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SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE
CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY

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WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT

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Director

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TABLE MOUNTAIN RANCHERIA

MEMBER AT LARGE

MAYOR ROBERT SILVA



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARIO SANTOYO

Telephone

(559) 779-7595

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 12, 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 August 12, 2016, by President Steve Worthley.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

President Worthley called the roll of the board members. The following board members were present: President Worthley, Vice President Mendes, Directors Verboon, O'Banion, Rogers, 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 July 8, 2016. Upon motion of Director Verboon, seconded by Vice President Mendes, it was approved by the board that the Minutes for July 8, 2016, be approved as submitted.

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 July 31, 2016 (*a copy of which is attached.*) Nearly \$70,000 in cash remains available to the JPA.

Ms. Marks stated the JPA had received a \$1,728 Workers Compensation Coverage quote. Upon motion of Director Verboon, seconded by Director Lopez, the board accepted the quotation.

Ms. Marks spoke about Fidelity Bond and Financial Insurance and JPA coverage. She asked the Board at what level the Directors wished to establish limits. Upon motion of Director Verboon, seconded by Director Rogers, the board established the limit at \$1 million.

The JPA has reached the conclusion of its first fiscal year. Ms. Marks said she would present basic unaudited financial statements at the September 9 meeting of the Board. There is to be no audit of the 2015-16 fiscal year.

In the JPA credit card matter, Ms. Marks said she has been in contact with the credit card company and that the card has been authorized but the

Amex card has not yet been received by Mr. Santoyo. The account is apparently in the process of being transferred to Citibank and a Master Card is to be issued. President Worthley said the card is needed as soon as possible.

Executive Director Santoyo suggested that a separate account be established for funding additional engineering services that may be required by the JPA and its Technical Advisory Committee. He requested \$25,000 in “seed money” for the new account with understanding that contributions from other interested agencies are to be sought for the new account. Vice President Mendes noted that the JPA will be unable to “reach the finish line” on the Temperance Flat bond funding application without financial support from other agencies. Mr. Mendes moved, seconded by Director Rogers and carried unanimously, that \$25,000 be transferred into the new account. Mr. Santoyo said letters of introduction and requests for contributions for the necessary studies would be prepared by the JPA to be sent to other agencies. There will almost certainly need to be a number of meetings with agencies related to the contribution requests.

ORGANIZATIONAL

The Board discussed the need to consider the open Board seat reserved for East Side water districts. Executive Director Santoyo said a letter has been sent to the Friant Water Authority encouraging its engagement in the Temperance Flat project bond funding application process, particularly in discussing operations plans. The Friant North Authority – including the Fresno, Madera and Chowchilla districts – is engaged separately in the JPA process. The Tulare Irrigation District is also involved through the JPA Technical Advisory Committee. Director Verboon asked if independent water users could become involved. He also suggested inviting Kern, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties and to hold meetings with each county; President Worthley said the JPA needs to keep its eye on “advancing the ball” in order to continue moving forward with the funding application.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chris White, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chairman and Central California Irrigation District General Manager, took note of the June 2017 deadline to file applications with the California Water Commission. He also reviewed the current water crisis and the need to show how the Temperance Flat project would benefit regional water needs. It is not known exactly how much money Reclamation has available for studies. The total amount of required work will be identified in the coming months. Reclamation is reacting very favorably to the planning process.

William R. Swanson, P.E., Vice President-Water Resources Global Practice Leader for MWH, provided a thorough overview of the remaining process leading up to the application stage by June 2017, pointing out not a lot of time is available to complete the scope of needed work. Reclamation follows a very methodical process. The biggest question is, if the project is built, how should it be operated? Studies will need to determine how to maximize water benefits for users while gaining environmental benefits. Temperance Flat’s final feasibility study and EIS comments are in the hands of Interior officials. He said the upcoming study will focus on (1) determining Water Commission evaluation needs, (2) identifying components required to begin technical work, (3) compiling technical components and evaluations, and (4) preparing the Water Commission application. Quantifying benefits is the “great unknown,” Mr. Swanson said. Mr. White said a great deal of up-front effort will be required. President Worthley said the JPA’s efforts are currently lacking in a public relations program; he stated a brochure explaining Temperance Flat and the project would be a very good vehicle. Executive Director Santoyo said a meeting will be held with the Water Commission staff with an eye to making the JPA’s efforts more achievable and cost effective.

