

**MINUTES OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS  
WATER AUTHORITY WATER TRANSFER COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

The Water Transfer Committee met on Monday, February 26, 2024 in the Board Room of the *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors)*, 541 “H” Street, City of Los Banos, County of Merced, State of California.

**WATER TRANSFER COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**

Kimberly Brown, Chair (via teleconference); Cannon Michael, Vice-Chair; Kirk Jensen, Jarrett Martin, John Wiersma, Jeff Bryant, and Mike Gardner

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chris White, Executive Director; Steve Chedester, Director of Policy & Programs; Joann White, Director of Finance & Administration; and Adam Hoffman, Water Resources Specialist

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-Chair Michael opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that Chair Kimberly Brown was participating via teleconference and she would not take any action on agenda items since her location was not listed as an alternate location on the agenda.

**AGENDA**

There were no changes to the Agenda.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2023  
WATER TRANSFER COMMITTEE MEETING**

Upon presentation of the May 4, 2023 minutes, a motion was made by John Wiersma and seconded by Kirk Jensen to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

**REVIEW OF 2023 WATER TRANSFER PROGRAM**

Executive Director White reviewed the matrix outlining the 2023 water transfer program.

**PROPOSED 2024 WATER TRANSFERS**

Manager Martin reported that CCID may have some landfallowing and well water exchange transfer proposals but it will be dependent on the next allocation announcement for the South of the Delta CVP contractors. Manager Wiersma confirmed that SLCC may also have additional proposals dependent on the updated allocation, and Manager Bryant concurred that FCWD’s landowners are monitoring the same outcome to make their decisions of fallowing and/or well water exchange, in addition to other proposals under the drainage transfer program. It was determined that another meeting will be scheduled next month following the March 15<sup>th</sup> allocation announcement if needed.

**SLCC:**

**SLCC 2024-1:** Presentation of the matrix outlining 2024 Landfallowing Proposals, along with a copy of SLCC proposed landfallowing proposal on behalf of 21 landowners to Del Puerto Water District (DPWD), Westlands Water District and Triangle T Water District of up to 8,000 AF. The Executive Director reported that the technical information had been received and reviewed and in compliance with the requirements.

**SLCC 2024-2:** San Luis Canal Company has also brought Groundwater Exchange Transfers from SLCC to San Luis Water District, DPWD, and Panoche Water District of up to 853 AF. During review of the matrix, it was acknowledged that receipt of the information required was received.

The last request from SLCC is the approval of 5,000 AF of water to Panoche Water District under the Eastside Conveyance Project, adding that the estimated delivery schedule of the water is included in SLCC’s letter that is part of the meeting packet.

In conclusion, the Executive Director stated that staff recommend approval of the three SLCC transfer proposals as presented.

**FCWD:** Manager Bryant reported that FCWD is working with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to finalize the updated environmental coverage for the Groundwater Exchange Transfer and will bring this matter back at the next meeting.

**Request for Recommendation of Annual Approval of Long-Term Water Acquisition**

**Agreement** – The Executive Director explained that this is the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the 25-year long term water transfer agreement between CCID/FCWD and Panoche Water District of up to 3,000 AF. It was explained that on an annual basis, the Exchange Contractors are required to submit a report to Reclamation providing data of the previous year’s program. This information was submitted in February to the Regional Director, in addition to Reclamation’s Fresno office. In concluding, the Executive Director recommended approval of the transfer of up to 3,000 AF from CCID/FCWD to Panoche Water District under the drainage transfer program.

A motion was made by Jeff Bryant and seconded by John Wiersma to recommend approval of the four transfer proposals as recommended by staff. The motion was unanimously carried.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Manager Martin reported on concerns being raised as a result of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and options that can be considered under the water transfer program to help subsidence areas and/or assist others with compliance requirements. Several discussions have been held with districts within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin that are outside the Exchange Contractors’ service area. It was determined that the matter will be brought back after proposals are received from the water agencies for consideration.

With no further business coming before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

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KIMBERLY BROWN, CHAIR

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CANNON MICHAEL, VICE-CHAIR

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KIRK JENSEN

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JARRETT MARTIN

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JOHN WIERSMA

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JEFF BRYANT

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MIKE GARDNER