

GOVERNING BOARD



2800 Burrel Avenue, Visalia, California 93291
www.tularecounty.ca.gov

TULARE COUNTY

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SUPERVISOR KUYLER CROCKER,
Alternate

FRESNO COUNTY

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Vice President
SUPERVISOR BRIAN PACHECO,
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Director
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COUNCILMAN JOSE FLORES,
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CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY
DAN POPE, *Alternate*
WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

CANNON MICHAEL,
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SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA
WATER AUTHORITY
JASON PELTIER, *Alternate*

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA
WATER AUTHORITY

TRIBAL MEMBERS

DAN CASAS,
Director
ANGELA KARST, *Alternate*
TABLE MOUNTAIN RANCHERIA

MEMBER AT LARGE

COUNCILMAN ROBERT SILVA
Director



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARIO SANTOYO
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEPTEMBER 8, 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 9:00 a.m. on September 8, 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 (*arrived 9:08 a.m.*), O'Banion, Chedester, Verboon, Lopez, Preciado and Peltier (*alternate for Michael*). Staff present: Executive Director Mario Santoyo.

Others present (*from roll signatures*): Recording Secretary J. Randall McFarland; Pao Xiong, office of the Fresno County Auditor-Controller; Matt Abercrombe, McMullin Area GSA; Ryan Jacobsen, Fresno County Farm Bureau; Manuel Cunha Jr., Nisei Farmers League; Dave Brown, Lemoore City Council; Jeevan Sinwaa, Mid-Valley Water District; Breanne Ramos, Merced County Farm Bureau; Scott Redelfs, City of Clovis; Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau; Bill Stretch, Fresno Irrigation District; Gloria Preciado, Avenal; Jodi Raley, CCGGA-WAPA; Nathan Olson, City of Lemoore; Nicholas Sinclair, Assemblyman Jim Patterson's office; Jerry Rai, Raisin City Water District; Julia Berry, Madera County; Ana Melendez, Assemblyman Joaquin Arambula's office; Jill and Jeff Aiello, 18ThirtyEntertainment; Dusty Ference, Kings County Farm Bureau; Don A. Wright, Waterwrights.net; and Kelly McErerney, AECOM.

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 August 11, 2017. Director O'Banion moved, seconded by Vice President Verboon, that the minutes be approved as mailed. The motion carried unanimously.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President Mendes 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.

Matt Abercrombie, McMullen GSA and Mid-Valley Water District, asked the board to consider the so-called "white area" outside of water districts as the Temperance Flat Project advances. President Worthley assured Mr. Abercrombie the JPA is interested in all areas and said "white areas" would be candidates to become project investors.

Steven Singh, McMullen GSA and Mid-Valley Water District, expressed interest in being part of the JPA.

Jerry Radinoff, who farms in a "white area" within the McMullen GSA, asked how the project operating plan would affect groundwater along the San Joaquin River. President Worthley said additional flows in the river to Mendota Pool over longer periods would improve local groundwater conditions.

FINANCIAL

Pao Xiong, office of the Fresno County Auditor-Controller which serves as the JPA Treasurer, presented the financial report. He said the JPA ended the 2016-17 fiscal year with a balance of \$167,763. The cash balance on August 31, 2017 was \$339,446. Total administrative revenues in FY 2018 as of August 31, 2017, were \$295,642 with administrative expenditures as of August 31 at \$44,437. FY 2018 engineering revenues as of August 31, 2017, were \$15,584 with engineering expenditures of \$84,179. *(A copy of the financial report is on file.)* There was discussion regarding the status of agencies in relation to anticipated revenues.

President Worthley noted that Table Mountain Rancheria has given notice of its JPA resignation for financial reasons but remains in full support of the project. The board delayed action on the resignation in order that Table Mountain, as a founding JPA member, could be listed on the recent application for state bond funding.

The board considered Stantec Invoice No. 2 and Task Order No. 3 for engineering services. The second invoice represents the remainder of the \$200,000 to conclude the JPA application process. The JPA will look to its cost-sharing partners to ensure that the funds are available. Upon motion of Director Verboon, seconded by Director Lopez and carried unanimously Stantec Invoice No. 2 and Task Order No. 3 for engineering services were authorized.

ORGANIZATIONAL

President Worthley gave a report on recent developments involving the JPA's invitation to the Friant Water Authority (FWA) to become a JPA member. A JPA ad hoc committee has conducted a lengthy review process. The FWA has modified its proposed conditions significantly to the satisfaction of the ad hoc committee. The FWA will pay \$50,000 to the JPA, prepare its own news release about membership and essentially come to agreement on membership matters. The JPA is awaiting final review but is ready to accept the FWA as a member. Upon motion of Vice President Mendes, seconded by Director Lopez and



carried unanimously, the Friant Water Authority was accepted as a JPA member pending its board's final action.

Mr. Santoyo reported on the process to reauthorize the JPA to add the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority as a member and expand the board by one director. He has been working with the Tulare County Counsel on the matter. The JPA amendment will include a provision to permit addition of other members without a similar amendment process.

