

Governing Board

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SUPERVISOR DOUG VERBOON,
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WESTERN CITIES

MAYOR PRO TEM ALVARO PRECIADO,
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CITY OF AVENAL
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WESTERN WATER AGENCIES

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SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE
CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY
DAN POPE, *Alternate*
WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

TRIBAL MEMBERS

DAN CASAS,
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
JANUARY 13, 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 January 13, 2017, by President Steve Worthley.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

At the request of President Worthley, Acting Recording Secretary J. Randall McFarland called the roll of Board members. The following Board members were present: President Worthley, Vice President Mendes, Directors O'Banion, Lopez, Silva, Preciado (*arrived 9:15 a.m.*) and Chedester. Staff present: Executive Director Mario Santoyo. (*The audience roll sheet is attached.*)

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

Supervisor Lloyd Pareira, Merced County's new JPA alternate, and Kings County Administrative Officer Larry Spikes were introduced.

President Worthley asked for consideration of the Minutes for the regular Board meeting held on December 9, 2016. Director Rogers moved, seconded by Director Verboon, that the minutes be approved as presented. 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. The JPA has collected \$45,415 in contributions this fiscal year. It has expended \$118,143 during the current fiscal year. The JPA has \$175,267 budgeted for the remainder of the fiscal year. On December 31, the JPA had \$70,587 in cash available. (*A copy of the financial report is attached.*)

Mr. Santoyo reported office space in Sanger has been secured. With Nisei Farmers League President Manuel Cunha in the audience, Mr. Santoyo reiterated thanks to the Nisei Farmers League for its generosity in providing office space and many support services to the JPA in its first year.

Two representatives of California Consulting Service were present to make brief presentations about the firm's grant searching and writing services. The company is working on grant opportunities for the JPA.

ORGANIZATIONAL

President Worthley noted there had been no change in the Board of Directors composition in the wake of the November 2016 election. He called upon the member agencies to designate any change in their alternate directors. They included Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Brett Frazier, Madera County (*designated later in the meeting*); and Lloyd Pareira, Merced County (*designated later in the meeting*). Alternates for East Side Cities and West Side Cities have not yet been designated.

President Worthley noted that JPA consultant J. Randall McFarland has been serving as Acting Recording Secretary for several months. He and Executive Director Santoyo proposed that Mr. McFarland be designated as Recording Secretary. By consensus, the Board concurred.

OUTREACH

Undefeated boxer Jose Ramirez of Avenal, a major supporter of the JPA and other valley interests seeking permanent solutions to California's water crisis, was introduced by Mr. Santoyo as a guest speaker. Mr. Ramirez has now been one of the featured competitors in the six Fights for Water that have been held over the past few years. He told the board it was important for him personally to speak to the Board because he wishes to show support to the cause. Mr. Ramirez said water is very important to himself and his family because of the employment it creates for valley people. That is why he reached out to Mr. Santoyo in order to become more involved and be able to speak about the issues through the media. Mr. Santoyo said video of Mr. Ramirez has been shot at Friant Dam and placed on the website of Mr. Ramirez and viewed by thousands of followers. President Worthley pointed out that Mr. Ramirez has been a direct financial contributor to the JPA, for which the Board of Directors offers its sincere thanks and appreciation. Director Lopez, a former boxer, said Orange Cove truly appreciates what Mr. Ramirez has done and that he is a champion already.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chris White, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chairman, reported (*via telephone*) on TAC activities. Mr. White said the committee has been working closely with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Michelle Denning on modifications proposed to the final Temperance Flat Project Feasibility Study's alternatives. He stated that Alternative 5 is the closest to being water-user friendly. At the request of the Friant Water Authority as part of its consideration of involvement in the Temperance Flat Project, that alternative is being examined to develop a baseline that would assume all project developed water would strictly benefit Friant contractors rather than being divided evenly with West Side CVP users. Bill Swanson of MWH Global explained the computer modeling that is to be used in the process. Other Delta benefits will also be examined. Costs remain in the same estimated range of \$500,000-\$900,000. Mr. White said that when the bond funding application-preparation stage is reached, all funding for that phase will need to be in place.

He stated the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority will be contributing \$20,000 to the JPA for the Temperance Flat technical effort. The SL&DMWA will have a representative on the TAC and its board will explore possible participation in the JPA Board.

Mr. Swanson gave an overview of a meeting conducted January 12 by the Bureau of Reclamation on the further analysis of alternatives. He explained how the Water Commission's final application rules have significantly changed the preparation process that must be used, minimizing previously-gathered data in some cases, in order to forecast runoff resulting from climate change in future decades. Details of

this revised analysis and application process were discussed. The process is to be “an evolving decision.” The time frame to accomplish all of this is now extremely short. President Worthley said, “Perfection will be the death of this project.” He said there must be give and take, and willingness to take some risk, for the process to evolve. Nisei Farmers League President Manuel Cunha voiced objections to the Water Commission’s application rule changes, particularly in regard to the climate change analysis.

