

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 28, 2022  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

DIRECTORS:           HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER SPYKSMA (via Zoom) 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

Director Holmes read aloud a statement expressing heartfelt sentiment regarding his twelve (12) years serving as Board Director at SSJID and commitment to the position; the knowledge and skills gained during his tenure with the District; encouragement to the employees to always strive to be their best and have pride in SSJID; and well wishes to his fellow Directors with the diverse and complex issues they face, and that he will deeply miss working with them. He commended Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, on his excellent work and expressed respect and expectations for continued greatness. He thanked all for the opportunity to serve as SSJID Board Director for Division 1, for the past twelve years.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

*Director Holmes turned run of the meeting over to Director Weststeyn at 9:10 a.m.*

**Item #1 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 22-36-H to Honor the Service of SSJID Director Robert Holmes**

Director Weststeyn read aloud Resolution 22-36-H in Appreciation of Robert “Bob” Holmes Service.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Kamper to adopt Resolution 22-36-H in Appreciation of Robert “Bob” Holmes Service.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 22-36-H**

**IN APPRECIATION OF ROBERT “BOB” HOLMES’ SERVICE**

**WHEREAS**, Robert ‘Bob’ Holmes will have provided 12 years of dedicated service as a Director of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, commencing December 3, 2010 thru December 2, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Holmes demonstrated his excellence in leadership of the District by serving as Vice President (2013 – 2014 and 2019 – 2020) and President (2015 – 2016 and 2021 – 2022); and

**WHEREAS**, Director Holmes’ collaborative leadership style has contributed to the stability of the SSJID Board through the passing of two directors in 2019 and 2021; and continuity of Tri-Dam Project operations through several management transitions and hydroelectric unit outages; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Holmes’ achievements and contributions to the betterment of SSJID during his tenure are numerous, and include:

- A. Guidance and support of efforts to provide local-owned retail electric service to communities within the District.
- B. Support, participation, and leadership in the development of the 2017-2022 SSJID Strategic Plan.

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- C. Leadership and guidance in the development of the SSJID Water Master Plan, the District’s first long-range plan to ensure financial stability, and operational reliability for irrigation services.
- D. Regional collaboration with the Cities of Ripon and Escalon in the formation and Chairmanship of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA).
- E. Articulate representation of SSJGSA perspectives as a Director of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority to achieve compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Holmes placed great emphasis in the development and growth of District employees by nurturing positive relationships and creating environments for individuals to succeed; he inspired District staff to adopt visions for continuous improvement, and imparted the confidence in them to perform above their own expectations; all of which gained Mr. Holmes genuine appreciation and trust amongst the District’s workforce; further demonstrating his leadership qualities and earning him a reputation of honor and respect; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Holmes strived to achieve accountability, mutual respect and collaboration with and among his fellow Board Members in the conduct of District business; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Holmes’ resolute commitment to the District, exemplified in his diligence and dedication to assuring quality outcomes among District customers, fellow board members, and District employees; understanding of District operations and grower needs; and development of a strategic future vision for the District; will continue to assure the success of SSJID, for the benefit of its customers, employees, and greater community, for many years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, Director Holmes will be greatly missed as a Director, colleague, mentor, steward, and statesman.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, on behalf of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, this Board of Directors expresses our deepest and sincerest appreciation for Director Holmes’ years of dedication and service to the District, its customers, and the greater community. The District also wishes to extend our deepest and sincerest appreciation to the Holmes family, especially to his wife Teresa, for their support of Director Holmes during his tenure.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022 by the following roll call vote:

|          |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| AYES:    | HOLBROOK KAMPER SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN |
| NOES:    | NONE                              |
| ABSTAIN: | HOLMES                            |
| ABSENT:  | NONE                              |

Director Weststeyn presented Director Holmes with an original framed copy of the resolution, as well as the President’s Service Award plaque, commemorating Director Holmes for his service as Board President for the 2021-2022 term.

Many comments were heard attributing to Director Holmes’ constant presence, involvement, knowledge, positivity, leadership, diligence, mentorship, strength, integrity, caring, and willingness from Director Weststeyn; Director Holbrook; Director Kamper; Director Spyksma; Mr. Rietkerk; Mr. Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Engineering Department Manager; Mr. Walt Luihn, SSJID Environmental and Compliance Safety Officer; and Ms. Danielle Barney, SSJID Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board. Mr. Dave Phippen, a local landowner, also expressed appreciation and “thanks with deep gratitude.”

