

**MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 10, 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 7:30 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 SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN  
ABSENT:               ROOS

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 \$150,419.41; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$343,848.93; and Payroll dated September 29, 2023 in the amount of \$117.59, and October 6, 2023 in the amount of \$307,335.63.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023

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

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Item #1 – Directors’ Reports**

Director Kamper commented on a recently viewed PBS documentary titled, “River’s End – California’s Latest Water War” which explored the global water crisis, and highlighted California’s complex struggle over water rights, who gets fresh water, and how big money and special interests “game the system.” He opined that the film’s message delivered an inaccurate point of view regarding agricultural water usage.

Director Spyksma reported that he attended and/or participated in the following meetings and/or events:

- Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Regional 4 Tour on October 4. The tour began at the C.W. “Bill” Jones Pumping Plant and highlighted its role in supplying water for agricultural, urban, and wildlife needs in the Delta region, and concluded at the Bureau of Reclamation Tracy Fish Collection Facility.
- Tri-Dam Advisory Committee meeting on October 2.
- Escalon Chamber of Commerce “Wine & Brew Stroll” on September 30.

Director Spyksma inquired if the District housed a library of books pertaining to the history of water in

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California (e.g. “Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water”) and/or if a list of recommended reading could be provided. Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, responded that he could readily provide a list of recommended reading, and also look to see if he had hard copies available.

Director Holbrook shared that when he was sworn in as an SSJID Board Director, he was given reading material(s) which included the aforementioned “Cadillac Desert.” He stated that it was an interesting read and noted the connection between the Delta Tunnels Project and attorneys mentioned in the book.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the East Bay Municipal Utilities District’s (EBMUD) 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Pardee BBQ on October 6, along with Ms. Katie Patterson, SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager. One of the event highlights included a presentation regarding recent discoveries in the receded lakebed, which uncovered petrified wood, camel bones, and fossils dating back 100 million years. Keynote Speaker Dr. Russell Shapiro, Professor at California State University Chico, spoke about the archeological finds and provided a small exhibit to view some of the displayed relics.

Director Holbrook noted a Manteca/Ripon Bulletin article, dated October 7, 2023, regarding the Ripon Historical Society and the Ripon Chamber of Commerce hosting a dedication ceremony of the replica cauldron that was part of the 1960 Winter Olympic Game’s relay torch run through the Central Valley. He shared that the 1960 relay torch run enlisted runners from the local high schools, and that he was honored to have been selected to run and carry the torch as a representative of Manteca High School.

Director Weststeyn reported that he attended the Tri-Dam Advisory Committee meeting on October 2. Discussion included acceptance of workers’ compensation coverage with State Compensation Insurance Fund (State Comp) for a six (6) month period. He added that a lower quote was received late from Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA), and that consideration is being given to switching to SDRMA at the expiration of the State Comp policy period.

**Item #2 – Various Reports**

Mr. Rietkerk announced confirmation that the end of SSJID’s 2023 water season will be October 29. He stated that should significant wet weather occur, the end date would be moved up as needed.

Mr. Rietkerk reminded the Board of the upcoming Hope Ministries “Night of Hope” Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner, on October 27, at The River Mill. SSJID is a table sponsor of the fundraising event, and Directors interested in attending should contact Ms. Patterson for tickets.

Mr. Rietkerk noted that the 2022-2023 Winter Season Storm Operations, Construction & Maintenance Report will be presented to the Board, at today’s meeting, following the Action Calendar.

Director Holbrook expressed thanks to Mr. Chad Parsons, SSJID Associate Civil Engineer, for providing the thoroughly written 2022-2023 Winter Season Storm Operations, Construction & Maintenance Report including pictures.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that the District is in the midst of budget season. He stated that submitted budget requests are being reviewed, and that the budget workshops with each department are scheduled for October 17 and 18.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

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**Item #3 – Consider Approval of Proposal from Drill Tech Drilling and Shoring, Inc. for the Joint Supply Canal – Long Tunnel Upstream Portal Shoring Project**

Mr. Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Engineering Department Manager, addressed the Board regarding the construction contract for the Joint Supply Canal (JSC) Long Tunnel Upstream Portal Improvements Project (Project). He explained that the Long-Term Maintenance Plan of the JSC (updated March 2023) and hazard study, conducted collaboratively by Condor Earth Technologies and Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P), had identified and prioritized this area as the most hazardous site in need of slope stabilization at the upstream portal. Mr. Killingsworth further explained that the recommended work would occur to a section of the JSC not bypassed by the Canyon Tunnel, would minimize the risk of falling rocks that threaten the health and safety of personnel and equipment, and would increase the operational reliability of the District's primary supply facility.

