

GOVERNING BOARD



2800 Burrel Avenue, Visalia, California 93291
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Director



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUGUST 11, 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 August 11, 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, Chedester, Pedersen (*alternate for Verboon*) and Preciado. 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; Sharon McHale, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Jodi Raley, CCGGA-WAPA; Don A. Wright, Waterwrights.net; Dusty Ference, Kings County Farm Bureau; Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau; Ana Melendez, Assemblyman Arambula's office; John Anderson, Senator Cannella's office; Julia Berry, Madera County; and Gloria Preciado, Avenal.

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 July 14, 2017. Director Chedester moved, seconded by Vice President Mendes, 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. There were no public comments.

FINANCIAL

Pao Xiong, office of the Fresno County Auditor-Controller which serves as the JPA Treasurer, presented the financial report. He said the JPA began the 2017-18 fiscal year by receiving a payment from Fresno County of \$50,000. Total administrative revenues in FY 18 as of July 31, 2017, were \$50,080. About \$17,000 in expenditures occurred during the period remains with total cash on hand as of July 31, 2017, of \$199,917. *(A copy of the financial report is on file.)*

Invoices have been sent to all member agencies.

ORGANIZATIONAL

President Worthley reported on the most recent developments involving the JPA's invitation to the Friant Water Authority (FWA) to become a JPA member. During the past month, Mr. Worthley said, a JPA ad hoc committee conducted two meetings with FWA representatives during which great progress was made. He said the sessions were good for all parties to understand others' interests. A draft memorandum was submitted earlier on this date by Friant and will be reviewed by the ad hoc committee, participants of which are now to include representatives of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority, the Fresno Irrigation District, Vice President Mendes and President Worthley. He likened the process to that recently undertaken successfully to reach agreement on an operations plan for Temperance Flat. President Worthley announced no action would be taken during this meeting on the FWA membership issue and that the matter would be continued.

The board then considered the request of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) to become a JPA member with no conditions. Executive Director Santoyo pointed out the JPA board had extended an invitation to the SLDMWA to join. On motion of Vice President Mendes, seconded by Director Rogers and carried unanimously, the SLDMWA was accepted as a member of the JPA. SLDMWA Chairman Cannon Michael was immediately seated and welcomed as a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Santoyo said it would be necessary to reauthorize the JPA to add the SLDMWA as a member and expand the board by one director. He recommended that the board direct staff to work with legal counsel on the matter. A motion to that effect was offered by Director, seconded by Director O'Bannion. The motion carried unanimously.

A draft Conflict of Interest Code, recommended by the County of Tulare, was presented after additional review by the Tulare County Counsel's office. On motion of Director Chedester, seconded by Alternate Director Pedersen and carried unanimously, the code was adopted unanimously.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Reporting by telephone, JPA Technical Advisory Committee Chairman Chris White provided an update on the Water Storage Investment Program application preparations. The TAC and larger committee, along with the Stantec team, have stayed very busy wrapping up all tasks on the application to be filed with the California Water Commission on August 14. Much effort has been directed toward



modeling. The process is encouraging. There was very good agreement during a meeting with the Water Commission staff. Today presented the last opportunity for the TAC to meet with consultant Bill Swanson and his Stantec staff on various application aspects. Mr. Swanson also reported by telephone. He stated his staff has been working long days. The application is expected to total 600-800 pages. President Worthley said completion of the application represents “a monumental day. It’s the primary reason this organization exists, to submit this application.

On motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Vice President Mendes and carried unanimously, the Board of Directors authorized the application’s submittal and filing.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Santoyo said the California Water Commission did not meet in July but has scheduled an August 15 meeting in Sausalito. It is not yet known when application documents will be made public. The JPA application will have a couple of gaps but the issue has been worked out with the Water Commission staff.

Mr. Santoyo acknowledged to and expressed appreciation for the outstanding technical and financial contributions of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau made available \$450,000 to help fund the necessary application studies and preparation. Sharon McHale, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation project manager, noted the agency had supported the Temperance Flat Project for many years and will continue to do so. Along with feasibility work previously conducted by Reclamation, a new alternative reflecting regional agreement on Temperance Flat operations will be prepared and is to be completed by 2018.

Mr. Santoyo reported on the recent luncheon meeting in Fresno hosted by the JPA for State Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin DeLeon. What was to be a session of not much more than an hour stretched into three hours. Many elected officials, especially from valley cities, were present and gave the project support. The event was encouraging. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled with Mr. DeLeon. Director Chester noted Mr. DeLeon said he would speak to the Governor about Temperance Flat.

Mr. Santoyo outlined tour plans for Assembly Member Fong on August 17 and Assembly Speaker Rendon on August 22.

The proposed Washington, D.C. trip continues to be on hold. The JPA is still working with Kyle Lombardi of House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy’s office. It appears there needs to be a change in the proposed trip’s focus to the new Commissioner of Reclamation.

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr. Santoyo stated that since the last meeting Temperance Flat Project support letters have been received from numerous organizations, state, regional and local leaders with many originating from beyond the valley region. More are being pursued. There has been some reluctance on the part of federal officials to express support for the JPA’s application because of confusion over the Friant Water Authority’s positions. The JPA believes those issues can be worked out.

Plans for a JPA press conference at 10 a.m. Monday, August 24, at the Fresno County Farm Bureau offices were discussed. The event is to spotlight the JPA’s application of state water bond funding from the California Water Commission for the Temperance Flat Project. Many speakers have been lined up to participate. Mr. Santoyo said a ceremonial signing of the application would take place during the press



conference. A news release to be issued in connection with the press event will announce that the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority has joined as a JPA member.

Mr. Santoyo reviewed work products produced on behalf of the JPA by Jeff and Jill Aiella since they started providing public information services and participating in outreach projects. A new public relations video targeting Temperance Flat Project investors was shown to the board and audience. It is a feature of the JPA's new website, which was also demonstrated to the board. Other social media outreach channels are being launched by the Aiellas for the Temperance Flat project. An information pamphlet and other materials are being planned and prepared. These efforts are to answer common questions and address misinformation about the proposed project and bond application.

It was announced Ana Melendez of Assemblyman Arambula's office that Dr. Arambula has worked with other valley legislators to prepare a Temperance Flat Project op-ed piece with a unified voice. It is to appear in the Fresno *Bee*.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

Director Rogers suggested all board members arrange to have the new video posted on their agencies' websites. Vice President Mendes said he has already done so in Fresno County.

NEXT MEETING

The JPA's next board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Friday, September 8, 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 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Randall McFarland".

J. Randall McFarland
Recording Secretary