

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY
HELD FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022**

The Board of Directors of the *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA)* met in Regular Session on Friday, July 1, 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 (teleconference)

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

The following participated via Conference Call:

David Cory, Consultant; Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District; Chase Hurley, Water & Land Solutions LLC; Kristi Robinson, Waterwise; Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard; and Don Wright, Journalist

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Chris Cardella opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and asked Manager Martin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Director White reported that since the posting of the agenda, an action item has been brought to his attention. He requested to add agenda item 12C) Board to consider approval of Mendota Pool Pumpers revised request.

Director Fontana made a motion to add Agenda Item 12C) Board to consider approval of Mendota Pool Pumpers revised request. The motion was seconded by Director Stearns and unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The unapproved minutes from the June 3, 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 asked for introduction to those participating by teleconference. No public participation was presented following introductions.

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

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

The approved Finance Committee meeting minutes of May 31, 2022 were provided for informational purposes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Executive Director gave brief updates on the following issues:

Operations: Jones Pumping Plant went to a 2-pump operation and United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is hoping to increase to three (3) units, however, thus far the salinity has been an issue of concern in the Delta.

On the San Joaquin River, Reclamation began ramping down releases out of Millerton last week with the final cut scheduled for this weekend which should result in about 300 c.f.s. still coming into the Mendota Pool pending a final decision on when restoration flows will re-commence in the river.

Museum/Water Office Facility Project: A public stakeholder's forum was held June 9th at the Los Banos Community Center with about 25 attendees and received positive input from the community. 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 and specifications report were delivered by Reclamation and Technical Service Center (TSC). Reclamation also released the combined 30% design for the compact bypass facility, fish ladder and fish recapture facility with comments due by mid-July.
- *Sack Dam, Fish Passage and Arroyo Canal Fish Screen* – After meeting with SLCC, Reclamation is still trying to figure out which alternative they are going to use for the Sack Dam complex in order to move to the 60% design which has put the project about three months behind schedule.
- *Reach 2B Levees* – Received confirmation from Reclamation that the 30% design will be released at the end of July on the South Canal.

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

Consultant, David Cory gave the following update:

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.

WATER REPORT:

Water Resources Specialist, Adam Hoffman reviewed his water report that included the following data: Exchange Contractors' total demands: 2,059 cubic feet per second (c.f.s.), of that, 1,610 c.f.s. from the Mendota Pool and 449 c.f.s from the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC). He then reported that releases from Friant Dam into the San Joaquin River are 970 c.f.s., with 930 c.f.s. at Gravelly Ford. Currently, there is 889 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.

Mr. Hoffman next reported on the following current reservoir storage: Shasta – 1,778,694 acre-feet (AF); San Luis Reservoir – 801,836 AF, stating that the Federal share in the San Luis Reservoir is 263,322 AF, with the State project water at 538,514 AF. Subsequent, he stated that Millerton's current storage is 348,295 AF and the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam is at 18,824 AF. The Upper San Joaquin Basin combined storage is 431,337 AF, which is about 88% of average, and the accumulated full natural flow into Shasta Lake is 51% of average.

The Delta Operation's data was then provided as follows: inflows are 11,035 c.f.s., with exports at 957 c.f.s. The outflow index is 5,828 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.

WATER RESOURCES PLAN (WRP) – UPDATE:

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

- *Orestimba Creek* – Consultant provided their findings report on the box culvert, no issues were found. The report has been sent to Reclamation and TSC and will wait for their concurrence so the design can be finalized, and the license agreements initiated. CCID received a draft grant agreement, after some edits, it will be reviewed by the Grants Officer and anticipate the final agreement this month.
- *Los Banos Creek Project* – A site visit was held with the Reclamation's Regional and Fresno offices to show the existing infrastructure and what the new project requires.

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley: The quarterly large group meeting was held at Fresno State on June 22nd.

Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir (DPCR) Project: Executive Director White gave a brief update on the dam design process.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

State: The Executive Director referred to Dominic DiMare's report noting the current legislative session and how it relates to current water issues, including the DPCR.

Federal: The Executive Director presented Nancy Williams' report which summarized the current state of affairs in Washington D.C. including gun control and recent Supreme Court decisions as well as the FY23 Appropriations.

MENDOTA POOL GROUP (MPG):

The Executive Director presented the information received from the Mendota Pool Group and recommended approval of the proposed revisions for the 2022 program.

Director Stearns made a motion to approve the revised 2022 MPG Program agreement as presented with the conditions as outlined. The motion was seconded by Director Nickel, and unanimously carried.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

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

- DPCR Litigation
- Friant Court of Claims

FOUR ENTITIES' MANAGER REPORTS:

Central California Irrigation District: Manager Martin reported that maintenance staff was focusing on weed control and aquatics. Office staff is starting to prepare for upcoming winter projects.

San Luis Canal Company: Manager Wiersma noted that water deliveries were on target for the month. Maintenance is focusing on chaining and aquatics. Budget was recently approved, and staff is working on capital project designs.

Columbia Canal Company: Manager Houk reported that June's water deliveries were about the same as last year and normal maintenance taking place with weed control and aquatics.

Firebaugh Canal Water District: Manager Bryant stated that they continue to monitor the current water allocations for their growers. The office building is behind schedule due to lack of materials, concluding that the environmental work continues on their canal lining project.

INFORMATIONAL:

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

- Exchange Contractors GSA Meeting - July 5
- Submittal of the First Amendment to the GSP – July 20
- Ad Hoc Committee Meeting – July 28
- California Ag Leadership Tour - August 18 & 19

CLOSED SESSION:

Chair Cardella adjourned the meeting to Closed Session and called for a short recess at 9:42 a.m. The meeting was reconvened to Closed Session at 9:49 a.m.

Chair Cardella returned the meeting to Open Session at 10:39 a.m. and announced that no action was taken in Closed Session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 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

MIKE STEARNS, VICE-CHAIR

ERIC FONTANA, DIRECTOR

JAMES NICKEL, DIRECTOR