Mr. Killingsworth noted that Mr. Marshall Swift with local engineering firm MCR, assigned as SSJID's direct in-house consultant, has been the lead on this project and was present at today's meeting to answer any questions regarding the Project.

Mr. Killingsworth provided a detailed description of the scope of work, the timeline of the request for bids on September 6, and mandatory pre-bid job walk on September 13 which was attended by one (1) contractor namely Drill Tech Drilling and Shoring (DTSD). DTSD submitted the sole bid received, based on the construction/bidding documents prepared by P&P, for a total proposed construction cost of \$1,184,850.00.

Mr. Killingsworth remarked on DTSD's professional reputation of being qualified and reliable, and the positive past experience working with the District on SSJID projects. The contractor estimates 2.5 to 3 months to complete the project, with an anticipated completion date on or around February 15, 2024.

Mr. Killingsworth noted the JSC access road(s) to the job site, their current conditions, and subsequent conditions if utilized during wet weather. He explained an alternative to utilizing the JSC for concrete transport during wet weather is to improve the backside access road as necessary during construction. The contractor recommended that the additional work be done on a Time & Maintenance (T&M) basis for an amount up to \$48,000.00 working allowance.

Staff recommended Board approval of the contract as submitted (without including backside roadway improvements or canal bottom concrete repair), and include authorization to the General Manager to issue up to \$50,000.00 in change orders, as necessary, to support completion of the Project. Mr. Killingsworth added that Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) reimburses the District twenty-eight percent (28%) of joint project costs, and that OID had been informed and approved of the Project.

Board discussion included the importance of the project, appreciation of the thorough staff report, and concurrence to not access the job site via the JSC canal bottom.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Spyksma to award the construction contract for the JSC Long Tunnel Upstream Portal Improvements Project for an amount of \$1,184,850.00 to Drill Tech Drilling & Shoring, and include authorization to the General Manager to approve up to \$50,000.00 in change orders as necessary to support the Project.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #4 – Consider Approval of Proposal from Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group for Construction Support Services for the Joint Supply Canal – Long Tunnel Upstream Portal Shoring Project**

Mr. Killingsworth addressed the Board regarding a proposed amendment to Task Order 013 of the Master Professional Services Agreement with P&P to provide construction support and inspection services related to the JSC Long Tunnel Upstream Portal Shoring Project.

Mr. Killingsworth gave a detailed description of the proposed scope of work including consultation services, inspections services, sampling and lab testing, and administrative support; and provided history of P&P's services of previous JSC work completed in 2019 and 2020. He stated that inspections would be divided between P&P at three (3) days per week, and in-house inspections conducted by SSJID Engineering Tech and Facilities Inspector Shawn Ussery at two (2) days per week.

All work performed will be billed on a T&M basis. The total fee is estimated not to exceed \$141,000.00, which amounts to twelve percent (12%) of the total construction bid. OID is responsible for twenty-eight percent (28%) of the incurred expenses (\$39,480.00), with the potential fiscal impact to the District of \$101,520.00.

Staff recommended Board approval of the proposed amendment to Task Order 013 of the Master Professional Services Agreement with P&P to provide construction support and inspection services related to the JSC Long Tunnel Upstream Portal Shoring Project at a total cost not to exceed \$141,000.00.

Board discussion included the importance of bolt testing.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Spyksma to approve the proposed amendment to Task Order 013 of the Master Professional Services Agreement with Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group to provide construction support and inspection services related to the JSC Long Tunnel Upstream Portal Shoring Project at a total cost not to exceed \$141,000.00, to be billed on a T&M basis.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #5 – Consider Approval of Proposal from Maverick Networks to Install a New VoIP Phone System**

Mr. Michael O'Leary, SSJID IT Systems Administrator, addressed the Board regarding approval of the proposal from Maverick Networks, Inc. (Maverick) to replace the District's Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system for a total cost of \$69,559.96. He explained that the District's current phone system was purchased in 2008 and that issues are evident with the aged system including technological obsolescence, frequent rebooting, deterioration, and future expansion to accommodate retail electric services.

Staff issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to several telecom companies for the removal and disposal of the old phone system, installation and programming of a new system, and additional technological tasks at the District

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Office and Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Three (3) bids were received. Mr. O’Leary provided a detailed explanation of the scope of work, and a comparison of the phone systems and associated costs submitted by Maverick, Sebastian, and Telcion Communications Group.

Upon review, staff determined that the proposal from Maverick Networks aligned with the District’s trusted phone equipment brand and lowest up-front cost. It was noted that \$100,000.00 was allocated for a new phone system in the 2023 budget.

Board discussion included the \$7,500.00 annual fee, services, and/or phone features for the Maverick system; the lack of required information submitted by Sebastian; and if the \$7,500.00 annual fee submitted by Maverick was negotiable. Mr. O’Leary stated that he would contact Maverick to renegotiate the annual fee for the five (5) year service contract.

Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, addressed the Board and stated that a review by Counsel of the Maverick proposal in concert with the RFP and the District’s internal policies is warranted, and recommended the agenda item be tabled and brought before the Board at the next board meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Spyksma and seconded by Director Holbrook to table the agenda item until review by General Counsel and possible re-negotiated annual fee for the Maverick 5-year service contract, and present to the Board at the next board meeting.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #6 – Legislative Update Presentation by SSJID Lobbyist Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange**

Ms. Patterson addressed the Board and stated that SSJID lobbyists Karen Lange and Andrew Antwih, Partners at Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer and Lange (SYASL), were in attendance and would be providing updates on the current legislative session. She acknowledged the great working relationship between the District and SYASL, and the firm’s regular monthly updates on legislation and/or water related issues.

Ms. Lange greeted the Board and provided detailed information and/or updates on Senate Bill (SB) 43 – Behavioral Health; SB 389 – State Water Resources Control Board: Investigation of Water Right; the Public Records Act; and multiple water bonds slated for the 2024 March ballot. She commended staff and special counsel for their vigilance and prompt responses to water rights issues.

Mr. Antwih greeted the Board and provided detailed information and/or updates on state energy policies regarding electric vehicles and/or clean energy grants; the California Energy Commission’s (CEC) Clean Transportation Program; the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation; Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1 regarding government financing, affordable housing and public infrastructure; ACA 13 regarding voting thresholds authorizing a local governing body to hold an advisory vote concerning any issues of governance; clean energy fees; and offshore wind energy.

Additional Board discussion included the Business Roundtable Bond.

Ms. Patterson thanked Ms. Lange and Mr. Antwih for their in-person attendance and for their informative oral

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presentation to the Board.

*The Board took a brief recess at 9:05 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 9:20 a.m.*

*Director Spyksma exited the meeting at 9:20 a.m.*

**Item #2.D. – Irrigation Operations Manager’s Report**

Mr. Frank Avila, SSJID Irrigations Operations Manager, addressed the Board and provided introduction to the 2022/2023 Winter Season Storm Operations, Construction, and Maintenance oral report. He commended Mr. Parsons for logs and recordkeeping of the construction tasks, construction jobs, new techniques used, new technology used, obsolete techniques and technology, and issues that occurred. He noted that Mr. Parsons’ data was an integral element of the concise and detailed construction report presented.

Mr. Parsons addressed the Board, via the online Zoom meeting platform, and provided background of the collaboration with Mr. Avila to present information regarding the storm operations, construction, and maintenance work completed by District crews in the 2022/2023 winter season. He noted that the 2022-23 extreme wet weather produced a lot of maintenance and cleanup work for staff.

Mr. Parsons gave in-depth descriptions of work performed on:

- Storm water operations monitoring and repairs including the JSC storm repairs, Main Supply Canal (MSC) storm repairs, and storm water management.
- General maintenance including the Upper MSC power canal gunnite crack filling, SSJID crew support at Caltrans’ spray cast lining repair, and pipeline crawling inspection cleaning and repair.
- Construction including Capital Improvement Projects performed by District crews annually, Lateral Tb/Tbb Control Structure and Automated Gates, control box construction, float valve assemblies, spray cast pipelining, and other construction projects/tasks throughout the District.

Mr. Parsons stated that following the winter maintenance/construction season, a debriefing meeting was held with crew members to discuss challenges; issues; and changes moving forward regarding techniques, supplies, logistics of materials, and production goals.

In conclusion, Mr. Parsons stated that the 2022/2023 winter season proved to be historic with extreme wet weather events, requiring higher than usual storm monitoring in addition to the implementation of the pipelining projects and the piloting season of Water Master Plan (WMP) projects. The winter maintenance season concluded with no injuries reported and a clean safety record.

The Board inquired about the process used to test the relined pipes, to which Mr. Parsons responded that testing is conducted on a 6” x 12” cylinder sample as recommended by Shotcrete Technologies. Director Holbrook suggested conducting a compression test on a surface sprayed with identical thicknesses used to obtain a more accurate result.

Additional Board discussion included consistency in the application process over the length of a pipe; the thoroughness of the report; and the development of a template listing projects, progress and projections in an effort to stay on track with the WMP.

Mr. Rietkerk thanked Mr. Parsons and Mr. Avila for their collaborated efforts on the informative update, and stated that the report provides a good foundation for benchmarking jobs/tasks accomplished and setting future construction-related performance goals.

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*It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 10:15 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:25 a.m.*

**Item #7 – CLOSED SESSION**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*The Board returned to Open Session at 10:40 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.

**Item #9 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board