



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AUGUST 21, 2024  
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Koster called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Board Members present were Daniel Bays, Zach Maring, and Jim Jasper.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

President Koster asked if there were any members of the public that wished to present a public comment. Being none, the meeting continued.

3. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Anthea noted that Item VI.A. would be for discussion only, no action would be taken.

4. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE DELTA-MENDOTA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

President Koster opened the hearing. Adam gave Staff's presentation on the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The presentation focused on the rewrite of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota GSP as one of the 6 GSPs covering the Delta-Mendota Subbasin into the new single GSP. He also highlighted the requirements in the new GSP to develop a Pumping Reduction Plan and several new policies related to implementation of the GSP in the Northern Region of the Subbasin. President Koster opened the floor for any questions or comments from the Board or public. Board Member Jasper asked Staff if all areas of the subbasin would be required to develop implementation policies in the Pumping Reduction Plan, including areas outside of a City or Water District. Staff confirmed that every GSA would be subject to the same requirements in the GSP, and that coordination of these plans was happening at a local level in the Northern Delta-Mendota Group and throughout the Subbasin at the Coordination Committee. There being no further questions, President Koster declared the public participation portion closed and concluded the proceedings.

Note: Board Member Lucich arrived at 8:37 a.m.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of July 17, 2024 and the Monthly Accounting and Field Operations Reports for July 2024 were provided in advance for the Board's review. The Board approved the Consent Calendar Items as follows:

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

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board to Adopt Resolution Demanding Delivery of Collectors Deed to the District – Stanislaus County APN 026-013-017 - McCafferty

Anthea provided background related to this item, and the process to move forward. She reported that a resolution would be provided at the September BOD meeting. No action was taken.

B. Board, on behalf of the DM-II GSA, to Review and Consider a Resolution Adopting the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Adam presented and reviewed the Resolution Adopting the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. After review and discussion, the Board approved the Resolution Adopting the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan as follows:

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

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

Anthea provided the SLMDWA Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities. She reported that the District distributed correspondence the week prior informing customers of a series of public meetings regarding the Draft EIS the Bureau of Reclamation has been working on to revisit the long-term coordinated operations of the CVP. She noted that the preferred alternative would have major impacts to the District's future water supply. She also noted that there was nothing to report on voluntary agreements and that DWR's Delta Conveyance Project had a court-issued injunction limiting DWR's ability to perform some of the exploratory work. Anthea reported that meetings between State and Federal Water Contractors have been held and letters have been submitted to the Regional Director regarding the Fall X2 requirements. The current draft Biological Opinions show that the Fisheries Agencies indicate there is no meaningful benefit from Fall X2 for Delta Smelt, however, under the Interim-Operations Plan, Reclamation plans on operating to Fall X2 anyway. State and Federal Contractors have reported that it could have a significant impact on export pumping and have agreed to submit a group letter to the Regional Director on the matter.

8. WATER OPERATIONS & SUPPLY

A. CVP/SWP Operations

Anthea provided and discussed the 2024-25 San Luis Storage Projection Graphs showing the 50% and 90% Exceedance Hydrology Forecasts.

B. Monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 7.31.24

Paul provided and discussed the monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 7/31/24 and reported in-District use for the month of July was 14,683 AF with an additional 1,258 AF of transfers out. Year to date use and scheduled use for the remainder of the 2024-25 water year totaled 94,444 AF, leaving 17,355 AF estimated for Rescheduling into 2025-26.

C. 2024-25 Additional Supplies Update

Adam provided and reviewed a revised 2024-25 Annual Additional Supplies Pool Report and shared that several customers who had turned back a portion of their initial CVP allocation, are now in need of additional supplies. Under the Water Use Policy, anyone who participates in the CVP turnback program must agree to not use groundwater. Staff believe more customers could be in need of additional supplies in the coming months.

D. Landholding/Licensing Updates

Paul provided the Active Permits and Licenses Report and shared that there are currently seven Active Permits and one Active License.