Mr. Swanson said the budget range is very complex. Step 1 could cost between \$50,000-\$80,000; Step 2 between \$80,000-\$170,000 (depending upon how much work is needed for evaluation); Step 3 between \$150,000-\$500,000 (depending on modeling requirements and how much duplication of past studies is necessary); and Step 4 between \$350,000-\$900,000 (depending on what the Water Commission will be looking for). Mr. White said the TAC plans to bring back a report within 60 days on the status of the process so the Board can decide what path is to be taken.

Gary Serrato, TAC member and Fresno Irrigation District General Manager, said a list of valley projects that could be enhanced by Temperance Flat are being evaluated. Mr. Serrato said some or all of such projects could conceivably qualify for state bond funding from other than Section 8, the bond funds reserved for water storage.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Joseph Castro, California State University, Fresno, President, addressed the Board. He said it is heartening to see so many leaders working together on an issue of such importance to the valley. He described Fresno State's many water programs and said the university wants the JPA to know how supportive CSUF is of the Board's efforts. Board members thanked and commended President Castro for his work at the Fresno State helm.

California Water Commission Member Maria Herrera also addressed the Board. She works on drinking water issues concerning small communities for Self Help Enterprises. Ms. Herrera noted that she serves with two other Water Commission members from the valley, Joe Del Bosque and David Orth. She described what the Commission will be evaluating to determine which storage projects qualify for Proposition 1 funds. Ms. Herrera said the Commission expects to adopt final regulations for funding in January 2017. Some projects could be funded by early in 2018.

RECESS

President Worthley recessed the meeting at 10:37 a.m. and called the Board back into regular session at 10:43 a.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Santoyo said he had been accompanied by Director Lopez at the July 21 California Water Commission meeting in Sacramento. Mr. Lopez gave a brief summary of his remarks to the Commission. Mr. Santoyo said it is useful for him to be joined by JPA directors at Commission meetings. Mr. Santoyo noted that Water Commissioner Joseph Byrne is interested in meeting with JPA board members and taking a tour to the Temperance Flat Dam site in upper Millerton Lake. Mr. Santoyo said the Water Commission is planning an August 23 workshop on the Water Storage Investment Program. Letters of support to the Water Commission concerning the Temperance Flat project are being encouraged. A Congressional colleague letter is being drafted. Comprehensive colleague letter was drafted for the state Legislature but has sat for a month in Assembly Member Arambula's office. Another lawmaker may be asked to carry the letter. The Fresno Chamber of Commerce is a full partner in the letter-writing effort.

Mr. Santoyo also reported a pair of colleague letters was circulated in Congress, by Representatives Nunes and Costa, on the BLM Wild and Scenic River issue involving the Temperance Flat Reservoir site on the San Joaquin River. Meetings in Washington, D.C., are being planned, to focus on agencies such as Reclamation and the Department of Interior.

OUTREACH

Executive Director Santoyo reported that boxer Jose Ramirez was unable to attend the JPA meeting but has continued his "Fights for Water" in support of solutions to the valley water crisis. Most recently, Mr. Ramirez, at a news conference, presented \$3,000 to his hometown, Avenal, to help the city meet its financial obligation to the JPA, of which it is a member. In so doing, Mr. Ramirez again kept the water problem in the public's eye. President Worthley stated that the public contributions of Mr. Ramirez have far exceeded his financial contribution. He suggested a resolution commending Mr. Ramirez be drafted for the Board's consideration.

A presentation was made to the Fresno Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the JPA by Vice President Mendes, who also worked with Mr. Santoyo on a Temperance Flat site visit and briefing for Congressional candidate Jimmy Panetta. A briefing and possible Temperance Flat tour for the new Mexican Consul in Fresno are also being arranged.

Executive Director Santoyo reported that the Clean Water and Jobs Coalition, a statewide advocacy group he started several years ago along with Association of California Water Agencies Executive Director Tim Quinn, is being geared up to work on water storage issues.

Information materials for presentations are being considered. Handouts will be made consistent with materials on water storage and the Temperance Flat project that Reclamation is expected to produce.

Mr. Santoyo 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.

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

Director Preciado reported the City of Avenal sent a letter of support or Temperance Flat to the Water Commission. Director Chedester observed that the effort is gaining momentum.

Director Verboon said he is taking the Kings County staff to the Semitropic Water Storage District in Kern County for a three hour meeting.

President Worthley suggested an outreach be made to the State Air Resources Board. Director Silva noted that fallowed and non-irrigated land creates dust.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular JPA meeting will be held Friday, September 9, 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 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Randall McFarland
Acting Recording Secretary