

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY
HELD FRIDAY, September 2, 2022**

The Board of Directors of the *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA)* met in Regular Session on Friday, September 2, 2022 in the Board Room of the *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority*, 541 “H” Street, City of Los Banos, County of Merced, State of California.

The following persons were present:

REPRESENTATIVES:

Central California Irrigation District (CCID): Chris Medeiros, Alternate Director; Jarrett Martin, Manager
San Luis Canal Company (SLCC): James Nickel, Director; John Wiersma, Manager
Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD): Jeff Bryant, Manager
Columbia Canal Company (CCC): Kimberly Brown, Alternate Director; Randy Houk

STAFF MEMBERS:

Chris White, Executive Director; Joann White, Director of Finance and Administration; Adam Hoffman, Water Resources Specialist; and Darlene O’Brien, Administrative Assistant

PRESENT:

Andrew McClure, Minasian, Meith, Soares, Sexton & Cooper LLP; and Dave Cory, Consultant

The following participated via Conference Call:

Chris Cardella, CCC Director (Chair); Mike Stearns, FCWD Director (Vice-Chair); Chase Hurley, Water and Land Solutions, LLC; Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen; Don Wright, Journalist; Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard; and Tom Berliner, Duane Morris LLP (10:02 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER:

Director James Nickel opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and asked Manager Martin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The unapproved minutes from the August 5, 2022 Board meeting were presented.

Alternate Director Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Alternate Director Medeiros, and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no public participation presented.

BOARD TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2022 EXPENDITURES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Joann White presented the August 2022 Expenditure List and Financial Report and provided highlights of the revenue and expenses for the General, Water Transfer, Water Resources Plan, and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Budget Comparisons. An outline of the Cash Activity Report was then presented.

Following the report, a motion was made by Alternate Director Brown and seconded by Alternate Director Medeiros to approve the Expenditure List and Financial Report as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

The approved Finance Committee meeting minutes of August 1, 2022 were provided for informational purposes.

WATER REPORT:

Water Resources Specialist, Adam Hoffman reviewed his water report that included the following data: Exchange Contractors' total demands: 1,268 cubic feet per second (c.f.s.), of that, 966 c.f.s. from the Mendota Pool and 272 c.f.s from the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC). He then reported that releases from Friant Dam into the San Joaquin River are 250 c.f.s., with 31 c.f.s. at Gravelly Ford. The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) flows plan to restart in October.

Mr. Hoffman next reported on the following current reservoir storage: Shasta – 1,592,122 acre-feet (AF); San Luis Reservoir – 571,083 AF, adding that the Federal share in the San Luis Reservoir is 180,344 AF, with the State project water at 390,739 AF. Subsequently, he stated that Millerton's current storage is 251,924 AF and the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam is at 17,994 AF. The Upper San Joaquin Basin combined storage is 367,618 AF, which is about 95% of average, and the accumulated full natural flow into Shasta Lake is 52% of average.

The Delta Operation's data was then provided as follows: inflows are 10,217 c.f.s., with exports at 3,529 c.f.s. The outflow index is 3,338 c.f.s., noting the controlling factor for these flows.

In conclusion, Mr. Hoffman referred to additional data included in his report for informational purposes: Current Reservoir Conditions, San Luis Reservoir Storage Levels, Shasta Dam Operations, Millerton Lake Daily Operation's Report, and Daily CVP Water Supply Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Executive Director gave brief updates on the following issues:

San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP): There has been some progress on the 60% designs for the Mendota Pool Fish Screen and Control Structure. Comments have been received from by United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Jacobs Engineering is due to submit their final 60% design by the late October timeframe. The Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) has been signed and the funding will be beneficial in getting the design for the project to 100% completion. Reclamation has notified SLCC that they prefer the Alternative 1 fish screen for the Sack Dam project, but Reclamation still has a lot of details that need to be worked out with SLCC. An updated schedule was received from SJRRP.

Operations: Jones Pumping Plant is currently at three (3) units but is scheduled to go to two (2) units; however, are hopeful that once they see how outflows settle out from upstream reservoir release adjustments, it will go back to three (3) units.

Legislative: We continue to work with both State and Federal Congressional staff on funding for Water Resource projects.

