

**SAN JOAQUIN
VALLEY WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE
AUTHORITY**

Steve Worthley
President

Governing Board

Fresno County
Buddy Mendes, Director
Brian Pacheco, Alternate

Tulare County
Steve Worthley, Director
Allen Ishida, Alternate

Madera County
David Rogers, Director
Rick Farinelli, Alternate

Merced County
Jerry O'Banion, Director
John Pedrozo, Alternate

Kings County
Doug Verboon, Director
Craig Pedersen, Alternate

Cities
Mayor Victor Lopez
City of Orange Cove

Mayor Pro Tem Alvaro
Preciado
City of Avenal

Water Districts
Steve Chedester
San Joaquin River Exchange
Contractors Water Authority

Tribes

At Large

Interim Executive Director

Mario Santoyo
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2800 W Burrel Avenue

Visalia, CA 93291

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**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2016 3:00 P.M.
FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT OFFICE
2907 S. Maple Avenue, Fresno
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting for the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (JPA) was called to order on February 5, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. by President Steve Worthley.

President Worthley asked for the roll call of the board members. The following board members were present: President Worthley, Directors Pedersen, O'Banion, Mendes, Rogers and Auditor-Treasurer Alan Cade. Alternate Directors present were: Ishida, Pacheco. Staff present: Interim Executive Director Mario Santoyo. Attached is the sign in sheet of others present.

President Worthley asked for approval of the Agenda for February 5, 2016. Upon motion of Director Pedersen, seconded by Director Rogers and approved by the board that the Agenda be approved as submitted.

President Worthley asked for approval of the Minutes for the regular board meeting held on January 8, 2015. Upon motion of Director Mendes, seconded by Director Pedersen and approved by the board that the Minutes for January 8, 2015 be approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, members of the public may speak about any subject of concern not appearing on the Agenda, provided it is within the jurisdiction of the SJVWIA. The total amount of time allocated for this Public Comment Period shall be determined by the Authority President and each individual will be limited to 3 minutes. Note: The matters presented during this Public Comment Period may not be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time.

Assemblyman Devon Mathis asked for a letter of support for state legislation, AB 1586, that he has introduced in the State Assembly. The legislation is seeking a CEQA waiver for water projects, such as Temperance Flat.

Interim Executive Director Santoyo noted that he would place this request on next month's Agenda.

ORGANIZATIONAL

Approval of Board Seats – Santoyo introduced Fresno Council of Governments (COG) Executive Director Tony Boren. Boren reported on the process that was used to both notify and select the east and west city member board seats on the JPA within the 5 county area. He then noted that the City of Orange Cove and the City of Avenal were chosen along with the City of Clovis and City of Mendota as alternates.

Upon motion of Director Mendes, seconded by Director Rogers and approved by the Board that Mayor Victor Lopez, City of Orange Cove be appointed as the Eastern Portion City Member.

Upon motion of Director Pedersen, seconded by Director Rogers and approved by the Board that a representative from the City of Clovis be appointed as the Eastern Portion City Member Alternate.

Upon motion of Director O'Banion, seconded by Director Pedersen and approved by the Board that Mayor Pro Tem Alvaro M. Preciado of the City of Avenal be appointed as the Western Portion City Member.

Prior to the Board taking action on the City of Mendota as the Western Portion City Alternate, Interim Executive Director Santoyo noted that the City of Mendota have notified him that the City Council have not taken action to do so, as of yet. Therefore, the Board should wait until official word is received from the City of Mendota. The Board agreed to postpone action at this time.

Upon motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Director O'Banion and approved by the Board that Steve Chedester of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors be appointed as the Water Agency Member.

There was no recommendation made at this meeting for an Alternate Water Agency Member.

Santoyo stated that the board seats remaining to be filled included: an Eastern Portion water agency and Alternate, a Western Portion water agency Alternate, an At Large Member, a Tribal Member and a Tribal Alternate Member. He noted that Table Mountain had stated it was working on a Resolution regarding participation.

President Worthley stated that a letter was sent to the Secretary of State on February 2, 2016 requesting registration of the JPA. Until the confirmation is received from the State, the JPA could not incur any debts.

Upon motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Director Lopez and approved by the Board that the official address of the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority be that of the County of Tulare, 2800 West Burrell Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291 and that the website of the County of Tulare be the official site for posting notices of the public board meetings, attachments, minutes of meetings, and items of interest to the public. Director Mendes suggested that all the counties along with Fresno Irrigation District post the meetings on their websites as well.

The board discussed a regular meeting schedule and location. It was suggested that the second Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. be chosen. This will be listed as an action item on next month's meeting agenda.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Santoyo proposed the establishment of a technical advisory committee to provide project and technical input to the Board. He highlighted a proposed structure which would include: Water Authorities, U S Bureau of Reclamation, Industry Stakeholders, City Managers, California State University Fresno and Department of Water Resources.

Santoyo then introduced Gary Serrato, General Manager of Fresno Irrigation District who discussed the Kings Basin Water Authority (KBWA).

Upon motion of Director Lopez, seconded by Director Mendes and approved by the board that a Technical Advisory Committee be formed.