E. 2024-25 SLCC Transfer – Status Update

Anthea reported that she continues to have conversations with Reclamation regarding supporting a proposal that the importation of recycled water meets the conserved water requirements included in the BoR and DWR water transfers white paper, thus enabling the District to transfer the agreed upon quantity of CVP water to Triangle T Water District. She reported that the Bureau of Reclamation needed to do an Environmental Analysis to comply with NEPA, and that she commissioned Summers Engineering to draft such an analysis for the Bureau's consideration.

F. NVRRWP Far-Filed Dilution and CEC Study

Adam provided the Final Draft of the Far-Field Dilution and CEC Study Work Plan to be submitted to the RWQCB by the Cities of Modesto and Turlock for the NVRRWP. for the Board's review. The project partners believe this Study will be conclusive enough regarding the absence of any purported impact that the NVRRWP deliveries have on DMC and SLR water quality, which will be crucial information to have when the Cities update their NPDES permit.

9. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Westside Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activities

Anthea provided the SLMDWA Activity Agreements – Staff Report for July 2024 and reported that in the most recent budget coming out of the State, the future of the IRWM was in question as DWR does not have any specific tasks or funding for the IRWM. She reported that the IRWM workgroup is putting together a plan to transition.

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

Adam noted that there was no August SJVDA meeting and reminded the Board that based on discussions in the prior meetings, the SJVDA Board asked Summers Engineering to draft a policy regarding the potential removal of non-compliant landowners from the coalition.

C. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activities (SGMA)

Adam provided the Agendas for Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda and the Special Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Regional Management Committee Meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>. He also provided the minutes from the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern DM Region Management Committee, July 11<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Northern DM Region Management Committee, the July 8<sup>th</sup> DM Subbasin Coordination Committee, and the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Meeting of the DM Subbasin Coordination Committee. Adam reported that the Coordination Committee discussed a proposal from EKI to support the Subbasin through the potential State Board hearing, which was not previously scoped in the contract with EKI. He provided and discussed a flyer for a Webinar Briefing being held on August 27<sup>th</sup> to summarize the GSP for the public. Adam also reported that the Northern DM Region Committee discussed various facets of the pumping reduction plan and minimum threshold avoidance policies. Subsidence and groundwater quality minimum threshold avoidance would be discussed in future meetings. Adam reported that the GSAs in the Northern Group approved a \$131,000 scope of work to EKI to complete the suite of implementation plans and the cost will be split amongst the five agencies.

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

Anthea reported that work on the Amendment to the Grant Agreement for a time extension on some of the Projects and to allow the reallocation of funds from the Los Banos Creek Recharge and Recovery Project to Orestimba Creek on behalf of CCID continued. She added that Staff was looking to re-allocate some of the funding for the pump station upgrade at the City of Ceres to perform a feasibility study on a direct pipeline from the City of Ceres new treatment plant directly to the NVRRWP pumping plant.

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

Adam provided a Notice to Proceed for Grant No. R23AP00239 from the Bureau of Reclamation and reported that staff will be moving forward to ensure the installation schedule does not interfere with the migratory bird's nesting period. Submittal of the NOE for CEQA compliance was also underway.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. CVP Financial Matters

Anthea reported that the District will be receiving a billing from the Water Authority for the PUE True-Up that was recently completed by the Bureau and WAPA. A larger quantity of water moved into San Luis Reservoir than estimated during fiscal year 2023, which caused the cost estimates to be understated.

B. FY '24 Financial Audit – Update

Anthea reported that she and Joyce continued to work on the closing entries and that communications were ongoing with the auditor.

C. USBR FY '23 Annual Accounting Analysis

Anthea provided, reviewed and discussed the Fiscal Year 2023 CVP Contractor Annual Accounting Analysis for Irrigation and Municipal and Industrial Water. After review, she indicated that the amount the District was charged compared to the final allocated costs resulted in a \$464,769.28 overpayment. She noted that she was working with USBR to correct the water payments portion of the analysis before the refund will be issued. The refund will be used to offset the additional PUE True-Up costs, and any remainder will be added to the Rate Stabilization Fund.

D. SLDMWA WY 2024 OM+R Water Rates

Anthea provided a SLDMWA Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation / Board Approval Adjustment to Water Year 2024 OM&R Water Rates Memorandum and reported that the Water Authority had revised the water rates based on the 50% allocation and the revised MOU and new cost recovery plan, resulting in a decrease in the upper DMC rate of more than \$1.00/AF.

