

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY
HELD FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA)* met in Regular Session on Friday, October 1, 2021 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): Jarrett Martin, Manager

STAFF MEMBERS:

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

OTHERS:

Andrew McClure, Minasian, Meith, Soares, Sexton & Cooper LLP

In accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, the following members of the Exchange Contractors’ Board of Directors and staff, and members of the public participated via teleconference:

REPRESENTATIVES:

Central California Irrigation District (CCID): James O’Banion, Chairman

San Luis Canal Company (SLCC): Douglas Goodman, Alternate Director;
John Wiersma, Manager

Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD): Mike Stearns, Director; Jeff Bryant, Manager

Columbia Canal Company (CCC): Chris Cardella, Vice-Chairman; Randy Houk, Manager

OTHERS:

Eric Fontana, CCID Director; Andrew Bloom, CCID Director; Kimberly Brown, CCC Director; David Cory, Consultant; Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group; Kristi Robinson, Waterwise; Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen; Don Wright, Journalist; Antonio Bejarano, Westlands Water District; Eric Ruckdaschel, Landowner; and Dominic DiMare, Consultant (9:32 a.m. – 9:46 a.m.)

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman O’Banion opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and asked Director Cardella to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The Executive Director proceeded to take roll call of the Board members to confirm a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The unapproved minutes from the September 3, 2021 Board meeting were presented.

Director Stearns made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Cardella. Upon a roll call vote, the motion was passed by a 4-0 vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was no public participation presented.

BOARD TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER, 2021 EXPENDITURES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Joann White presented the September 2021 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 her presentation, Ms. White reported that the Finance Committee recommended approval of the financial report, in addition to a reduction to the General Budget fourth quarter dues by \$120,000.

Director Cardella made a motion to accept the September 2021 Expenditure List and Financial Report as presented, along with the Finance Committee recommendations to reduce General Budget fourth quarter dues by \$120,000. The motion was seconded by Director Stearns. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

Proposed 2022 Draft Budget:

Executive Director White provided review and explanation of the 2022 Budget Summary sheet. He referred to the copy of the proposed budget in the Board packets and gave a summary of each budget category. Mr. White recommended that the proposed 2022 Draft Budget for the General, San Joaquin Valley Drainage and Water Transfer be presented to each of the individual member entity boards and be brought back to the Exchange Contractors' Board for final approval at the next Board meeting. He further stated he will be finalizing the numbers for the Water Resources Plan budget and plans to also present it to the individual boards at their upcoming board meetings.

Director Stearns made a motion to approve the recommendation made by the Executive Director. Director Cardella seconded the motion and upon a roll call vote, the motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

The Finance Committee meeting minutes of August 30, 2021 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: 1,307 cubic feet per second (c.f.s.), of that, 1,004 c.f.s.

from the Mendota Pool and 303 c.f.s from the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC). He then reported that releases from Friant Dam into the San Joaquin River are 240 c.f.s., with 8 c.f.s. at Gravelly Ford.

Mr. Hoffman next reported on the following current reservoir storage: Shasta – 1,081,791 acre feet (a.f.); San Luis Reservoir – 257,102 a.f., stating that the Federal share in the San Luis Reservoir is 44,535 a.f., with the State project water at 212,567 a.f. Next, he stated that Millerton current storage is 300,936 a.f. and the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam is at 17,616 a.f. The Upper San Joaquin Basin combined storage is 195,050 a.f., which is about 62% of average, and the accumulated full natural flow into Shasta Lake is 44% of average.

The Delta Operation's data was then provided as follows: inflows are 7,440 c.f.s., with exports at 3,176 c.f.s. The outflow index is 2,064 c.f.s., noting the controlling factor for this is the Delta Outflow.

In conclusion, Mr. Hoffman referred to the following 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:

SGMA/Groundwater – Executive Director White said that Manager Martin would provide an update on the SGMA progress. Mr. Martin began by stating that CCID staff is sending out data requests for compilation of the next annual update to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). We are still waiting for comments on the GSP from Department of Water Resources (DWR) and expect those around the December timeframe. At the Delta-Mendota subbasin level, the coordination committee is reviewing the Coordination Agreement for any necessary updates and are transitioning from development into implementation. There have been five facilitated meetings between Delta-Mendota, Merced, Chowchilla and Madera subbasins. The subbasins have agreed to an area of interest and a process to determine groundwater extractions from the lower aquifer.