SGMA/Subsidence: The latest field survey was done in late July and Reclamation's survey showed 0.25' of subsidence from July 2021 to July 2022 in the Red Top Area. It was also reported that Mendota Dam is reflecting a 0.25' of subsidence; there has been discussion with Dr. Kenneth Schmidt and we will determine if this needs to be addressed under the Mendota Pool Group agreement.

Water Resources Plan (WRP) Update:

- *Orestimba Creek* – Met with Reclamation and resolved concerns of the use of the box culvert under the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC) and initiating the long-term license agreement process. All the necessary permits have been filed and currently responding to questions and providing revised submittals. The design is approximately 85% complete.
- *Los Banos Creek Project* – Staff continues to work with Reclamation and legislative staff on getting the Community Projects Funding authorized and to resolve obstacles that have slowed down obtaining the funds. NEPA/CEQA documents will start in September with projected completion of construction in mid-2023.
- *Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir (DPCR) Project:* The drilling and investigation plan (Phase 1) was submitted to DSOD around June 1st and we received approval for the drillings in the valley upstream of the dam site that are designed to ascertain properties of the earthwork materials.

CVP/SWP Discussions: We continue to participate on the bi-weekly calls in regards to the Voluntary Agreements (VAs).

Museum/Water Office Facility Project: We have received a preliminary cost estimate for the project which we will be focusing on with the project partners as to scope and vision.

BAY-DELTA WATER QUALITY AND REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (RWQCB) REPORT:

Consultant, David Cory gave the following update:

CV-SALTS

- *Salt Control Program* – The CV-Salts program is working on the initial tasks of the Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study) for Phase 1. The process will develop a salinity management plan for the entire Central Valley. Consultants are compiling data in order to characterize current salinity conditions of both surface and groundwater.
- *Nitrate Permitting Strategy* – The Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition is in a Priority 2 basin and should be receiving a Notice to Comply from the Regional Board sometime this coming year. Compliance with these requirements will involve significant effort to organize, develop, and implement a nitrate management zone proposal. It is clear these requirements will cause coalition assessments to significantly increase over the next few years.
- *Groundwater Protection Formulas, Values and Targets* – On July 19th, coalitions submitted to the RWQCB Groundwater Protection (GWP) Targets for each high vulnerability township within the Central Valley and are currently under review and out for public comment. Regional Board staff is evaluating the proposed targets and the Regional Board will hold a workshop in December to present the proposed targets.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

The Executive Director indicated that both the state and federal Lobbyist's reports were in the Board packets for informational purposes.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Legal Counsel reviewed the following issues and said that further discussions will take place in Closed Session:

- DPCR Litigation
- SGMA Litigation
- Delta Issues
- Governor's Water Supply Strategy

FOUR ENTITIES' MANAGER REPORTS:

Columbia Canal Company: Manager Houk reported that August water use was the same as last year. Supply orders were placed early in July for winter projects and still waiting for supplies to come in to be able to begin.

Firebaugh Canal Water District: Manager Bryant stated the office building construction continues to be a slow process due to waiting on supplies and parts, hoping for completion this winter. The environmental work on the canal lining project is now finalized as well as the contract on the new solar project.

San Luis Canal Company: Manager Wiersma reported that August was an average month for critical year water deliveries and staying on track with allocations for grower demands. Staff is now focusing on the upcoming 2023 operations.

Central California Irrigation District: Manager Martin stated that August was a heavy month for deliveries and now focusing on their well rehab program to prepare for next year. They are also getting ready for their capital projects which will include designing and constructing in-house two long-crested weirs.

INFORMATIONAL:

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

- DPCR/CALSpa Litigation – September 15
- CAST Event at San Luis Reservoir – September 24
- ACWA Fall Conference – November 29-December 1

CLOSED SESSION:

Director Nickel asked if there was any public input and hearing none, he adjourned the meeting to Closed Session and called for a short recess at 9:52 a.m. The meeting was reconvened to Closed Session at 10:02 a.m.

Director Nickel returned the meeting to Open Session at 11:19 a.m. and announced that direction was given to staff and legal counsel. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

JAMES NICKEL, DIRECTOR

Attest a true record of proceedings had
And taken at the foregoing meeting, our
Presence thereat and our consent thereto.

CHRIS WHITE, SECRETARY

(Signatures Continue on Following Page)

MIKE STEARNS, VICE-CHAIR

CHRIS MEDEIROS, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

KIMBERLY BROWN, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR