

GOVERNING BOARD



2800 Burrel Avenue, Visalia, California 93291
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Alternate

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TABLE MOUNTAIN RANCHERIA

MEMBER AT LARGE

COUNCILMAN ROBERT SILVA



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY 12, 2017

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 9:02 a.m. on May 12, 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 directors were present: President Worthley, Vice President Mendes, Directors Rogers, O'Banion, Verboon, Lopez, Silva, Chedester, and Karst (*alternate for Casas*). Staff present: Executive Director Mario Santoyo. Others present (*from roll signatures*): Recording Secretary J. Randall McFarland; Megan Marks, office of the Fresno County Auditor-Controller; Manuel Cunha Jr., Nisei Farmers League; Bud Elliott, freelance reporter; and John Anderson, Senator Cannella's staff.

The board and audience members joined in the Pledge of Allegiance, led by President Worthley.

President Worthley asked for consideration of the Minutes for the regular Board meeting held on April 14, 2017. Director Verboon moved, seconded by Director Preciado, 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. She reported the RFQ process continues. She stated that the Fresno County Auditor-Controller's Office has implemented a new wire transfer process that is somewhat more time consuming.

On a cash basis as of April 30, 2017, the cash balance was \$156,563. Remaining cash as of April 30, 2017, amounted to \$73,697. *(A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached.)*

Ms. Marks reviewed proposed updates to JPA accounting policies. *(A copy is is attached.)* Upon motion of Director Verboon, seconded by Director O'Banion and carried unanimously, the JPA accounting policies were adopted as revised and presented.

Executive Director Santoyo presented a budget adjustment proposal, a \$5,000 increase to fund a part-time employee for the remainder of the 2016-17 fiscal year. He stated revenue is available for the position. Upon motion of Director Verboon, seconded by Director Chedester and carried unanimously, the additional funding was authorized as recommended. Mr. Santoyo said consultant J. Randall McFarland would continue to serve the Board as its Recording Secretary.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

The proposed 2017-18 budget, which was examined in April, was again before the Board of Directors. Mr. Santoyo noted that the Board acted previously to increase the per-member fee to \$50,000 to provide funding for activities not currently being addressed. Invoices for that amount are to be sent to the member agencies within the coming week, Ms. Marks said. Mr. Santoyo said, in response to a suggestion made in April by Director Chedester, that the JPA has reached out to a pair of Sacramento-based public relations entities. May 18 meetings with representatives of the firms are scheduled in Sacramento. They will be followed by submission of proposals, which the Board will then review and consider.

The Board then considered modifications to the MWH (now Stantec Consulting Services) master consulting services contract. The changes include a new remittance address and revised standard consulting rates in Years 2 and 3 but no modification to the overall WSIP application cost estimate. Upon motion of Director O'Banion, seconded by Vice President Mendes and carried unanimously, the modifications to the master services agreement were authorized.

Task Order No. 3, a Statement of Work dated April 24, 2017, was presented by Stantec Consulting Services Inc., covering its initial services in support of preparing an application to be submitted to the California Water Commission under Chapter 8 of Proposition 1, seeking state bond funding for Temperance Flat Project public benefits development. Upon motion of Director Verboon, seconded by Director Mendes and carried unanimously, Task Order No. 3 was authorized.

ORGANIZATIONAL

Executive Director Santoyo reported that letters to the Friant Water Authority and San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority have been sent regarding JPA board membership. The SLDMWA has verbally expressed interest and has been asked for a written statement and response in order to launch the necessary joint powers agency amendment process. Regarding Friant, Mr. Santoyo suggested direct discussions be conducted at a meeting involving up to four JPA directors and a like number of FWA directors.