E. CalPERS Preliminary Returns for FY 2023-24

Anthea provided a news release from CalPERS announcing a preliminary 9.3% investment return for 2023-24 Fiscal Year and shared that CalPERS continues to perform well in most of their categories and stands at 75% funded.

F. S&P Global Ratings Update

Anthea provided correspondence with S&P Global Ratings and reported that after communication and clarification of the Districts' assets, the District's rating will remain at BBB+ and reported to have a stable outlook.

11. SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A. Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project – Update

Adam reported that the comment period for the permanent water right had closed, and four protests were submitted, all of which will be addressed.

B. Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project – Update

Anthea provided a letter from the Stanislaus County Director of Public Works showing support for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project as well as the preferred alternative for the proposed road realignment. She also provided and discussed a copy of the Technical Review Board Meeting No. 6, a Terra/GeoPentech Progress Report for the month of June, and a Woodard & Curran Progress Report Update.

C. Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

Anthea provided a power point presentation from the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project meeting in August pertaining to Regional Benefits. She reported that the Facilities Use Agreement was currently being negotiated. An update on costs and potential benefit opportunities is planned for the September BOD Meeting.

D. BF Sisk Dam Raise Project – Update

Anthea reported that negotiations sessions between Contractors and Reclamation continued and were nearing completion. She noted that she was scheduled to attend a 2-day session following the meeting.

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

Anthea reported that a meeting between herself, Carrie DelBoccio of Woodard & Curran, and the City of Ceres Consulting Team took place to discuss the City of Ceres portion of the NVRWP. A scope of work and potential feasibility study outline for connecting a pipeline from the City of Ceres proposed treatment plant directly to the NVRWP pumping plant will be developed and presented to Ceres in the near future.

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

Anthea reported that she participated in a meeting between several local Water Districts and Communities hosted by Congressman Duarte's office pertaining to Regional SGMA Projects. One of the items discussed was building a Regional Surface Water Treatment Plan proposed to be located at the Crows Landing Airbase. She reported that some of the local Districts proposed making surface water available from the DMC for the project and noted that DPWD would be a supporter of the project but would likely be unable to provide water.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

A. Training Updates

There were no training updates.

B. Staffing Updates

Adam reported that he was working on updating the job description based on the Board's suggestions and would present it at a future BOD meeting.

C. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-Year Update

Adam shared that there were still some edits that were being entered before public notice would be sent.

13. SLDMWA REPORT

A. SLDMWA Minutes, Reports and Issues Updates

Anthea provided and discussed the SLDMWA Board of Directors Regular Meeting minutes for 7/11/24, O&M Report for July 2024, and a memo on a Recommendation to Adopt Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract, Execution of Professional Services Agreement with SANDIS Engineering for DMC Subsidence Utility Locating and Mapping Services, and Related Expenditure of up to \$2.14M from the DWR Subsidence Correction Project Grant Funds, and CEQA Exemption.

B. Upper Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project

Anthea reported that as part of the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority re-organization, the Water Authority has established a new committee called the "Planning Committee". It will be responsible for making recommendations to the Water Authority regarding how certain extraordinary capital maintenance projects are funded and who would be responsible for repayment of that funding. She shared that she had been appointed as a member of that Committee for Division 1, along with Bobby Pierce of West Stanislaus Irrigation District as her alternate.

14. ARTICLES / CORRESPONDENCE / PUBLIC OUTREACH

An itinerary for Calf 53 Summer Tour of Central Valley Water Issues, a Program and Activities Update for August from the California Farm Water Coalition, Family Farm Alliance August Update Report, articles titled "*Judge Temporarily Blocks State Order to Growers who Depleted Groundwater*", and "*Reclamation's Draft EIS for Potential Changes to Operation of the Central Valley Project: What is this Document?*" were provided for the Board's review.

15. CLOSED SESSION

There was nothing to report on this item.

16. REPORTS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54954.2

There were no reports pursuant to Government Code 54954.2

17. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthea G. Hansen  
Secretary