

# Governing Board

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SUPERVISOR ALLEN ISHIDA,  
*Alternate*

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CITY OF ORANGE COVE

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MAYOR PRO TEM ALVARO PRECIADO,  
*Director*

CITY OF AVENAL

MAYOR SYLVIA CHAVEZ, *Alternate*  
CITY OF HURON

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*Director*

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

MAYOR ROBERT SILVA



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 9, 2016 – 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 on September 9, 2016, by President Steve Worthley.

### PRELIMINARY MATTERS

At the request of President Worthley, Acting Recording Secretary J. Randall McFarland called the roll of the Board members. The following Board members were present: President Worthley, Vice President Mendes, Directors O'Banion, Lopez, Silva, Chedester, Preciado and alternate Karst. Staff present: Executive Director Mario Santoyo. Attached is the sign-in sheet of others present.

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 August 12, 2016. Director O'Banion noted he was absent from the meeting. Upon motion of Director Chedester, seconded by Vice President Mendes, it was approved by the Board that the Minutes for August 12, 2016, be adopted as corrected.

### 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 was no public comment.

### FINANCIAL

Megan Marks, Fresno County Auditor-Controller's office, distributed copies of the JPA's treasurer's report for the month ended August 31, 2016 (*a copy of which is attached.*) Less than \$68,000 in cash remains unappropriated and available to the JPA. Director Silva requested that greater detail be provided in the Treasurer's Report for "Professional and Specialized Services."

Executive Director Santoyo presented a report on outreach effort to other water agencies and interests that has been started in search of funding for the supplemental feasibility studies and analysis needed to develop additional data and information for the bond funding application. Vice President Mendes and Mr. Santoyo met with the Fresno Irrigation District Board of Directors, which authorized a \$10,000 contribution. A generic letter is being developed to assist in the outreach process.

Mr. Santoyo proposed a major outreach event for Temperance Flat Project stakeholders to build support in advance of the bond funding application deadline. Representatives of water agencies, businesses, labor and industries would be contacted and invited. Although a cooperating sponsor would be sought, some costs might be incurred by the JPA. On motion of Director Chedester, seconded by Director Silva and carried unanimously, the Board authorized the project and necessary expenditures.

Mr. Santoyo reported the Friant Water Authority has been contacted, personally and by letter, to determine the FWA's interest in the application. Such involvement is considered critical because of Friant's operations that depend upon San Joaquin River water and runoff. In a response letter, FWA officials stated their long-time support for additional surface water storage and expressed interest in setting up a meeting with JPA representatives. Mr. Santoyo suggested a casual luncheon or dinner meeting with representatives of each board and management staff. He said he would make arrangements.

Mr. Santoyo reported interest, conveyed by Technical Advisory Committee Chairman Chris White of the Central California Irrigation District, in involvement in the project. Nisei Farmers League President Manuel Cunha also related that two members of the Kern County Board of Supervisors wish to meet to discuss JPA involvement and possible membership. The Kern County leaders specifically cited trust that has been built up with other valley supervisors through joint Air District board work.

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chris White, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chairman and Central California Irrigation District General Manager, reported on attending a California Water Commission (CWC) session August 15 during which a 400-page regulation document was released for public comment detailing requirements for Proposition 1 bond funding. There is concern over the considerable amount of additional expense that may be required, particularly in linking the proposed project to what 2070 climate change conditions could be. President Worthley observed that the CWC staff, in shortening the deadline for bond funding applications a few months ago, stated applications could be less detailed; that is not reflected in the regulations being proposed. He noted that climate change seems poised to create more rainfall runoff and pointed out that the massive Sierra Nevada tree mortality situation will lessen natural watershed demands for water and create more runoff or a long period to come. Mr. Worthley said Temperance Flat's size would be a benefit in controlling rainflood discharges. Mr. Santoyo said the level of detail the state now proposes to require is over-whelming. He said the JPA will argue that the proposed requirements would consume too much time and money. Mr. White observed that none of the big projects seeking bond funding have time to meet such stringent requirements.

Regarding the JPA's Master Service Agreement with MWH and Task Order No. 1, Mr. Santoyo and Mr. White said all details have been taken care of to the satisfaction of counsel. The TAC and Mr. Santoyo recommended Board approval. On motion of Director O'Banion, seconded by Director Lopez and carried unanimously, the JPA's Master Service Agreement with MWH and Task Order No. 1 were approved and the President was authorized to sign the documents on behalf of the JPA.

Gary Serrato, TAC member and Fresno Irrigation District General Manager, said the Projects Subcommittee is evaluating possible projects based upon the CWC guidelines. Projects must be more than conceptual. Those selected would be enhanced by Temperance Flat. Mr. Serrato said the Projects Subcommittee will report back to the Board in 2½ months. (It was noted at a previous meeting some or all of such projects could potentially qualify for state bond funding from other than Section 8, the bond funds reserved for water storage.) President Worthley observed that the new SGMA mandates or groundwater sustainability are creating an entirely new list of "potential players" and what the value and benefits of Temperance Flat water would be.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Santoyo said he had been accompanied by Director Preciado at the August 17-18 California Water Commission meeting in Sacramento. Director Preciado gave a brief summary of his remarks to the Commission and noted the CWC is aware of the progress being made by the JPA and its joint work with the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Santoyo reported he had met with Water Commissioner Curtain who noted that Chapter 8 of Proposition 1 (the water bond measure) was written with the intent that nine CWC members, and not the Commission's staff, would make decisions.

