

**MINUTES FOR THE JULY 9, 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 ROOS 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

**OATH OF OFFICE: Swearing in ceremony and Oath of Office of Mike Weststeyn, Board Director of South San Joaquin Irrigation District for Division 4**

Ms. Robin Giuntoli, SSJID Accounting and Customer Service Manager, conducted the Oath of Office and Swearing-In Ceremony of Mike Weststeyn, the newly appointed South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board Director for the Division 4 seat.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approval of Warrants in the amount of \$433,395.89; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$423,259.80; and payroll dated July 5, 2019 in the amount of \$230,176.29.
- B. Approval of the regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2019.

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

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Director Holbrook welcomed Ms. Troylene Sayler, SSJID Public Relations Director, on her return from leave.

Director Weststeyn voiced his gratitude on being appointed to the South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board of Directors. He expressed enthusiasm on fulfilling his duties as Director for Division 4, and being part of a “great team.”

Director Holmes welcomed Director Weststeyn to the SSJID Board of Directors.

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Director Holmes reported on his attendance at the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) Ad Hoc Committee meeting on July 8, 2019. The process to implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is moving forward and input is being requested from the member GSAs. Director Holmes will attend the ESJGWA Board meeting and the ESJGWA Advisory Committee meeting on July 10. Director Holmes and Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, are available to answer questions on groundwater sustainability.

Director Roos reported that he will be attending the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority Commission Meeting on August 12 at Turlock Irrigation District (TID).

President Kamper welcomed Director Weststeyn to the SSJID Board of Directors. He invited him to attend the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) meeting on July 17.

**Ed Erisman, Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Manager:**

- A drowning occurred at Woodward Reservoir over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend, on Friday, July 5. The body was recovered on Saturday, July 6.
- The WTP has hired Mr. Steve Schickert, Mechanic II, who started on Monday July 8. Mr. Schickert was previously employed at the City of Manteca Waste Water Treatment Plant. He has experience as a plant mechanic and will be an asset to our operations.
- An action drill of the WTP Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) procedures, was conducted the morning of this board meeting. WTP staff will be given two (2) scenarios to implement the appropriate action(s) of a PSPS including: 1) PG&E has given a 24-hour notice of an extended shutdown; and, 2) PG&E has given a 1-hour notice of a power shut-off. WTP staff will coordinate with staff from the cities of Lathrop, Manteca and Tracy and utilize the current written procedures to determine the best course of action. Mr. Erisman stated this drill will show any weakness in our plan and provide insight to any changes that need to be made.
- The San Joaquin County road resurfacing project on Murphy Road is almost complete. Knife River started raising our valve boxes on Monday and should be finished with our portion of the project by the end of this week.

**Bere Lindley, Assistant General Manager:**

- Planning for the SSJID 2020 budget process has begun. Ms. Sarah Bloom, SSJID Management Accountant, has taken the lead to coordinate with budgeters and facilitate all tasks involved to meet the budget deadline. Staff anticipates presenting the 2020 Budget to the SSJID Board of Directors in December 2019.
- The annual payment to California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) for SSJID unfunded liability is scheduled to be paid. Two (2) options CalPERS offers for this \$1 million payment are monthly or annually, the latter which will save the District a 7% interest rate.
- Mr. Lindley has been working with Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager; and Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, on Public Utilities Commission comments to the PG&E Safety Investigation.
- Mr. Lindley has been working on Strategic Plan implementation projects.

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**Troylene Saylor, Public Relations Director:**

- Ms. Saylor thanked the SSJID Board and SSJID staff for their thoughts and prayers during her leave. She also expressed thanks to staff for assisting with her tasks during her absence.

Current work focus:

- Working on the press release for new SSJID Board Director, Mike Weststeyn, pending receipt of his professional photo. The photography appointment is scheduled for July 12.
- Planning for an updated public relations/advertising campaign for retail electric with the goal being public education & awareness (keeping people updated on progress of our plan, continue to elicit support, address PG&E safety record and the community benefits our plan will provide).
- Working on a PSPS outreach to customers (website, social media, bill stuffers, consistent messaging, etc.). Ms. Saylor is planning to attend the Town Hall meeting at the Manteca Transit Center on Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30.
- Ms. Saylor has been receiving requests for the SSJID service trucks scheduled to be retired. Please inform her when the new trucks have been added to the SSJID fleet, so the replaced trucks can be considered for surplus vehicle disposition.
- Assisting Tri-Dam with take-home bags for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Shoreline Management Conference.