Operations – Further discussion on Water Operations to take place in Closed Session.

Subsidence – CCID and SLCC are currently working with Triangle T on an extension of the subsidence relief agreement and should have that complete by the end of the year.

Water Transfers – There will be a Special Board meeting scheduled later this month to hold discussions regarding the Exchange Contractors' Water Transfer program.

Water Resources Plan Projects – Orestimba Creek and Los Banos Creek projects continue to make progress.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY & PROGRAM REPORT:

The Executive Director referred to Director of Policy and Program Report included in the Board's packets and gave a summary to the Board in his absence.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03 ACKNOWLEDGING CONTINUED STATE OF EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING REMOTE MEETING OPTIONS:

Legal Counsel Andrew McClure gave a brief summary on the proclamation of the State of Emergency by the Governor of the State of California issued March 4, 2020 and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of SJRECWA for the period October 1, 2021 through November 1, 2021 pursuant to Brown Act provisions. He further explained that the resolution only stays in effect for 30 days and staff will need to monitor the matter to see if a continuing resolution will be needed for future meetings.

Director Stearns made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-03 acknowledging the continued State of Emergency and authorizing remote meeting options. The motion was seconded by Director Cardella. Upon a roll call vote, the motion was passed by a 4-0 vote.

WATER RESOURCES PLAN (WRP) – UPDATE:

Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir (DPCR) – Executive Director White reported that the Request for Quote (RFQs) were received on August 31, 2021, and firms have been selected to receive a Request for Proposal (RFP) which is expected by mid-October. The RFP has been drafted and is undergoing final review. The recipients are expected to have approximately nine weeks to develop their proposals and submittals are anticipated by mid-December.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

State: Lobbyist Dominic DiMare gave a summary on the recent activities of the 2021 legislative session and the possible impacts on the Exchange Contractors.

Federal: The Executive Director indicated that Federal Lobbyist’s report was also included in the Board packet for their information.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT:

Legal counsel reviewed the following issues and said that some of the discussions will take place in Closed Session:

- SGMA Litigation
- CEQA Challenge to Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir

FOUR ENTITIES’ MANAGER REPORTS:

Central California Irrigation District: Manager Martin reported that the September water deliveries were able to meet the needs of the growers with a little bit of water to carry over into October. As the refuge demands are picking up, the canal system is slowing down, giving CCID an opportunity to test out some additional theories on the aquatic weed abatement. Currently working on a canal dewatering schedule for upcoming winter maintenance.

Columbia Canal Company: Manager Houk stated that harvest continues with some water left to get through October and currently preparing for winter maintenance.

San Luis Canal Company: Manager Wiersma reported that September deliveries were below average, which is to be expected for this year and gearing up for winter maintenance with three bid packages going out in October for outside contractors. SLCC continues to work with CCID on the aquatic weed issues. At the last SLCC board meeting, the directors began implementing an operational plan for shareholders to prepare for a possible dry year.

Firebaugh Canal Company: Manager Bryant stated that FCWD was below in water deliveries for the month and was able to move up water into October. Time was spent on the Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems for wells, continuing to work on completion of the new office building, and training a new maintenance foreman on general winter maintenance.

CLOSED SESSION:

Chairman O'Banion adjourned the meeting to Closed Session and called for a short recess at 9:52 a.m. Chairman O'Banion reconvened the meeting to Closed Session at 10:01 a.m.

The Chairman returned the meeting to Open Session at 10:28 a.m. and announced that direction was given to staff and legal counsel. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

JAMES O'BANION, CHAIRMAN

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

CHRIS WHITE, SECRETARY

DOUGLAS GOODMAN, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

MIKE STEARNS, DIRECTOR

CHRIS CARDELLA, VICE-CHAIRMAN