

**MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 27, 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 Spyksma led the flag salute. Upon roll call the following members were noted present:

DIRECTORS: HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
ABSENT: NONE

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 \$294,517.81; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$644,286.97; and Payroll dated June 13, 2023 in the amount of \$3,402.94, June 13, 2023 in the amount of \$2,918.70, June 16, 2023 in the amount of \$302,570.00.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2023
- C. Financial Statements through May 2023
- D. Investment Report for May 2023

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

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #1 – Directors’ Reports

Director Roos reported that he attended the Manteca Chamber of Commerce Installation & Awards Banquet on June 22, held at the Great Wolf Lodge. He commented that it was a great evening and mentioned the award presented to the District.

Director Kamper reported that he also attended the Manteca Chamber Installation & Awards Dinner.

Director Kamper alerted staff to be watchful of unauthorized encroachments occurring on District properties. He added that he has observed several, and encouraged Engineering staff to research and take appropriate action(s).

Director Spyksma reported that he attended the Hope Ministries “Taste of Hope” Dinner on June 9. He opined

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that it was a well-attended, good event.

Director Spyksma shared that he recently participated in a tour of the Donnells Dam and Powerhouse and acknowledged Ms. Summer Nicotero, TriDam General Manager, and Justin Seel, TriDam Relief Operator, for the maintenance upkeep and spotlessly clean facility.

Director Spyksma reported that he attended the TriDam Advisory Committee meeting on June 26. Discussion included the current bad road conditions and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) commitment to provide financial assistance for road improvements. Also discussed was TriDam's Workers Compensation Insurance renewal.

Director Holbrook referenced the General Manager's Report, dated June 27, 2023, Energy Section, Bullet #2, regarding the American Public Power Association (APPA) Conference in Seattle, Washington and Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, being an invited speaker at the event. He expressed interest in viewing a video of the presentation.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the Manteca Chamber's Installation & Awards Dinner on June 22, and noted Mr. Leo de Groot received the Chamber's Outstanding Board Member Award. He commented that SSJID's participation at such events is an excellent opportunity for the District to demonstrate continued support of its communities.

Director Holbrook announced the upcoming California Special District's Association (CSDA) 2023 Annual Conference on August 28-31, in Monterey, CA. He stated that he will be attending, and that another Director must attend to qualify the District for up to \$5,000.00 in credit towards its insurance premium. Director Spyksma stated that he will attend. Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, added that the CSDA conference is an excellent conference offering sessions regarding board governance and education, as well as opportunities to take or renew board required training.

Director Holbrook mentioned that Mr. Walt Luihn, SSJID Environmental Compliance and Safety Officer, might consider a Driver Safety refresher course for SSJID employees, including protocol for yellow lights.

President Weststeyn reported that on June 20, he met with landowners to discuss the XY Connection Project.

President Weststeyn reported that he attended the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) Board meeting on June 21. Discussion included the SSJGSA budget.

President Weststeyn reported that he and Director Spyksma attended the District's Proposition 218 Public Meeting #1, on June 26, at the Escalon Community Center. He commented on the good presentation given by staff, and the well-attended event. Public Meetings #2 and #3 will be held on July 13.

President Weststeyn reported that he attended the TriDam Advisory Committee meeting on June 26.

Director Spyksma addressed Mr. Ed Erisman, Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Manager, referencing the WTP Manager's Report, dated June 27, 2023, and congratulated him on the in-house repairs of the butterfly valves for the Zenon filter membrane basins, and an air compressor. He stated that he is supportive of additional training for staff to enable continued in-house work, thereby providing the District with cost savings. Mr. Rietkerk added that Mr. Erisman and Mr. Justin Ashworth, WTP Operations Supervisor, are diligent in providing staff with continued education to conduct in-house repairs and/or troubleshoot issues.

Director Holbrook cautioned all about the increase in computer hacking attempts and to remain vigilant of

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phishing email scams.

Director Spyksma inquired about the possibility of receiving a regular Manager's Report from Mr. Bill Schwandt, SSJID Electric Utility Manager, for status updates and information. Mr. Rietkerk responded affirmative, and that Mr. Schwandt will begin providing an Electric Utility Manager's Report for regular updates of the Robert O. Schulz Solar Farm, energy news, and the retail electric project.

Item #2 – Various Reports

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he attended the Manteca Chamber's Installation & Awards Banquet on June 22, and that SSJID was presented with the Business of the Year Award. He added that the award is given to businesses that actively participate in the community and/or community events which included the "SSJID Cares" Program, holiday donation campaigns, public outreach and/or activities, and Chamber engagement. Mr. Rietkerk acknowledged Ms. Katie Patterson, SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager, on her hard work to organize and coordinate the District's involvement within the community and commended her for being such a strong and positive representative of SSJID. He also expressed appreciation for all staff who have participated in and supported these efforts.

Mr. Rietkerk noted discussions with Kevin Werner, Ripon City Administrator, regarding potential future provision of water from the WTP. Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Finance and Administration Manager, is researching previous related efforts, and staff is working with the City of Ripon and other city partners on terms and conditions to support this dialogue.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that Mr. Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Engineering Department Manager, is continuing discussions with Turlock Irrigation District (TID) regarding seepage in the Frankenheimer Power Canal. Additional discussions included TID's long-term use of the Frankenheimer and Woodward Power Houses, and the condition of Woodward Dam which could trigger the termination provisions of the current agreement with TID. Both Districts have expressed interest in a potential cost-share on an interim feasibility study to evaluate various options for hydroelectric units, maintenance, and repairs.

Board discussion included a redesign of the Frankenheimer and Woodward facilities, qualifications for a renewable energy-operated facility, and the Frankenheimer canal relining project which will be done in-house by District staff.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he attended the APPA 2023 National Conference, on June 18-21, in Seattle, Washington and that he was humbled by an invitation to speak at a breakout session titled "Modern Municipalization Efforts" and present the history and ongoing efforts to advance SSJID's retail electric project. Also presenting was Barbara Hale, San Francisco Public Utility Commission Assistant General Manager for Power. The presentation was well attended and received good feedback. He noted the multiple agencies and engineers who expressed willingness to provide services towards the District's transition to retail electric.

Director Holbrook thanked Ms. Patterson for updating and hanging the Past SSJID Board Directors plaque, which now displays former Director Robert "Bob" Holmes.

Director Holbrook addressed Mr. Killingsworth and referenced the Engineering Department Manager's Report, dated June 27, 2023. He inquired whether there was an update on the Canyon Tunnel Project, to which Mr. Killingsworth responded that there were no updates following finalization of the report.

Ms. Patterson provided the Board with legislative updates on Assembly Bill (AB) 460 – State Water Resources Control Board: Water Rights and Usage: Interim Relief: Procedures – Hearing canceled at request of author;

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and AB 1337 – State Water Resources Control Board: Water Diversion Curtailment – Hearing yet to be scheduled by Committee.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – NONE

It was announced that all items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 9:40 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 9:50 a.m.

Item #4 – CLOSED SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:23 a.m.

Item #5 – 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.

Item #6 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board