

Governing Board

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SUPERVISOR DOUG VERBOON,
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CITY OF ORANGE COVE
JOSE FLORES, *Alternate*
CITY OF CLOVIS

WESTERN CITIES

MAYOR ALVARO PRECIADO,
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MAYOR RAY LEON, *Alternate*
CITY OF HURON

WESTERN WATER AGENCIES

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Director

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE
CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY

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WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

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Director

ANGELA KARST, *Alternate*
TABLE MOUNTAIN RANCHERIA

MEMBER AT LARGE

COUNCILMAN ROBERT SILVA



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MARCH 10, 2017 – 9:00 A.M.

FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT OFFICE

2907 South Maple Avenue, Fresno

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (JPA) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on March 10, 2017, by President Steve Worthley.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

At the request of President Worthley, Recording Secretary J. Randall McFarland called the roll of Board members. The following Board members were present: President Worthley, Vice President Mendes, Directors Rogers, O'Banion, Verboon, Lopez, Silva, Chedester (*by telephone*), and Karst (*alternate for Casas*). Staff present: Executive Director Mario Santoyo. Others present (*from roll signatures*): J. Randall McFarland; Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau; Robert Jeffer, City of Fresno; Juan Arambula, former Member of the Assembly and Fresno County Supervisor; Jodi Raley, CCGGA/WAPA; Stephen Spencer, AECOM; John Anderson, Senator Cannella's staff; Nathan Olson, City of Lemoore Public Works Director.

The board and audience members joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Worthley asked for consideration of the Minutes for the regular Board meeting held on February 10, 2017. Director Verboon moved, seconded by Director Silva, that the minutes be approved. The motion prevailed without objection.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Worthley stated that at this time, members of the public could speak about any item of concern not appearing on the agenda, provided it was within the jurisdiction of the JPA. He said the total amount of time allocated for this public comment period would be determined by the Chair and each individual would be limited to three minutes. It was noted that matters presented during this public comment period may not be discussed or acted upon by the board at this time. There were no public comments.

FINANCIAL

Megan Marks, Fresno County Auditor-Controller's office, presented a financial overview of where the JPA currently stands fiscally on a cash basis as of February 28, 2017. The JPA has collected \$45,577 in contributions this fiscal year. It has expended \$184,932 during the current fiscal year. The cash balance

was \$179,228. The JPA has \$70,750 in total cash remaining as of February 28, 2017. *(A copy of the financial report is attached.)*

Ms. Marks said a contribution of \$20,000 was received from the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority.

She stated there may a need to make a small increase in the other services and supplies budget due to costs incurred in establishing an office.

In response to a question from Director Lopez, Ms. Marks and Executive Director Mario Santoyo said relatively small amounts of money are due from a few cities in support of the small-city memberships of Huron and Orange Cove. Those cities have received invoices. They are being contacted directly by the City Manager of Orange Cove.

Preliminary work has begun on the FY 2017-18 budget. A presentation by Mr. Santoyo reflected preliminary thoughts on the budget with a goal of gaining direction and feedback from the Board of Directors. Increases in all budget categories are anticipated but will be refined in the coming month. Those include professional services as well as other services and supplies, the latter to include provision for part-time clerical assistance for Mr. Santoyo. President Worthley said that the coming year will be the most crucial for the JPA's primary goal of preparing and filing an application for Proposition 1-Chapter 8 state bond funding for the Temperance Flat Project and noted that there should be consideration for an adjustment to the Executive Director's salary. Board members, President Worthley and Vice President Mendes, agreed to work with Mr. Santoyo and Ms. Marks to frame recommendations for the full Board on both the temporary employee and Executive Director salary adjustment for next Board meeting.

Discussion then turned to the possibility of amending the Joint Powers Agreement to add up to three new Authority members. Kern County's Board of Supervisors is interested in joining as is the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority. Outreach will again be extended to the Friant Water Authority about filling the JPA's East Side Water Agency vacancy. It was noted that new members would pay a \$50,000 assessment to join while remaining members now pay \$25,000 annually.

ORGANIZATIONAL

President Worthley called for designation of an alternate director for East Side Cities. Director Lopez reported Jose Flores of Clovis has been designated as alternate. On motion of Director Lopez, seconded by Vice President Mendes and carried unanimously, Alternate Director Flores was confirmed.

Vice President Mendes reported he and Mr. Santoyo met with the new Mayor of the City of Fresno, Lee Brandt, who expressed his support and that of the city for the project and the JPA's efforts. Mr. Santoyo noted that Tommy Esqueda the city's Public Works Department serves on the JPA's Technical Advisory Committee and that the cities of Fresno and Clovis provide nearly 75% of the dues for the JPA East Side Cities position occupied by the City of Orange Cove.

