any adjustments to the start date will be made as deemed necessary.

Director Holbrook reiterated his thanks and appreciation to the Senior Leaders for their thorough and concise monthly Manager’s Reports.

*Items #5 and #6 to be discussed after Closed Session.*

*It was announced that all items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 9:50 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:00 a.m.*

**Item #7 Closed Session**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*The Board returned to Open Session at 11:50 a.m.*

**Item #8 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

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

*The next items were taken up following Closed Session in Open Session.*

**Item #5 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 23-10-W Approving a Water Transfer Agreement By and Between Oakdale Irrigation District, SSJID, and Stockton East Water District; and Adoption of Resolution 23-11-W Approving a California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to adopt Resolution 23-10-W Approving a Water Transfer Agreement By and Between Oakdale Irrigation District, SSJID, and Stockton East Water District; and adopt Resolution 23-11-W Approving a California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption.

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 28, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION 23-10-W**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A TEMPORARY WATER TRANSFER AGREEMENT  
BY AND BETWEEN OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT,  
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT, AND  
STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, the Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (collectively called “Districts”) are California irrigation districts operating under and by virtue of Division 11 of the California Water Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Districts are the owners of certain senior water rights to the waters of the Stanislaus River, including pre-1914 appropriative water rights as recognized by the 1988 Agreement and Stipulation with the Bureau of Reclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, Stockton East Water District (“SEWD”) supplies irrigation, municipal and industrial (M&I) and domestic water to its customers within the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin from a combination of surface water and groundwater sources; and

**WHEREAS**, SEWD and the Districts desire to reduce groundwater pumping in the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin by serving surface water in-lieu of groundwater pumping; and

**WHEREAS**, SEWD desires to acquire by temporary transfer one thousand two-hundred (1,200) acre-feet of the Districts’ pre-1914 Stanislaus River supply for the water-year ending September 30, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, SEWD would divert the transferred water at Goodwin Dam and deliver the water using existing infrastructure to agricultural lands outside of SEWD’s boundaries for use in-lieu of groundwater pumping; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board of Directors has determined that surplus water is available for temporary transfer during the water year ending September 30, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board of Directors does hereby approve a temporary water transfer agreement by and between Oakdale Irrigation District, South San Joaquin Irrigation District and Stockton East Water District, and authorizes the General Manager to sign the agreement upon negotiation of final terms as directed by this Board of Directors.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	SPYKSMA

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 28, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 23-11-W**

**APPROVAL OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR A TEMPORARY WATER TRANSFER AGREEMENT  
BY AND BETWEEN OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT,  
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT, AND STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, the Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (collectively called “Districts”) are California irrigation districts operating under and by virtue of Division 11 of the California Water Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Stockton East Water District (“SEWD”) supplies irrigation, municipal and industrial (M&I) and domestic water to portions of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin from a combination of surface water and groundwater sources; and

**WHEREAS**, Districts are the owners of certain senior water rights to the waters of the Stanislaus River, including pre-1914 appropriative water rights as recognized by the 1988 Agreement and Stipulation with the Bureau of Reclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, SSJID adopted Resolution 23-10-W, approving a temporary water transfer agreement by and between OID, SSJID and SEWD for the water year ending September 30, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed temporary water transfer (Project) would utilize existing infrastructure to effectuate the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project is intended to serve Stanislaus River water in-lieu of groundwater to only lands outside of SEWD’s boundaries near SEWD’s existing conveyance infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the lands intended to be served by the Project are outside of the area specified by the Bureau of Reclamation to receive water under SEWD’s existing Central Valley Project contract, and beyond the capabilities of OID to serve properties under their 10-year Out of District Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project is located in the Counties of Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne; and

**WHEREAS**, SSJID is the custodian of the documents or other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Board of Directors’ decision is based, and the SSJID Main Office is the location of this record.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by this Board of Directors that:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. The proposed Project has been determined by the Board of Directors to be categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) based on the ongoing operation exemption in 14 Cal. Code Regulations. 15261; projects designed to protect the environment (14 Cal. Code Regulations. 15307); no change or expansion of existing diversion and pumping facilities (14 Cal. Code Regulations. 15301); and on the basis that there is no significant impacts on the environment.
3. A Notice of Exemption is hereby approved (and is on file with the District’s records).

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 28, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

4. Staff is authorized and directed to file a Notice of Exemption at the County Clerk's Office (or other authorized place) in the manner prescribed by the CEQA.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:           HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS WESTSTEYN  
NOES:           NONE  
ABSTAIN:       NONE  
ABSENT:        SPYKSMA

**Item #6 – Consider Approval of Acting General Manager Job Description and Compensation**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Roos to approve the job description and compensation as recommended for the proposed Acting General Manager position for SSJID.

AYES:           HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS WESTSTEYN  
NOES:           NONE  
ABSTAIN:       NONE  
ABSENT:        SPYKSMA

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding the Special Board meeting tentatively scheduled for April 4 and stated that there was one (1) potential agenda item for the meeting which could be postponed until the next Regular Board meeting on April 25. Staff requested the Board's consideration to cancel the Special Board meeting. Board consensus concluded to cancel the Special Board meeting on April 4.

**Item #9 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board