Important Event Dates:

**Ripon Chamber Installation Dinner**

Thursday, July 18 at the Community Center 5:30/6:30 p.m. \$40 for spouses, dressy attire is suggested.

**United Way Manteca/Escalon/Ripon Community Council Wine, Chocolate & Art event**

Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Promenade Shops Orchard Valley, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Manteca Police Chief's Night Among Heroes**

Saturday evening, Sept. 21 at the Manteca Senior Center. Time to be determined.

**GECAC San Joaquin Valley Brewfest**

September 28 at Orchard Promenade, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

**SSJID Manteca Senior/Community Breakfast**

October 19 at Senior Center, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Hosts and servers are needed.

**HOPE Family Shelters Donor Appreciation Dinner-Night of Hope**

Saturday, November 2 at The River Mill. Time to be determined.

**Frank Avila, Irrigation Operations Manager:**

- Mr. Frank Avila introduced himself to Director Weststeyn and offered his assistance in answering any questions related to SSJID irrigations operations.

**Water Department**

- A 3-day application of aquatic material to the Main Distribution Canal (MDC) is beginning today. The schedule started on Monday, July 8, at Woodward, applying Cascade, for an

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8-hour application process. Today, July 9, application of Teton is occurring on drops 2, 5, 8 & 11, for a 6-hour application process. On Wednesday, July 10, treatment will finish, with an application of Teton at drop 13, at the outlet of Van Groningen reservoir.

- There have been discussions and preparations made for a potential PSPS. In the event of a power shutdown, Mr. Avila stated that staff is prepared to operate the system in manual mode, and ensures there will not be interruptions to the gravity customers when power goes down for long periods.
- Mr. Avila has been working with TID on the Woodward generator to obtain improved performance. Inspection of the generator discovered a broken blade-positioning shaft. The shaft did not damage the unit, and a replacement shaft is being fabricated. Repairs should be completed by the end of this week.
- Mr. Avila reported that division managers are beginning summer vacation schedules. He added the department can accommodate the requests without affecting the workflow.

**Maintenance Department**

- Leaks are being repaired as they are reported.
- The removal of trees along the MSC has begun.
- Mr. Avila identified an alignment for a new trail to the ram pump. Completion of the new trail is anticipated within 3-days. He added that this will allow easier access for SSJID or OID crews working on the ram pump.

**Shop Department**

- Shop crews are staying busy working on daily fleet and fabrication needs.
- We are still waiting on the permits for the locker room.
- Mr. James Ferguson, SSJID Shop Supervisor, has been gathering information for our PSPS plan, including research on fuel needs, and pricing on generators and 2-way radios.
- Mr. Ferguson's crews are assisting with the 3-day aquatic pesticide application(s), by helping with transportation and application of the materials.
- Mr. John Thien, SSJID Mechanic Helper, has given his retirement notice. He will be retiring at the end of this month.

**MDC/Telemetry Department**

- The Telemetry Department is busy working to maintain all the automation sites and delivering water to the laterals.
- Mr. Lloyd Wayman, SSJID Telemetry Systems Supervisor, has been involved with all aspects of a PSPS, including obtaining quotes on materials needed and/or preparing to ensure readiness in the event of a power outage.

**Forrest Killingsworth, Engineering Department Manager:**

- Mr. Killingsworth welcomed Director Weststeyn to the SSJID Board of Directors.

**Beardsley Afterbay Project**

- A mandatory pre-bid job walk occurred on Wednesday, July 3. Four (4) prime contractors attended and will be eligible to bid. No alarming questions were raised by the representatives.
- The deadline for questions from the contractors is July 19.

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- The request for bids deadline is July 26.

