

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY
HELD FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA)* met in Regular Session on Friday, November 5, 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): Eric Fontana, Alternate Director; Jarrett Martin, Manager

San Luis Canal Company (SLCC): James Nickel, Director; John Wiersma, Manager

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

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

OTHERS:

Kimberly Brown, CCC Director; David Cory, Consultant; Don Wright, Journalist; Antonio Bejarano, Westlands Water District; and David Moore and Will Lockwood, Clean Energy Capital

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairman Cardella opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and asked for a moment of silence in honor of James “Jim” O’Banion. The Executive Director then proceeded to take roll call of the Board members to confirm a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The unapproved minutes from the October 1, 2021 Board meeting and the October 29, 2021 Special Board meeting were presented.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Executive Director invited those participating by teleconference to introduce themselves. Following, he asked if there was anyone from the public wished to provide comments. There was no public participation presented.

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

Joann White presented the October 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.

Director Stearns made a motion to accept the October 2021 Expenditure List and Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Nickel. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

Proposed 2022 Draft Budget:

Executive Director White referred to the summary sheet of the 2022 Draft Budget that was included in the Board packets and explained that the draft budget had been approved by the Board in October contingent upon ratification by each of the member entity boards. He then said that each of member entity boards have since approved the proposed budget and recommended ratification by the Board. Concluding, Mr. White confirmed that the Water Resources Plan (WRP) Budget is not included in the budget being approved by the Board today. Further discussions on the WRP Budget will be held in Closed Session.

A motion was made by Alternate Director Fontana and seconded by Director Nickel to ratify approval of the 2022 General, Water Transfer and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Draft Budgets. Upon a roll call vote, the motion was passed by a 4-0 vote.

The Finance Committee meeting minutes of September 28, 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: 978 cubic feet per second (c.f.s.), of that, 753 c.f.s. from

the Mendota Pool and 225 c.f.s from the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC). He then reported that releases from Friant Dam into the San Joaquin River are 230 c.f.s., with 33 c.f.s. at Gravelly Ford.

Mr. Hoffman next reported on the following current reservoir storage: Shasta – 1,009,684 acre feet (a.f.); San Luis Reservoir – 315,501 a.f., stating that the Federal share in the San Luis Reservoir is 47,214 a.f., with the State project water at 268,287 a.f. Next, he stated that Millerton current storage is 304,102 a.f. and the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam is at 17,406 a.f. The Upper San Joaquin Basin combined storage is 212,462 a.f., which is about 68% of average, and the accumulated full natural flow into Shasta Lake is 98% of average.

The Delta Operation’s data was then provided as follows: inflows are 15,765 c.f.s., with exports at 11,209 c.f.s. The outflow index is 3,085 c.f.s., noting the controlling factor for this is the Delta Water Quality.

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:

Legislative: Camille Touton has been confirmed as the commissioner of the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).

Operations: Further discussion to take place in Closed Session.

Museum/Water Office Facility Project: City of Los Banos was deeded the property where the facility would be located from the redevelopment agency. A consultant has been selected to help with a design process and to put together a concept proposal to show the Los Banos City Council. Currently working with City staff and will be presenting the project to the City Council this month.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY & PROGRAM REPORT:

Steve Chedester provided a report on the following issues:

San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP)

- *State Lands Commission* – Reclamation is developing an initial feasibility plan to mitigate water surface elevation impacts to levees and adjacent lands and the draft will be available by Spring 2022.
- *Mendota Pool Fish Screen and Control Structure* – Regarding the Reverse Flow Facility, Jacobs has presented hydraulic analysis for five operational scenarios to the Technical Service Center (TSC) and SJRRP. Comments were positive and TSC requested further analysis on the size of the gates controlling flow in the Compact Bypass channel. Once Reclamation accepts the suggested changes, Jacobs will incorporate into the 60% design.