A draft Conflict of Interest Code, recommended by the County of Tulare, was presented for initiation of a 45-day public review process. On motion of Director Lopez, seconded by Director Silva and carried unanimously, the public review process initiation was authorized.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Stantec consultant Bill Swanson provided an overview of the 1,500 page Water Storage Investment Program application recently filed on behalf of the JPA with the California Water Commission for \$1.33 billion in state water bond funding for the Temperance Flat Project's development. He described the process as a "sprint to get to the starting line for the marathon." He said the Commission application process required considerable redundancy. It did whittle down the number of interested parties from 160 initially to only 12 applications. The briefing summarized public benefits and regional benefits in the application as well as planning and development schedules and cost breakdowns. The operating plan section, developed after the milestone four-party agreement reached only weeks before the deadline, includes objectives of not harming existing contractors, creating public benefits and creating Sustainable Groundwater Management Act compliance opportunities, while providing water user control. Of crucial importance would be water deliveries flowing down the San Joaquin River, a very efficient producer of public benefits. The application demonstrates a drop of water can produce multiple benefits. The application establishes that earlier U.S. Bureau of Reclamation yield estimates are far short of what increased Temperance Flat operational flexibility can provide in increased water deliveries — 201,000 acre-feet annually in 2030 and 261,000 acre-feet each year by 2070. The numbers are believed to be conservative. Public benefits listed include ecosystem (fish habitat enhancement), ecosystem (wildlife refuges), recreation, flood control and emergency response (Delta outage). Projections demonstrate that ecosystem benefits improve into the future, as do project economics. With Temperance Flat being the only applicant project upstream of but south of the Delta, there are many opportunities for water supply integration with other systems. President Worthley noted that what central San Joaquin Valley water leaders see as the leading project benefit — enhancing groundwater recharge and banking opportunities — does not even show up in the Water Commission's required analysis.

Mr. Worthley asked Mr. Swanson to prepare a project application summary that is more succinct and oriented to a lay audience.

The president thanked the entire Stantec staff and JPA Technical Advisory Committee for its tireless work on application preparation. He said it may have been the first time that East Side and West Side water interests had worked so closely. Mr. Santoyo saluted the leadership and efforts of TAC Chairman Chris White, Central California Irrigation District General Manager.

By consensus, the board agreed that preparation should begin on a new scope of work to deal with unexpected issues, project explanation and improved understanding. Cost sharing issues are also to be considered.

Mr. Santoyo said additional Stantec work of fine-tuning of costs faced by project investors would probably be headed by the Friant Water Authority and City of Fresno, and would be outside of the JPA.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

An invitation is being sent to the California Water Commission to visit the Temperance Flat site.

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. Santoyo stated that since the last meeting a Temperance Flat Project meeting took place in Fresno with State Senate President Pro Temp Kevin DeLeon and a Temperance Flat site visit was made by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. The latter visit was arranged by Assemblyman Joaquin Arambula.

An invitation has been extended to Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom to visit the Temperance Flat Project site and central San Joaquin Valley.

Efforts continue to develop an agenda and set meetings for a Washington, D.C., trip.

Letters of support for the Temperance Flat Project from statewide organizations continue to be encouraged and gathered. Many completed letters, and a generic letter, are now posted on the JPA website. It was suggested that school districts be encouraged to join in the letter-writing campaign. Mr. Santoyo reported an accounting system of letters sought and received has been established.

Mr. Santoyo said Kyle Lombardi of House Majority Leader McCarthy's office has encouraged JPA board members to make direct contact with their members of Congress in support of Temperance Flat.

Director Rogers reported a Ray Appleton Show KMJ Radio broadcast on Temperance Flat went very well.

President Worthley stated the JPA press conference August 14 at the Fresno County Farm Bureau offices attracted a large number of reporters and generated a good deal of media coverage on what Mr. Worthley termed "a great day." The event spotlighted the JPA's application of state water bond funding from the California Water Commission for the Temperance Flat Project. A video of news coverage was shown to the board.

Mr. Santoyo spoke about the project September 7 to the Fresno County Farm Bureau board's annual meeting.

Consultants Jeff and Jill Aiella reviewed public information services and participation in outreach projects on behalf of the JPA, including expansion of outreach to social media. Mr. Aiella and Mr. Santoyo said short videos are being prepared run on social media as testimonials in support of the project, and as "myth busters" to refute inaccurate arguments. Mr. Aiella said the project's many public benefits are a legitimate argument in favor of Temperance Flat.

Assembly Member Arambula's recently prepared mailer in support of Temperance Flat was described by Mr. Santoyo as being very valuable and much appreciated.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

Director Lopez asked the Executive Director to send a letter of appreciation to Brenda Quintana in connection with the DeLeon visit.

Director Verboon introduced Lemoore City Council member Dave Brown, Lemoore City Manager Nathan Olson and Kings County Farm Bureau Executive Director Dusty Ference.

**NEXT MEETING**

The JPA's next board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Friday, October 13, 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 11:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "J. Randall McFarland".

J. Randall McFarland
Recording Secretary