Mr. Santoyo also stated that while in Sacramento for the CWC meeting, he and Director Preciado met with Assembly Member Bigelow on the Temperance Flat project and bond application process.

Mr. Santoyo said the TAC continues to work, on the JPA's behalf, on the Water Storage Investment Program and its proposed revisions. A public hearing is scheduled September 16 in Sacramento and written comments are due October 3.

A number of support letters for Temperance Flat bond funding continue to be prepared and sent to the CWC by interested parties. Assembly Member Arambula, did circulate a short "colleague letter" of support. At the JPA's request, Assembly Member Bigelow circulated and obtained numerous signatures on a colleague letter that was much longer and considerably more detailed as to valley needs and benefits of the Temperance Flat project. The JPA has drafted a letter at the request of Representative Costa that is to be circulated to colleagues in Congress; the letter includes expressions of federal willingness to participate. President Worthley asked Board members to communicate with their contacts over the need to generate similar letters.

Under the JPA's partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, Michelle Denning, Regional Planning Officer for USBR's Mid-Pacific Region, reported there is "some possible movement" in the Final Feasibility Report and EIS for the Temperance Flat project. The Commissioner of Reclamation today is involved in a meeting on the report and EIS. Reclamation is working through the CWC's draft application regulations to determine how they may differ from USBR practices. Ms. Denning noted that Reclamation has not focused on effects of SGMA; it is, she stated, important for the JPA to direct attention to SGMA-related issues and benefits that might accrue in relation to Temperance Flat. Executive Director Santoyo reported that a San Joaquin Valley Policy Council delegation has a meeting today in Washington at which Temperance Flat is to be discussed. Mr. Santoyo said Reclamation's interest in this project is strong. A meeting is planned to determine how much money Reclamation has available for its work. President Worthley said full funding is important; among the reasons is establishing a cost-sharing record for Temperance Flat. Mr. Santoyo agreed that the more Reclamation can do on behalf of the project, the less the JPA must do to secure funding.

Mr. Santoyo reported the JPA has been working with valley lawmakers to contact the Secretary of the Interior and officials within the Bureau of Land Management regarding the importance of the Temperance Flat project. The BLM has proposed a Wild and Scenic River issue involving the Temperance Flat Reservoir site on the San Joaquin River.

## OTHER BUSINESS:

Executive Director Santoyo said arrangements are being made for a Washington, D.C. trip in early October. Congress will not be in session, but meetings will be held with staff in Congressional offices, the Interior Department and Reclamation. Temperance Flat will be discussed. President Worthley and Vice President Mendes are making the trip and other Board participants are being sought.

Information on Proposition 53 on the November ballot was presented and discussed. Upon motion of Director Chedester, seconded by Director Lopez and carried unanimously, the Board adopted an *oppose* position on Proposition 53.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Santoyo reported Ruben Zarate of the Laborers International Union was ill and was unable to meet with the Board.

## **OUTREACH**

A briefing and tour on the West Side and at San Luis Reservoir was conducted by Mr. Santoyo at the request of the new Mexican Consul in Fresno so he could become better acquainted with the water issues plaguing the valley. A similar briefing and tour are planned to Friant Dam and the proposed Temperance Flat Dam site.

Informational materials for the proposed Temperance Flat project handout are being discussed internally and with Reclamation staff.

Mr. Santoyo again suggested State Capitol display cases of valley counties might be candidates to help build water storage public awareness by developing displays in a portion of the exhibit space. Assistance for such a project might be available from California State University, Fresno.

## **REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS**

President Worthley and Director Chedester reported on a water forum in Tulare hosted by Congressman Nunes. Mr. Chedester said the session was well attended. Its message was that all valley interests do not pull together and find a solution to the water situation, agriculture as it is known and practiced today will not continue; local farmers need to look honestly at all impacts. Director Lopez expressed displeasure that the JPA's efforts to work together to make Temperance Flat a reality were not acknowledged, to which Director Silva agreed. Mr. Worthley said that and that he feels the JPA is the solution to the survival of agriculture in this valley. Mr. Santoyo suggested working with Fresno State to set up a major water forum to air the issue.

Vice President Mendes attended a Fresno-Madera counties builders meeting in which he said outdated ideas were discussed. Mr. Mendes said SGMA is going to change everything with a huge amount of money necessarily going to have to be spent on water banking and recharge developments, including major projects such as Temperance Flat.

Director Preciado reported on a water conference, sponsored by Water Education for Latino Leaders, that he attended two weeks previously in El Segundo. Water recycling was a major topic. The next such session will be in April 2017.

Director Preciado also asked Executive Director Santoyo to do a presentation in the Coalinga area on the benefits of Temperance Flat.

Director Chedester said he attended the recent CWC meeting, during which members of the Commission noted the challenge for them to review the 450 pages detailing the decision process for the CWC.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular JPA meeting will be held Friday, October 14, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. 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 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Randall McFarland  
Acting Recording Secretary