

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY
HELD FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022**

The Board of Directors of the *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA)* met in Regular Session on Friday, June 3, 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.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Columbia Canal Company (CCC):

Chris Cardella, Chair; Randy Houk, Manager

Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD):

Mike Stearns, Vice-Chair; Jeff Bryant, Manager

San Luis Canal Company (SLCC):

James Nickel, Director; John Wiersma, Manager

Central California Irrigation District (CCID):

Eric Fontana, Director; Jarrett Martin, Manager

STAFF MEMBERS:

Chris White, Executive Director; Steve Chedester, Director of Policy & Programs; Joann White, Director of Finance and Administration; Adam Hoffman, Water Resources Specialist (arrived 9:15 a.m.); and Darlene O’Brien, Administrative Assistant

PRESENT:

Andrew McClure, Minasian, Meith, Soares, Sexton & Cooper LLP; David Cory, Consultant; Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District (teleconference); Lauren Layne, Baker, Manock & Jensen (teleconference); and Don Wright, Journalist (teleconference)

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Cardella 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 May 13, 2022 Board meeting were presented.

Director Nickel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Stearns, and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Executive Director invited those participating by teleconference to introduce themselves. There was no public participation presented following introductions.

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

Joann White presented the May 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 Director Stearns and seconded by Director Fontana to approve the Expenditure List and Financial Report as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

The Finance Committee meeting minutes of May 2, 2022 were provided for informational purposes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Executive Director gave brief updates on the following issues:

Legislative: Continuing to work with congressional staff on funding issues we are trying to achieve as it relates to Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir (DPCR) Project.

Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir (DPCR) Project: The Geotech plan has been completed and submitted to Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) for review. Drilling and other field work is scheduled to begin around July 1st. The current schedule will get the project to 30% design in all aspects, excluding road relocation, with the current budget numbers we have on hand.

Operations: Due to the latest modeling discussions, we are hopeful that Jones Pumping Plant will be able to get to a 2-pump operation in July which would be the end of the flows down the San Joaquin River.

Museum/Water Office Facility Project: A public stakeholder's meeting has been scheduled for June 9th at the Los Banos Community Center. The preliminary conceptual design should be available in the next couple of months.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY & PROGRAMS REPORT:

Steve Chedester provided a report on the following issues:

San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP):

- *Mendota Pool Fish Screen and Control Structure* –The 60% design is still on schedule for June 16th to deliver to United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Technical

Service Center (TSC). Reclamation confirmed that the combined 30% design for the compact bypass facility, fish ladder and fish recapture facility will be available in June.

- *Sack Dam, Fish Passage and Arroyo Canal Fish Screen* – Reclamation is still trying to figure out which alternative they are going to use for the Sack Dam complex to be able to move to the 60% design.

WATER REPORT:

Water Resources Specialist, Adam Hoffman reviewed his water report that included the following data: Exchange Contractors' total demands: 1,603 cubic feet per second (c.f.s.), of that, 1,361 c.f.s. from the Mendota Pool and 242 c.f.s from the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC). He then reported that releases from Friant Dam into the San Joaquin River are 1,597 c.f.s., with 1,390 c.f.s. at Gravelly Ford. Currently, there is 1,289 c.f.s. entering the Mendota Pool from the San Joaquin River, noting that no San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) flows are going past Sack Dam due to a seepage threshold near Gravelly Ford.

Mr. Hoffman next reported on the following current reservoir storage: Shasta – 1,815,129 acre-feet (AF); San Luis Reservoir – 918,152 AF, stating that the Federal share in the San Luis Reservoir is 338,227 AF, with the State project water at 579,925 AF. Subsequent, he stated that Millerton's current storage is 369,881 AF and the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam is at 19,180 AF. The Upper San Joaquin Basin combined storage is 433,349 AF, which is about 97% of average, and the accumulated full natural flow into Shasta Lake is 50% of average.

The Delta Operation's data was then provided as follows: inflows are 9,439 c.f.s., with exports at 1,361 c.f.s. The outflow index is 5,128 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.

BOARD PRESIDENT TO APPOINT DIRECTORS CHRIS CARDELLA AND JAMES NICKEL TO STRATEGIC PLANNING AD HOC COMMITTEE:

It has been determined to form a Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee and Chair Cardella advised the Board that he and Director Nickel have been appointed as the committee members.

WATER RESOURCES PLAN (WRP) – UPDATE:

The Director of Policy and Programs provided an update on the following WRP projects:

- *Orestimba Creek* – Progress continued on the box culvert analysis and an inspection of the culvert occurred and once the report is drafted, it will be sent to Reclamation and TSC. Land and streambed alteration permits and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) encroachment permit have been filed. The design is approximately 85% complete.
- *Los Banos Creek Project* – Project partners agreed to regularly meet on the first and third Mondays of the month. The Area Potential Effected (APE) map and project description for

the Section 106 consultation (SHPO) was completed in May.

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley: A strategic plan has been developed, adoption of the Mission and Vision statement was completed, and they are currently working on goals and objectives for the next three years.

Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir (DPCR) Project: The Executive Director asked to move approval of the remaining 2022 Budget for DPCR to after Closed Session.

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

Consultant, David Cory gave the following update:

CV-SALTS: The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will hear an update on the CV-Salts Program on June 7th, which will cover the nitrate control and salt control programs. At that time, information will be presented on the progress of the nitrate management zones as well as the development of the Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study).

Groundwater Protection Formulas, Values and Targets: On July 19th, coalitions must submit to the RWQCB Groundwater Protection (GWP) Targets for each high vulnerability township within the Central Valley. Coalitions are planning to utilize a groundwater model called the Non-Point Source Assessment Toolbox (NPSAT) to help establish township level targets.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

The Executive Director indicated that both the State and Federal Lobbyists' reports were in the Board packets for review and information.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

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

- Friant Court of Claims case
- DPCR Litigation

FOUR ENTITIES' MANAGER REPORTS:

Columbia Canal Company: Manager Houk reported that CCC had their annual meeting and that the board members remained the same. Last month's water was as expected.

Firebaugh Canal Company: Manager Bryant stated that FCWD had solidified the summer period water for their growers. Currently, work continues on the new office building, the canal lining project, and the solar and desalination plant.

Central California Irrigation District: Manager Martin reported that water usage was on target for May and that staff was wrapping up construction projects and finalizing their solar project with PG&E for the connection step.

San Luis Canal Company: Manager Wiersma stated that allocations were re-turned to the original depths in May and that water deliveries were average for the month. Staff is implementing a timekeeping system which will be in place by July. Their budget process is now complete.

INFORMATIONAL:

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

- Stakeholders Meeting for Museum/Office Project – June 9th (LB Community Center)

CLOSED SESSION:

Chair Cardella adjourned the meeting to Closed Session and called for a short recess at 9:33 a.m. The meeting was reconvened to Closed Session at 9:43 a.m.

Chair Cardella returned the meeting to Open Session at 11:26 a.m. announced the following action had been taken: motion made by Director Stearns and seconded by Director Nickel to approve the remaining 2022 budget for the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir project. The motion was unanimously carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

CHRIS CARDELLA, CHAIR

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, DIRECTOR

JAMES NICKEL, DIRECTOR

(Signatures Continue on Following Page)

MIKE STEARNS, VICE-CHAIR