



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JANUARY 18, 2024
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Bays called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Board Members present were Pete Lucich, Zach Maring, Jarod Lara and Kyle Perez.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment as there were no members of the public present.

3. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or revisions to the Agenda.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of December 20, 2023 and the Monthly Accounting and Field Operations Reports for December 2023 were provided in advance for the Board's review. Anthea also distributed the most recent draft of the Budget to Actuals report where she discussed how the Budget was tracking. She noted that although awarded Grants were included as part of the Budget Planning Process receipt of the reimbursements was lagging. After review and discussion, the Board approved the Consent Calendar Items as follows:

Ayes: Bays, Lucich, Perez, Maring and Lara
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Koster and Jasper

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board to Review and Consider Resolution Authorizing Amendment No.1 to the Agreement Among the Department of Water Resources of the State of California, the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Del Puerto Water District and Oak Flat Water District (SWPA #21301-A Supporting the use of existing conveyance and an exchange of Water at O'Neill Forebay)

Anthea provided and reviewed the Draft Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement Among the Department of Water Resources of the State of California, the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Del Puerto Water District and Oak Flat Water District. She shared that this contract would allow continued delivery of CVP supplies to District customers via the California Aqueduct. This agreement extends the contract to 2035, as it was due to expire in 2025. After review and discussion, the Board approved the Resolution Authorizing Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement Among the Department of Water Resources of the State of California, the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Del Puerto Water District and Oak Flat Water District (SWPA #21301-A Supporting the use of existing conveyance and an exchange of Water at O'Neill Forebay) as follows:

Ayes: Bays, Lucich, Perez, Maring and Lara
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Koster and Jasper

B. Board to Review and Consider Transfer of up to 3,300 AF of Excess CVP Supplies to Kern-Tulare Water District

Anthea provided and reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement for a Water Transfer of CVP Allocation Between Del Puerto Water District and Kern-Tulare Water District as well as the Agreement of Water Transfer of CVP Allocation Between Del Puerto Water District and Kern-Tulare Water District. She shared that this Agreement indicates that Kern-Tulare Water District would reimburse the District for all USBR costs of the transfer plus a \$10.00 premium. After review and discussion, the Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement for Water Transfer of CVP Allocation Between Del Puerto Water District and Kern-Tulare Water District as well as the

Agreement of Water Transfer of CVP Allocation Between Del Puerto Water District and Kern-Tulare Water District as follows:

Ayes: Bays, Lucich, Perez, Maring and Lara
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Koster and Jasper

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities and a copy of the proposed order that requires the CVP and SWP operations to comply with the Interim Operations Plan until Reclamation issues a new Record of Decision on the Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP. She explained that the Bureau agreed to amend the 2024 Operations Plan to include additional provisions that would apply to the operations of the CVP, putting them more in line with the State's operations of the State Water Project and placing additional protections for longfin smelt. She believed the court would probably accept the proposed order, but the Water Authority and other intervening parties would most likely object to additional conditions and an additional 100,000 AF outflow in above-normal year types. Anthea also reported that the State Board issued their draft staff report on the Water Quality Control Plan and comment letters will be due in two days. She will be reviewing the joint comment letter before signing. She also reported that Ernest Conant will be stepping down as Regional Director of the California-Great Basin Region and Karl Stock will be his replacement.

7. WATER OPERATIONS & SUPPLY

A. CVP/SWP Operations

Anthea provided and discussed a 2023-24 San Luis Storage Projection report showing storage levels with 50% and 90% exceedance hydrology.

B. Monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 12.31.23

Paul provided the Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 12/31/23 and reported in-District use for the Month of December at 930 AF. Total use for the 2023-24 water year was 82,255 AF, leaving the total estimated for rescheduling into 2024-25 at 84,065 AF.

C. 2023-24 Additional Supplies Update

Anthea shared that there were no updates for the 2023-24 Additional Supplies.

D. Landholding/Licensing Updates

Paul shared that a drafting permit was renewed for the Stanislaus County Solar Project.

E. 2023-24 NVRWP 2nd Installment Credit Program - Update

Anthea reported that of the 10,015 AF of NVRWP 2023-24 allocations eligible for return, 7,923 AF were requested to be turned back. All customers have responded to the request. Anthea discussed the effectiveness of the newly implemented Water Use Policy and expressed concern that it could have been more effective. She noted that there were many new landowners without extensive experience in farming that would likely benefit from additional education and outreach from the District Staff regarding District programs and Policies, as well as direction to publicly available resources focused on best management practices for farming operations. She requested the Board to review and discuss the District's Water Use Policy and give feedback on any changes they feel might improve the policy and the District's approach to education and outreach.

F. NVRWP Far Field Dilution Study RFP Process – Update

Adam provided and discussed a proposal from Larry Walker Associates responding to the Request for Proposal for Far Field Dilution and Constituents of Emerging Concern Studies from the City of Modesto in support of the NPDES Permit for the Cities of Modesto and Turlock to discharge to the DMC. He reported that the study had two parts, one for Far-Field Dilutions and one for Constituents of Emerging Concerns. Anthea reported that based on the Board's previous approval, the cost of this study would be shared equally by the City of Modesto, City of Turlock, and Del Puerto Water District.

8. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Westside Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activities

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Activity Agreements – Staff Report for December 2023. She reported that the IRWM Committee met recently to discuss grants and the ongoing Disadvantaged Communities Water Needs Assessment.

B. SJVDA/Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition Report(s)

Adam provided the Draft SJVDA Annual Budget and reported that January SJVDA meeting was primarily focused on reviewing the proposed budget. He shared that although all costs have been increasing, the Board and Consultants for the SJVDA are doing their best to operate as leanly as possible. Adam also reported that included within the budget was a Field Outreach position, which would provide more focused, on-farm outreach for addressing pyrethroid exceedances during water quality sampling. An article on Central Valley Region Salt Control Program was also provided for the Board.

C. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activities (SGMA)

Adam provided the agenda for the January 8, 2024 Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee meeting, the SGMA Coordinated Cost-Share Fund 63 FY 24 budget to actual and FY 25 proposed budget, and a PowerPoint Presentation from EKI to the Delta-Mendota Coordination Committee from January 8th. He shared that the proposed budget was discussed at the Coordination Committee and the Northern DM Region. He discussed the State Board's comments from the most recent technical meeting with representatives of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin about the Subbasin's approach to addressing subsidence and water quality as part of the new GSP. He shared that meetings with State Board members are taking place to highlight the projects being developed to address overdraft in the subbasin. The Northern DM Region is set to have a tour on April 25th to show projects such as the Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project and North Valley Regional Recycled Water Project. He added that in the next three months, the subbasin will need to submit additional projects and management actions to address groundwater overdraft including adding demand management as the primary management action to address minimum threshold exceedances or downward trends.

D. SGM Implementation Grant – Round 1 Monthly Grant Administrator Updates

Anthea provided correspondence on a possible grant agreement amendment request and reported that one of CCID's projects with San Luis Water District might not be able to meet the construction deadline for the grant and there was an opportunity to possibly re-direct those funds to the Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project.

E. Well Registration Package – Response Update

Adam shared that all packages had been received and information on wells was updated.

F. Groundwater Well Remote Telemetry Program (2023-24 WaterSMART Grant)

Adam reported that he was in the process of finalizing information on the Project.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. FY 2024-25 Budget Activities

Anthea shared that this year's accounting was still being finalized to prepare the Budget for the February 2024 BOD meeting.

B. CVP Financial Matters

Anthea reported that the CVPWA will be meeting at the Water User's Conference to discuss high level CVP financial matters. Anthea also provided the BOR CVP Contractor Construction Cost breakdown and updated the Board on the Bureau's pending guidelines pertaining to true-ups and the District's current construction credit. She shared that she would update the Board once she receives information on how the USBR proposed to handle the true-ups.

10. SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A. Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project – Update

Adam shared an updated Steve P. Rados Working Schedule for 2024-25 and provided a construction update on the diversion boxes and installed pipelines.

B. Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project – Update

Anthea provided progress reports from Terra/GeoPentech, TYLin, and Woodard and Curran as well as a Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Technical Review Board Agenda for meeting No. 5 held on January 10th. She reported

that it was a very successful meeting and the team received great feedback from the TRB. She shared that they were focusing on information needed to guide the project to a 60% design. She also had a meeting that afternoon with Stanislaus County to discuss alternatives for the road relocation. She noted that pedestrian surveys would be underway to ensure there were no eagle sightings within the proposed road alternatives. She discussed that budget would be the primary focus moving forward, as well as minimizing anything that was not providing immediate value. Meetings have also been scheduled with the BOR Regional Office for the possibility of using the DPCR as part of a drought reliability solution that Reclamation wants to pursue South-of-the-Delta.

C. Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

Anthea provided the JPA Monthly Update as well as the Agenda and minutes from the November meeting. She reported that the focus on this project was getting the Design and Construction Agreement and the Backstop Agreement finalized.

D. BF Sisk Dam Raise Project – Update

Anthea shared that the Bureau had received the Basis of Negotiation for negotiating with the contractors and the SLDMWA on how the expanded share of BF Sisk would be operated. A technical session to discuss various operational scenarios has been held and the first Contract Negotiations will be held in a few weeks. Once an agreement is drafted, she will be able to come back to the Board with information which will help determine whether the District wishes to continue participating in this Project.

E. Ceres – DPWD – Turlock Discussions on Advancing Recycled Water into NVRRWP Facilities – Update

Anthea reported that the City of Ceres is now updating their Wastewater Treatment Master Plan in order to accommodate two substantial near-term housing developments. Ceres is now considering having its own wastewater treatment facility, among other options.

F. Coordination with Local Agencies on Regional SGMA Projects - Update

Anthea shared that once a month, several agencies meet to keep each other updated on their projects.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

A. Training Updates

Anthea shared that she was looking for a resource to get Board Members Ethics Training and Sexual Harassment training updated.

B. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-Year Update

Adam shared that an updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-Year Update would be provided for the Board to review in the coming months.

12. SLDMWA REPORT

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2023, O&M Report for December 2023, a Staff Memo of Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt a 2024 Science Plan, and a Memo regarding Adoption of Resolution Adopting Amendment to San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Bylaws Regarding Limited Disclosure of Confidential Information Obtained in Closed Session. She reported that she had requested that the Authority move one of the mid-term tasks in the 2024 Science Plan titled "Develop a funding strategy that explores ways to secure sustainable/ongoing funding to advance Water Authority Science Program objectives" to a short-term task, as some of the things they would like to do in the full plan will be costly.

13. ARTICLES / CORRESPONDENCE / PUBLIC OUTREACH

Anthea provided a News Release from the Bureau announcing Karl Stock as the new Regional Director of the California-Great Basin, an article on El Niño Conditions, and a Family Farm Alliance January Update. Anthea was re-elected as the Vice-Chair of the Los Vaqueros JPA and shared that the Chair of the JPA would be retiring mid-term in summer of 2024. She also shared that the Executive Director of the CVPWA will also be taking a job with the USBR.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Upon return from Closed Session, there was no reportable action taken on the items listed on the Agenda.

15. REPORTS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54954.2

16. ADJOURMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthea G. Hansen".

Anthea G. Hansen
Secretary