Gary Serrato, Fresno Irrigation District General Manager and Chairman of the sub-group investigating groundwater, reviewed the intended process and criteria for selecting regional infrastructure projects to enhance Temperance Flat and the overall water supply. These criteria include cost-benefit ratio, ecological benefits, benefits to the region, stakeholder collaboration and local funding. More is needed than simply a concept. As an example, Mr. Serrato cited a potential regional project utilizing Big Dry Creek Reservoir northeast of Clovis, aimed at increasing the reservoir’s evacuation time from 30 to 90 days. Mr. Santoyo said a final step will be integrating small projects with the largest project, Temperance Flat.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Santoyo briefed the Board on the most recent meeting of the California Water Commission during which application regulations were finalized and sent to the Office of Administrative Law for review.

He then introduced Joe Del Bosque as a guest speaker. Mr. Del Bosque is a member of the California Water Commission. Mr. Del Bosque explained the lengthy process the commission had followed in establishing rules and regulations for the Proposition 1 (state water bond) application process, noting that the focus has been on the measure’s Chapter 8. The Commission is now moving toward the review and selection process. The \$2.7 billion available for storage projects now does not look “so big,” he said. Mr. Del Bosque said there could be a delay in the application filing deadline if there are any issues with the Office of Administrative Law. He suggested the JPA remain very much engaged.

RECESS

President Worthley called a recess at 10:36 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:43 a.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Executive Director Santoyo introduced Michelle Denning of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. She spoke about passage of the Water Resources Development Act that included provisions for drought-relief projects in California, water recycling and two types of water storage projects — state led and federal led. She said Temperance Flat may qualify as a result of its historic ties to the Friant project as the site was originally considered for the Friant project’s dam and remains an extension of Millerton Lake. She provided other details, including establishment of a storage account, participation in which by CVP contractors could request 9-D repayment contracts similar to those provided to Friant contractors for paying their remaining shares due to the CVP for its construction under the river restoration legislation. In all, the federal program has a \$335 million cap.

Mr. Santoyo said the Friant Water Authority requested a letter from Congressman McCarthy’s office to the Department of the Interior to make changes in draft feasibility report on Temperance Flat. The change would be in the alternatives discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. McCarthy’s office has asked the JPA to review the letter and the JPA staff will be offering comments and suggested revisions. President Worthley said the JPA appreciates Mr. McCarthy’s interest and participation.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Worthley reported on a meeting with administration officials on December 16 in the Governor's office. He said the JPA representatives did not feel "warm vibrations" from the Governor's aides but that the meeting was good and well worth the effort. It became clear there is a great deal of misinformation about the project in the Governor's office. Roger Isom was instrumental in setting up the meeting. George Soares was present and is to follow up with the Governor's staff. Mr. Worthley said it would be beneficial to have some of those individuals visit Friant Dam and view the present flood release and also visit the Temperance Flat Dam site.

The Board considered legislation proposed by Congressman David Valadao, H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water Act (GROW Act). Mr. Santoyo said the legislation could move the Temperance Flat project forward. He said the GROW Act would eliminate the possibility of a Wild and Scenic Rivers designation being applied to reaches of the San Joaquin River within the Temperance Flat Reservoir footprint. After discussion, Vice President Mendes moved, seconded by Director Verboon that a letter of support be prepared by the JPA staff and sent to Mr. Valadao, subject to Board of Directors review. The motion prevailed without objection.

OUTREACH

At the last meeting, Mr. Santoyo provided an update on the proposed California Water Summit and interest by Dr. Castro, President of California State University, Fresno, in holding the event in Fresno State's sports arena, the Save Mart Center. There is interest among several media outlets and other organizations in co-sponsoring the event. The press of other business and activities has prevented progress from being made.

Mr. Santoyo reported that on January 6 a news conference was held by the JPA at Friant Dam with a backdrop of flood release water being released into the San Joaquin River. The well attended news conference generated a great deal of coverage. The message voiced by JPA officials and valley leaders was the need to be able to capture such surplus waters with adequate storage as would be provided by state bond money and federal funding invested to develop Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir. Vice President Mendes said the event went very well and President Worthley took note of the "great response." Mr. Worthley, Mr. Mendes and Mr. Santoyo were all guests on Ray Appleton's talk show on KMJ Radio following the news conference.

Mr. Santoyo announced Julia Berry, Madera County Director of Water and Natural Resources, has volunteered to assist the JPA's public relations activities and events.

President Worthley noted Assemblyman Jim Patterson took part in the recent Friant news conference and has been a big advocate of the project.

Mr. Santoyo reported he made a presentation on the project January 11 to the American Council of Engineering Companies and asked those attending to send letters of support to the Water Commission and federal officials. The organization is very supportive of Temperance Flat.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

Director Lopez expressed concern over a lack of attention to water matters in the recent One Voice trip to Washington. Vice President Mendes said Fresno County wished to structure the program differently. Mr. Santoyo said he would help craft a policy paper on water for One Voice.

Director Verboon stressed the necessity of having a working relationship and open communication with California Water Commission members.

NEXT MEETING

The JPA's next board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Friday, February 10, 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 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Randall McFarland
Recording Secretary