- *Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA)* – Spoke with the Grant’s Officer on November 3rd with a request to extend the FAA until December 2023. It is currently under review and we anticipate an amendment by mid-November.
- *Schedule* – An updated schedule from Reclamation has been requested and they expect to have it available in Spring 2022.
- *Sack Dam, Fish Passage and Arroyo Canal Fish Screen* – The 30% design has been delayed until February 2022. Reclamation contacted CCID about requirements for building a new access bridge over Poso Canal.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05 – RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES “JIM” E. O’BANION

Alternate Director Fontana made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-05 recognizing the contributions of James “Jim” E. O’Banion. The motion was seconded by Director Stearns. Upon a roll call vote, the motion was passed by a 4-0 vote.

WATER RESOURCES PLAN (WRP) – UPDATE:

Executive Director White introduced David Moore and Will Lockwood of Clean Energy Capital. Mr. Moore presented an outline of their findings of the bond rating needed for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir project for future funding opportunities.

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

Consultant, David Cory gave the following update:

Groundwater Protection Formulas, Values and Targets: Coalitions are working diligently to develop a methodology to establish nitrogen loading targets as required by the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR). In July 2022, the coalitions must submit to the RWQCB the protection targets for each high vulnerability township within the Central Valley.

Grassland Bypass Project: The WDRs require that the Central Valley Regional Board periodically review the Grassland WDR beginning no later than December 2021, and every five years thereafter, to determine if the permit should be revised. The CV Regional Board will hold a workshop to review the WDR and, in addition to a discussion of the history of the Grassland Bypass Project, the workshop will likely address concerns raised in 2019 regarding the impact of selenium on fish.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

State: The Executive Director indicated that Dominic DiMare’s report was included in the Board packet for their information.

Federal: The Executive Director referred to Nancy Williams’ report discussing the FY22 Appropriations process and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

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

- Emergency Curtailment Regulations/Criteria
- CEQA Challenge to Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir
- Court of Claims Friant Litigation

FOUR ENTITIES' MANAGER REPORTS:

Columbia Canal Company:

Manager Houk stated that CCC will be finishing up the water season about mid-November and will go into winter maintenance after Thanksgiving.

San Luis Canal Company:

Manager Wiersma reported that San Luis continues to gear up for the 2022 water year with an operational contingency plan for a dry year and preparing shareholders for a possible critical water year with an aggressive outreach program. Work continues on their capital projects with four bids received this week. SLCC and CCID continue to work with Triangle T on updating the subsidence mitigation agreement.

Central California Irrigation District:

Manager Martin reported that October deliveries were about what was expected and waiting on some late harvests to come in to finish up the year. Ben Fenters is doing some flow modeling on the CCID canals as part of the next phases of construction planning and staff is working internally on designs for the winter projects.

Firebaugh Canal Company:

Manager Bryant stated that they are at the end of the water year and assisting growers to utilize the last of their 5-month water supply with hopes of shutting down by Thanksgiving to begin working on some internal projects. Bids have been put out for the new office building. Grant funding has been finalized for the ability to turn off the sump pumps through the SCADA system which will be beneficial during storm events. FCWD had two board members up for reelection, both ran uncontested, and their information has been submitted the County Supervisor's office for reappointed to the board.

INFORMATIONAL – UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

- Memorial Service for Mr. James “Jim” E. O’Banion – November 13th
- ACWA Fall Conference (Pasadena) – November 30th to December 2nd

CLOSED SESSION:

Vice-Chairman Cardella adjourned the meeting to Closed Session and called for a short recess at 10:05 a.m. Vice-Chairman Cardella reconvened the meeting to Closed Session at 10:14 a.m.

The Vice-Chairman returned the meeting to Open Session at 12:02 p.m. and announced that direction was given to staff and legal counsel. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

CHRIS CARDELLA, VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

CHRIS WHITE, SECRETARY

ERIC FONTANA, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

JAMES NICKEL, DIRECTOR

MIKE STEARNS, DIRECTOR