Potential PG&E Power Outages

- Mr. Killingsworth reported that the PSPS Task Force is making progress on developing an Action Plan to accommodate a power shutoff.
  - A notification letter was included as a bill stuffer and sent to SSJID customers on Friday, July 5. The primary purpose of the letter was to inform customers that SSJID intends to continue delivering water during a PSPS and that the processes for ordering water will remain the same.
  - A “Public Safety Power Shutoff” page has been created on the District’s website for the public to acquire information. Information posted to date includes the customer notification letter.
  - Mr. Michael O’Leary, SSJID IT Systems Administrator, has created an option for customers to sign up for PSPS text alerts, on the SSJID website. The District will be able to communicate any information related to a PSPS, or other District related business, with individuals who have signed up.
  - There have been discussions with Modesto Irrigation District (MID) regarding the impact of a PSPS on their electric service. MID remains confident that their system will be unaffected by a PG&E power shutdown. This is beneficial to the District since 7 of the 14 drop structures located on the MDC are serviced by MID, along with the Division 9 pressurized system.
  - Staff evaluated the anticipated fuel demand during a PSPS versus onsite fuel storage. It was determined that there is adequate fuel supply to sustain operations for approximately 10 days without being resupplied. During irrigation season, the tanks are topped off twice a week by Valley Pacific so tanks are regularly at near full capacity. Additionally, several fuel suppliers have stated that refilling is unlikely to be a problem during a PSPS.
  - Per approval by Mr. Rietkerk, Operations staff developed and purchased a list of “must have” equipment to ensure a safe continuous distribution of water during a PSPS. The list consists of:
    - Two 12,000 Watt Generators @ \$3,000± a piece
      1. 1 to be located at Drop 1
      2. 1 to be located at the Woodward Tower Gates
    - Two Transfer Switches for each generator site @ \$1,300± a piece
    - 8 Portable Radios for communication @ \$1,000± a piece
- This equipment will provide staff with the minimum tools necessary to operate the MDC in a reasonable manner, however significant manual adjustments will be required at the 6 remaining unpowered drop structures and 8 lateral turnouts. Efficiency of water delivered to farms will likely be decreased during a PSPS and drains will be utilized heavily.
- Frankenheimer and the Woodward Power Plant will not be able to generate power during a PSPS. If we lose power at:
    - Frankenheimer - the water will be automatically diverted through the bypass canal.
    - Woodward - the water will be manually diverted through the bypass gates. TID will only have control of the bypass gates for 12 hours until the onsite reserve power is depleted. After 12 hours, SSJID will utilize one of the newly purchased generators to control flow at the main tower gates.

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- Future purchases for consideration by the Board may include additional equipment that would be needed to remotely control the MDC, similar to pre-power outage conditions. This is contingent on completion of the final PSPS Action Plan.
- The PSPS Task Force anticipates the final PSPS Action Plan ready for Board review by the end of August.

**Division 9 – Pressurized Irrigation System**

- Mr. Avila and Mr. Killingsworth will conduct a tour of the Division 9 pressurized project on Thursday, July 11 for Stockton East Water District (SEWD). SEWD attendees will include Mr. Scot Moody – SEWD General Manager, Ms. Cathy Lee – SEWD Assistant General Manager, and two or three of the SEWD Board Directors.

**Brandon Nakagawa, Water Resources Coordinator:**

**Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)**

- On July 10, a public review draft of the ESJGWA GSP will be released and available for a 45-day public comment period through August 25, 2019. SSJGSA Board adoption and approval of the final GSP is anticipated in November 2019. Staff will present the SSJID Board with comments and edits of the final draft ESJGWA GSP. The deadline for the adoption of a GSP is January 31, 2020.
- An ESJGWA public “open house” meeting will be held July 18, 2019 at the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The focus of the meeting will be addressing public comments submitted during the draft GSP public comment period.
- Mr. Nakagawa distributed 100 San Joaquin Farm Bureau (SJFB) brochures, containing SGMA information, to the SSJID Board members and SSJID front counter. Mr. Nakagawa has also provided the SJFB brochures to Mr. Joe Hasten, SSJID Irrigation Services Supervisor, as a resource for crews addressing inquiries in the field.
- The SSJGSA is in the process of converting into a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) from the original Memorandum of Understanding formation. Staff is currently working on a draft JPA agreement to present to the SSJGSA Board for review at their next Board meeting on July 17.

**Peter Rietkerk, General Manager:**

Mr. Rietkerk reiterated on the retirement of Mr. John Thien, from the SSJID Shop Department. He stated that he conducted the exit interview for Mr. Thien, and is thankful for his 39 years of service with the District.

Mr. Rietkerk reported on the upcoming 2020 budget season preparations including review of the preceding year’s budget, and annual update of the Strategic Planning Projects. He provided insight on the usage of the Strategic Plan in creating the budget. The process includes an initial call for projects, and the evaluation of proposed projects versus current projects. The Strategic Plan update kickoff will begin in August, and budget season will begin in September. Mr. Rietkerk and Ms. Danielle Barney, SSJID Executive Assistant / Clerk of the Board, will begin coordination efforts with staff on the implementation of the Strategic Plan update.