A letter of cooperation among the JPA, Friant Water Authority, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority and San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority detailing the process involving Proposition 1-Chapter 8 state water bond funding application and the federal feasibility report for the Temperance Flat Project was described. The letter describes how the agencies are working and will work together. Principles of why the effort should be undertaken and the project developed are detailed. As time is of the essence and recognizing that a final version of the letter is not completed, on motion of Director Verboon, seconded by Director Lopez, the board unanimously authorized signing of the letter by the Executive Director.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bill Swanson of MWH Global reported on the March 9, 2016, Technical Advisory Committee meeting. The California Water Commission has finalized the timing and process for State Water Bond Proposition 1-Chapter 8 funding applications. The window for applications will be open for five months, from March 14-August 14, 2016. Much work must be accomplished. A work plan is being developed. Chris White, TAC Chairman, said work plan topics agreed upon include a preamble, flood flow management and Friant recharge, joint operations (including Temperance Flat) involving the Kings and San Joaquin rivers, stabilization of San Luis and Temperance Flat reservoirs, public benefits, recapturing water used in San Joaquin River restoration, refuge supplies, integration of Temperance Flat and Central Valley Project operations, and miscellaneous items. A meeting on payment responsibilities is planned for March 14 with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. A comprehensive plan is scheduled to be presented to the JPA board at its April meeting. President Worthley noted the entire process will be public and that Temperance Flat has broad implications for all of California.

Development of a public relations/informational document on the Temperance Flat Project was discussed March 9, Mr. Santoyo reported. The intent is to develop an attractive and easy-to-read leave-behind handout that can be used in meetings and other forums related to Temperance Flat.

Mr. Santoyo proposed that signing of the letter of cooperation among the JPA, Friant Water Authority, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority and San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority be conducted in a State Capitol ceremony as a news coverage event in order to help raise the Temperance Flat Project awareness level.

Mr. Santoyo reported Gary Serrato, Fresno Irrigation District General Manager and Chairman of the sub-group investigating groundwater, is having difficulty getting any feedback and information from water agencies on possible small projects that could be considered for integration with the largest project, Temperance Flat. One more attempt at gaining the necessary information is to be attempted.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Santoyo said the California Water Commission elect a new chair and vice chair. Armando Quintero of San Rafael and executive director of the University of California, Merced, Sierra Nevada Research Institute is the new chair. Carol Baker of Sacramento of Sacramento is now vice chair. Efforts are being made to schedule a meeting between the JPA and Mr. Quintero.

Mr. Santoyo reported on a March 1 meeting with Acting Commissioner of Reclamation David Murillo at Friant Dam and Millerton Lake. Mr. Murillo and other Reclamation staff members were toured to the site of Temperance Flat Dam in Millerton Lake. The Acting Commissioner is very supportive of the project.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Worthley reported Steve Haro, Senator Feinstein's chief of staff, has been found to be very engaged in the Temperance Flat process.

Mr. Santoyo stated he is meeting with Matt Rogers, district representative of newly elected U.S. Senator Kamela Harris and will make a "Water 101" informational presentation to Mr. Rogers.

Mr. Santoyo said he is working with Fresno County's lobbyist to schedule a trip to Washington for meetings with administration, Congressional and agency officials.

OUTREACH

A news conference was conducted by the JPA March 3 at partially flooded Lost Lake County Park to highlight beneficial water losses being caused by the current San Joaquin River flood release that could have been prevented by Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir.

Mr. Santoyo said a positive meeting was held February 9 with representatives of Granville Homes to discuss the Temperance Flat Project. President Worthley participated.

A briefing on the project and California water issues was provided during a February 24 meeting with state Treasurer John Chiang, a candidate for governor in 2018. Director Silva suggested inviting all gubernatorial candidates to the San Joaquin River and Temperance Dam site for tours and informational briefings.

New billboards, to be sponsored by the California Latino Water Coalition, will number 30 when they are placed along key freeways with messages and images. The billboards will promote Temperance Flat. A \$10,000 contract has been signed by the Latino Water Coalition. The sign company owner, as a community service in support of the project, will leave each billboard in place as long as possible. They will be located at highly visible locations in the JPA's five-county area.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

Director Verboon introduced Nate Olson, City of Lemoore Public Works Director.

Director Verboon reported that he and Supervisor Rogers, while in Washington recently, visited the offices of Senator Feinstein, and Representatives McCarthy and Valadao, and addressed Temperance Flat matters.

Director Lopez thanked the JPA staff for its Temperance Flat outreach efforts.

President Worthley discussed recent flood flow events and pointed out the value of holding water, noting that storing water south of the Delta is much more valuable than moving water through the Delta.

Director Silva thanked Director Mendes and Alternate Director Pacheco, both of whom are Fresno County supervisors, for help given West Side communities during the current flood releases.

Director Rogers said he had spoken about Temperance Flat to the National Association of County Organizations.

President Worthley noted that Friant Dam flood releases are not being limited to the San Joaquin River. He said 80% of the water being diverted into the Madera County is ending up as flood flows in the Fresno River and Ash Slough channels. Director Rogers said the situation underscores the importance of having small projects developed in conjunction with Temperance Flat.

NEXT MEETING

The JPA's next board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Friday, April 14, at the board chambers of the Fresno Irrigation District, 2907 South Maple Avenue, Fresno, California.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned by President Worthley at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Randall McFarland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

J. Randall McFarland
Recording Secretary