*Director Weststeyn returned run of the meeting over to Director Holmes at 9:25 a.m.*

**Item #2 – Consider Approval of Enhanced Maintenance Recommendations for the Robert O. Schulz Solar Farm**

Mr. Bill Schwandt, SSJID Electric Utility Manager, addressed the Board regarding enhanced maintenance recommendations for the Robert O. Schulz Solar Farm (Solar Farm) for inclusion in the capital budget. He provided detailed information of

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the Solar Farm’s past operations, financial performance, and initial operating and maintenance agreement; present operations, and new 20-year Net Energy Metering (NEM2) Agreement with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E); and future operations.

Mr. Schwandt stated that the recommended enhanced maintenance, including the replacement of failing inverters and failing or degraded solar panels, will help ensure the performance of the Solar Farm over the next twenty years. In addition to the enhanced maintenance, staff will continue to study and could present recommendations for best maintenance practices, possible battery technology, cost-effective enhancers and solar panels, investigation of grants for possible enhanced maintenance activities and upgrades, and power rates charged to partner cities.

The fiscal impact would be an allocation of \$500,000.00 for Solar Farm enhanced maintenance in the capital budget, in each of the next two (2) years for a total of \$1,000,000.00. It was noted that the first year scope of work would include the replacement of two (2) inverters every three (3) months, and the replacement of failed or failing solar panel strings.

Board discussion included the methodology to track kilowatt hour production; benefits of enhanced maintenance including cost-effectiveness, and providing good alternatives and creative solutions; ultimate degradation from non-maintenance; renewable energy sources and portfolio power supply; grant opportunities for NEM3 incentives; potential for inverter failure due to excessive heat and consideration to construct air conditioned enclosures; and specific details of replacements and actual costs.

Mr. Rietkerk clarified that today’s Board action would direct staff to include the Solar Farm Enhanced Maintenance Project in the SSJID capital budget with an allocated \$500,000.00 in the 2023 budget, and an allocated \$500,000.00 in the 2024 budget, for a total allocation of \$1,000,000.00. Recommendations for replacements and/or improvements would be presented in detail to the Board for review and approval.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve adding the Solar Farm Enhanced Maintenance Project to the capital budget with an allocated \$500,000.00 in the 2023 budget, and an allocated \$500,000.00 in the 2024 budget, for a total allocation of \$1,000,000.00.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| AYES:    | HOLBROOK HOLMES KAMPER SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN |
| NOES:    | NONE                                     |
| ABSTAIN: | NONE                                     |
| ABSENT:  | NONE                                     |

*The next item to be taken up following Closed Session.*

**Item #3 – Consider Approval of Tentative Agreement Between SSJID and the Management Unit of the SSJID**

*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 #4 – CLOSED SESSION**

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

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- b. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
  - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9
  - 2 cases
  
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
  - Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9
  - 4 cases

*SSJID vs. Lakeview Ranch Partners*  
Superior Court for Stanislaus County  
Case No. 2028441

*Jana Lynn Woodbridge Apartments, LLC vs. South San Joaquin Irrigation District*  
San Joaquin County Superior Court  
STK-CV-UPI-2021-0002339

*Dave Hegarty vs. SSJID et al.*  
San Joaquin County Superior Court  
STK-CU-UF-2021-0002552

*Department of Transportation vs. Fassler et al.*  
San Joaquin County Superior Court  
STK-CV-UED-2022-0000584

- d. Conference with Real Property Negotiator
  - California Government Code Section 54656.8
  
    - i. Property: Woodward Reservoir
    - Negotiating Parties: Stanislaus County
    - District Negotiator: General Manager
    - Under Negotiation: Grant of License
  
    - ii. Property: French Camp Outlet Canal Regulation Reservoir
    - Negotiating Parties: Maan Gurvinder S
    - District Negotiator: General Manager
    - Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment of sale
  
- e. Labor Negotiations
  - California Government Code Section 54957.6
  - Agency Negotiator: General Manager
  - Employee Organization: Management Unit

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*The Board reconvened to Open Session at 11:15 a.m.*

**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.

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Director Holmes reported that Board consensus concluded to table the agenda item to a later date.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board