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Mr. Rietkerk also reported on the following informational items:

- Reservoir Storage
  - New Melones storage is currently at **2,219,457 AF**, or **92-percent** of capacity. Top of Conservation Storage limit is 1,970,000 acre-feet. The top of conservation limit starts increasing on April first, ramping to 2,420,000 acre-feet by June 1 – September 15, then ramping down to winter levels by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Governor Newsom reappointed California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Chuck Bonham and Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth.
- SSJID continues to follow amendments added to AB 1054 on July 5, 2019 that will add administrative burden and CPUC oversight for municipalization efforts in California. Specifically AB 1054 amends Section 854 of the Public Utilities Code to expand the jurisdiction of the CPUC review over local government municipalization efforts of an investor owned utility (IOU) territory to include review of labor, workforce, and organizational issues, and removes decision-making authority regarding labor for the successor local government utility’s governing body. The proposed amendment also potentially dilutes the public benefits of a municipalization effort. The proposed amendments to AB 1054 would circumvent local government rights in municipalization efforts to structure their own utility and workforce. Furthermore, the language presumes that the outgoing utility’s employment conditions and values are identical to those of the successor local government utility. The amendment is undergoing SSJID legal counsel review.

Senator Cathleen Galgiani has referenced SSJID’s concerns on the Senate floor, and Mr. Rietkerk is scheduled to discuss this matter with Assemblymember Heath Flora’s office later in the afternoon after this board meeting. Mr. Rietkerk expressed opinion that this new development is disheartening.

Mr. Rietkerk also noted the following meetings:

- 06/27/19 – Tri-Dam Supervisor / Manager Meeting in Strawberry, CA
- 06/28/19 – Conference Call Meeting with SJTA General Managers
- 07/02/19 – Tri-Dam Special Board Meeting at Oakdale Irrigation District
- 07/02/19 – Conference Call Meeting regarding CPUC Ex Parte Communication
- 07/08/19 – Discussion Meeting with Barton Ranch, re: Water Delivery

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #2 – Discuss and Consider Adoption of Resolution 19-12-F to Update Signature Cards for US Bank**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve and adopt Resolution 19-12-F to update signature cards for US Bank to include Director Weststeyn.

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The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #3 – Discussion and Possible Action to Cancel the SSJID Board Meeting on July 23, 2019 Due to Conflict with Hydrovision Conference Scheduled on July 22 to July 26, 2019**

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding a cancellation of the SSJID regular Board meeting on July 23, 2019 due to a possible conflict with the Hydrovision Conference, scheduled July 22 to July 26. The Hydrovision Conference will be attended by Director Holbrook and Director Roos. Mr. Rietkerk explained that a conflict could occur should the remaining Directors not attend the Board meeting on July 23, thus a quorum would not be present. President Kamper, Director Holmes, and Director Weststeyn all responded they will attend the SSJID Board meeting on July 23. Discussion and final decision from the Board directed staff to hold the SSJID Regular Board Meeting, on July 23, 2019, as scheduled.

Discussion amongst the Board concluded that new Board appointments will occur at the next Board meeting on July 23, 2019.

**Item #4 – Discuss and Consider Approving Employment Agreement for Tri-Dam Project Interim General Manager**

A Tri-Dam Special Board Meeting was held on July 2, 2019 to discuss an employment offer, to Mr. Jeff Shields, as the Interim General Manager of the Tri-Dam Project. Negotiations entailed salary, use of the Tri-Dam residence during the work-week, and use of a vehicle at the office to visit the Project’s facilities. A copy of the temporary employment letter has been included in Item 4 of today’s agenda packet. Mr. Rietkerk is seeking approval from the Board, authorizing his signature on behalf of the District, on the letter of employment to Mr. Shields.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Holmes to approve the employment agreement for Tri-Dam Project Interim General Manager, Mr. Jeff Shields; and, to approve Mr. Rietkerk to sign said employment agreement on behalf of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

*General Counsel announced that all items in closed session would be discussed. The Board took a break at 10:25 a.m. and convened to closed session at 10:40 a.m.*



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**Item #5 – Closed Session**

5. 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
  
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation  
Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9
  - 4 cases  
*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
  
- d. Conference with Real Property Negotiators  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8  
Property: APNs 208-070-22, 208-160-11  
Agency Negotiator: General Manager  
Negotiating Parties: Michael Hat, Other Parties Unknown  
Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment

***The Board reconvened to open session at 12:05 p.m.***

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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**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board