FINANCIAL

Alan Cade, Fresno County Deputy Auditor-Controller and point man for JPA Auditor-Treasurer reported on the JPA financial matters that his office has been working on. Cade stated that the JPA bank account has been established and that JPA funds will earn interest, however before funds can be transferred, it would be necessary to obtain both state and federal tax identification numbers. He noted that once the JPA is registered with the Secretary of State, his office could obtain those numbers and then send out the appropriate invoice information to the Board seat members to initiate the transfer of funds. He also noted that it will be necessary for the JPA to have an outside Auditor to perform an annual audit. In addition, County of Tulare and the Nisei Farmers League need to determine the value of their services they have provided to the JPA.

Instructions to board members for submitting funds will be forthcoming.

Upon motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Director Lopez and approved by the board that Director Mendes be designated to review the bills and recommend payment.

Cade suggested that the Fiscal Year for the JPA, be consistent with Fresno County. However, would make an official recommendation at the next Board meeting.

Interim Executive Director Santoyo noted that the JPA Agreement had provisions that suggested the JPA consider both a fidelity bond and liability insurance to cover all officers and staff. Mr. Cade asked for direction and a discussion by the Board concluded that research on options should be conducted. During that period, the JPA registration with the State would occur, which would allow the JPA to purchase if necessary.

Santoyo reported that he met with Tulare County staff to work out an Independent Contractor Agreement at a salary of \$10,000.00 per month. Travel, mileage, and phone expenses will be in addition to the monthly salary. The Agreement will be submitted to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for their approval.

Upon motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Director Lopez and approved by the Board that an Independent Contractor Agreement at the salary of \$10,000.00 per month be approved. In addition to the monthly salary, reimbursement for travel costs, mileage and purchase of a phone along with a service plan be approved.

Alan Cade recommended a policy be approved for reimbursement of expenses. Cade will present this policy at the next board meeting.

Santoyo reviewed a proposed service contract for J. R. McFarland Communications, included with the agenda packet. McFarland's services will be needed for arranging Press Conferences, Letters to the Editor, dealing with the media along with other communication services.

Upon motion of Director Mendes, seconded by Director Pedersen and approved by the board that once the registration is received from the Secretary of State that J. R. McFarland Communications service contract be approved as submitted.

OTHER BUSINESS

Santoyo made reference to a request for a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation and the State Water Resources Control Board in support of the State Legislators letter dated January 25, 2016 that was included with the board's agenda packet.

Upon motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Director Lopez and approved by the board that a letter be sent to the Bureau of Reclamation and the State Water Resources Control Board supporting the position of our state legislators.

Santoyo noted to the board a new initiative "Water Priorities Public Interest & Public Trust Constitutional Amendment & New Surface Water & Groundwater Storage Facilities Bond Act of 2016," is being circulated for qualifying signatures for the November 2016 ballot and that the initiative had impacts on the JPA's efforts with Proposition One Chapter Eight funding.

Manuel Cunha, Jr., President of the Nisei Farmers League made a presentation to the board in regard to the detrimental effect the initiative would have on the funding needed for building Temperance Flat. President Worthley also reflected concern. After discussion by the board, it was determined that no action would be taken at this time.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

None

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Santoyo reported on several meetings he participated in or has pending:

1. Met with MWH Engineering – This engineering firm has been working on all the technical studies along with both the Preliminary and Final Feasibility Studies for the Temperance Flat Dam project for over 10 years. He requested a presentation of MWH along with their qualifications to provide contract services for Prop One application process for next board meeting
2. Scheduling meeting with California Water Commission staff, Sacramento
3. Scheduling meeting with Bureau of Reclamation staff, Sacramento
4. Made presentation to the San Joaquin Valley Policy Council (Eight Counties) and his participation in their upcoming one voice trip to Sacramento.
5. Made presentation to the Tulare County Farm Bureau
6. JPA Briefings with State and Federal Legislators being planned; to date he has met with Assemblyman Salas, Gray and Mathis
7. Participated with Board members in a JPA Briefing for Congressman Valadao on January 29, 2016
8. Requested a meeting with U S Senator Feinstein for briefing

Santoyo asked if any of the board members would like to attend any of the above meetings. Directors Mendes, Lopez and Rogers said they would be interested.

Santoyo outlined some of the pressing matters that need attention right away:

1. A Policy Concept Paper needs to be submitted to California Water Commission in late March and he is working with the USBR in the preparation of that paper.
2. Evaluation of engineering consulting firms and eventually the need to hire one for Prop One application process.

Santoyo requested authorization to have media consultant draft Op Eds, etc. President Worthley commented that additional authorization was not necessary, since the consultant has been approved.

In seeking approval for trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., Worthley commented that it was not necessary for Santoyo to ask for board approval for every trip he determines necessary and the board concurred. With regard to a Washington, D.C. trip, President Worthley stated that the Board members should have their respective agencies pick up their travel costs, but that the JPA would cover the staff's costs. There is a "One Voice" trip being planned by the Fresno Council of Governments in Washington, D.C. in April. Santoyo will be attending on behalf of the Local Agency Formation Commission.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on March 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Fresno Irrigation District, 2907 S. Maple Avenue, Fresno, California.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Lehn