A draft Conflict of Interest Code recommended by the County of Tulare was introduced by Mr. Santoyo. The matter will come back to the Board for action following a 45-day public comment period. There was no objection.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chris White, Chairman of the JPA Technical Advisory Committee and General Manager of the Central California Irrigation District, presented an update to the Board on the Authority's efforts to complete necessary Temperance Flat studies and an application for state bond funding. He noted that 94 days remain before the application and operations plan must be submitted to the California Water Commission. There has been a particularly hard push over the past 45 days. Mr. White said much remains to be accomplished but that the application will be ready for submittal. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has been in what Mr. White termed "high cooperative mode" on the project effort. Reclamation found funding to permit consulting studies and efforts to continue and appears to have additional dollars available. With JPA member funding and other contributions, the funding gap is nearly closed. Mr. White said 26 Cal-sim (computer modeling runs) have been completed on climate change. Some of these Cal-sim runs are being prepared as background data to support application findings of San Joaquin River and Temperance Flat water conditions in 2030 and 2070 as required by the California Water Commission. Four different funding matters are being pursued and addressed simultaneously by the TAC, with the No. 1 effort being directed at preparing the Proposition 1-Chapter 8 state bond application. Work is continuing on an operations plan that addresses both East Side and West Side systems and interests, and in which investors can find comfort. Two "bookends" have been established for framing the plan—Friant Division only and West Side only. These are to be blended into a preferred operations plan. Mr. White said it is "refreshing" to have West Side and East Side communities of interest working together toward a common goal. President Worthley said that not only is the project great for the region, the valley must have it become reality in order to meet Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requirements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Santoyo said the letter stating the cooperative relationship between the four agencies involved in the Temperance Flat Project sent an extremely important message to the California Water Commission. He reported that the commission plans to limit contacts between commissioners and project proponents. The public comment period during a future meeting will be used to invite the commission to visit the Temperance Flat site.

President Worthley reported on a Tulare County supervisors trip to Washington during which a meeting was held with Scott Cameron, special assistant to the Interior secretary, regarding Temperance Flat and tree mortality issues. Other meetings were held with excellent receptions afforded to the California delegation. It was recognized that Temperance Flat is a very significant project.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Worthley reported on a Northern California Water Association conference call in which working together was a theme. Mr. Worthley said he stressed the JPA is not attempting to compete but favors supporting one another. Sites Reservoir proponents are looking more at the procedural side while the JPA is looking for money. Vice President Mendes stated federal officials are appreciative of the various interests working together. He said a Temperance Flat-oriented trip is being planned by broadly-based Fresno County interests.



OUTREACH

Executive Director Santoyo reported on the Valley PBS three part documentary, “Tapped Out,” on the valley’s CVP water and its issues. The program is highly supportive toward Temperance Flat, agriculture and other valley water needs.

President Worthley and Executive Director Santoyo reported “great response” from members of the California Citrus Mutual as a result of a presentation on Temperance Flat. A similar presentation was presented by Mr. Santoyo to the staff of the California Fresh Fruit Association.

The Fresno City Council on April 27 approved a resolution and letter to be sent to the California Water Commission and other interested parties in support of Temperance Flat. Councilman Steve Brandau is very interested in storage. Vice President Mendes reported on the funds for JPA representation for cities made available by COG members with the largest contributions from Fresno County and City of Fresno. Mr. Mendes said a meeting with city officials was held during which technical items were discussed, including what water supply goals the city would like to see contained within the project operations plan. A big question remains regarding how storage costs are to be paid.

Mr. White said the Friant Water Authority must put forth a vision of its “asks” for the operations plan. Mr. White said Temperance Flat storage will almost certainly firm up Friant’s Class 2 water availability. A baseline is needed to preserve Friant Class 1, Class 2 and Section 215 supplies.

Christine Souza, a California Farm Bureau Federation reporter for *Ag Alert*, is to meet with JOA leaders and tour the Temperance Flat Dam site May 23-24.

Nisei Farmers League President Manuel Cunha and Mr. Santoyo said boxer Jose Ramirez will be one of the fighters in Fight for Water 7 on August 4 or 5 with a focus on Temperance Flat.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

Director Lopez said the recent meeting with the City of Fresno was very positive.

Director Rogers said he had addressed a session of county supervisors in Northern California about Temperance Flat and that the group was excited about the project.

Director Rogers reported on SB 252 (Dodd) that would require permits for all wells in California. He said the measure, which has passed the Senate and is in the Assembly, would be a serious impediment to agriculture and SGMA. Director Rogers moved, seconded by Director Verboon, that as an urgency item, the matter of acting on a position concerning SB252 be added to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously. Upon motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Vice President Mendes and carried unanimously, the board opposed SB252.

President Worthley, reflecting on his recent visit to the nation’s capital, said it is “a different world now in D.C.” and that the JPA needs to take advantage of the situation.

Director Chedester said a panel discussion on water storage took place at the recent ACWA conference with seven projects discussed.

Director Silva said there are many new members of city councils who need information on Proposition 1. Mr. Silva and Chris While will work together to put together the necessary information.



NEXT MEETING

The JPA's next board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Friday, June 9, 2017, 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 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Randall McFarland". The signature is fluid and cursive.

J. Randall McFarland
Recording Secretary