

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY
HELD FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026**

The Board of Directors of the *San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA)* met in Regular Session on Friday, June 5, 2026 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, Director; Jarrett Martin, General Manager

San Luis Canal Company (SLCC): Cannon Michael, Director (via teleconference); John Wiersma, General Manager

Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD): Mike Stearns, Vice-Chair; Jeff Bryant, General Manager

Columbia Canal Company (CCC): Kimberly Brown, Alternate Director (via teleconference 1:41 p.m.); Mike Gardner, General Manager (via teleconference)

STAFF MEMBERS:

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

PRESENT:

Andrew McClure, Minasian Law; Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District; Daniel Nelson and Javier Powell, Milliken Museum Society (1:30 p.m. - 2:02 p.m.)

The following participated via Conference Call:

Don Wright, Journalist; and Rick Iger, Provost & Pritchard

CALL TO ORDER:

The Board Secretary, Chris White called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced the meeting would be adjourned to 1:30 p.m.

Vice-Chair Stearns called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and asked Manager Martin to lead the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW OF AGENDA:

The Executive Director requested to move Agenda item #12 to follow Agenda item #6. There was no objection by the Board to the proposed Agenda change.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The unapproved minutes from the May 1, 2026 Regular Board meeting were presented. A motion was made by Director Fontana to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Michael. Upon a roll call vote, the motion was passed by a 3–0 vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Introductions were provided by those present in person and by phone.

BOARD TO APPROVE THE MAY 2026 EXPENDITURES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Marisol Bonilla provided a summary of the May 2026 Expenditure List and Financial Report.

A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Director Michael to approve the Expenditure List and Financial Report as presented. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

2025 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM AWARDS:

The Executive Director recapped the Milliken Museum Society’s Restoration and Preservation Map project that was awarded in 2025 under the Community Infrastructure Program. The project consisted of the restoration and digitization of the year 1900 Miller & Lux San Joaquin Valley Ownership Map. He then asked Daniel Nelson, President of the Milliken Museum Society, to provide a summary of the project process and the results. Mr. Nelson guided the Board through the methods used during the restoration process, which ultimately was much more complex than the facility had projected. However, the outcome was a huge success. Javier Powell next explained the map was also downloaded as a digitized image which enables viewers to overlay the map onto the current Google Maps to locate the same area as it is today. An example demonstration of how that can be done was displayed for the Board.

Mr. White next explained that the Board approved an estimate of \$10,000 for the proposed project in 2025, however, after the additional work had to be done to refurbish the map, in addition to digitization, the final project cost totaled \$15,868.53. The Executive Director recommended approval of the additional \$5,868.53 to cover the added costs.

A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Director Michael to approve the additional costs of \$5,868.53 for a total of \$15,868.53 for the Milliken Museum Society’s Restoration and Preservation Map project. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

WATER REPORT:

The Water Resource Specialist reported that in May, there was a 5% increase in allocations to the South-of-Delta CVP contractors, from 20% to 25%. The State Water Project also received an increase, with allocations rising from 30% to 45%.

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) releases are approximately 370 cubic feet per second (cfs). Flows are scheduled to decrease to 105 cfs and then to approximately 70 cfs by the end of the weekend. The summer flows have been revised and rather than maintaining 70 cfs throughout the summer, flows will be reduced to 25 cfs during July and August before increasing slightly in September.

Mr. Hoffman also provided an update on current reservoir storage levels. Shasta Reservoir is currently at 3,925,962 Acre Feet (AF), San Luis Reservoir at 1,498,055 AF, and Millerton Reservoir at 498,822 AF.

The Jones Pumping Plant is operating three units, and State Water Project's pumping is approximately 1,800 cfs., mentioning that operations are being managed to meet Delta water quality standards.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Executive Director White provided a brief report on activities involving Golden Mussels, noting ongoing coordinated efforts between San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and CCID. He then asked Mr. Chedester to update the Board on the two pilot projects being designed by CCID. Mr. Chedester explained the development of the two filtration pilot projects operations using different media types, one sand-based and one glass-based, to evaluate their effectiveness in preventing mussel establishment. One system uses well water, while the other draws water directly from the San Luis Canal and returns it after filtration. As a follow up, Mr. White said both state and federal legislators are working on addressing this issue.

Mr. White gave an update on the SJRRP projects, noting Dr. Andrea Travnicek, Assistant Secretary of Water and Science at the Department of the Interior, toured the SJRRP Sack Dam construction project that morning. The Exchange Contractors and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) officials also participated in the site visit, in addition to another stop at the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam project.

Mr. White informed Reclamation continues to move forward with design plans for the South Canal project.

Regarding the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), a public workshop was held today to introduce the elements of the adopted Domestic Well Mitigation Program. Mr. Wiersma explained that the workshop was held to provide information on how the program will function, He said there were approximately 30 to 40 participants in attendance.

The next focus is developing the proper procedure to evaluate future applications which will be brought back to the Board.

The Executive Director provided an update on some of the Community Infrastructure Fund projects being implemented and/or completed. Manager Martin outlined the work CCID assisted with regarding the Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District project and what the next requirements are for completing the project.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY & PROGRAMS REPORT:

The Director of Policy and Programs recapped his monthly report focusing on the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, Mendota Pool Fish Screen project, the South Canal bypass facility, and Bay-Delta issues.

Mr. Chedester reported that Chapter Six of the Unified Water Plan for the San Joaquin Valley was recently released for public comment and is expected to be finalized by July 2026.

WATER RESOURCES PLAN (WRP) – UPDATE:

Mr. Chedester outlined the work on the Orestimba Creek Project. At the Los Creek Detention Dam project, construction of the boat ramp extension is progressing, repairs to the pipeline are to be completed this month, and Reclamation and the SWRCB have agreed on the final permit conditions.

WATER TRANSFER PROGRAM:

The Executive Director reviewed the Groundwater Exchange transfers from CCID to Del Puerto Water District of up to 1,016 AF included in the Board packet. He explained that the Water Transfer Committee reviewed the information and recommended approval of the proposed transfers.

A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Director Michael to approve the recommendation from the Water Transfer Committee as reported. Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

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

In David Cory's absence, Executive Director White referred to Mr. Cory's report included in the Board packet for informational purposes.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

State: Steve Chedester reviewed Arc Strategies' report included in the Board packet providing status updates on the bills that had been brought to the Board's attention last month.

Federal: Chris White referred to the report included in the Board packet. He said he will be returning to Washington D.C. next week with San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) representatives.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Reference was made to the updated report from Lighthouse Public Affairs included in the meeting packet, noting that the second quarter newsletter has been drafted and distributed.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Attorney Andrew McClure stated that the court signed the Dismissal Order regarding the Johnson v. PG&E case, adding that plaintiffs have until July 6, 2026 to file an appeal.

Legal counsel mentioned that he had received an email from Tom Berliner, Esq., regarding the SJRRP flow restrictions. After some discussion, it was determined that staff will obtain information and have Mr. Berliner participate at the next meeting.

Lastly, Mr. McClure provided an outline of recent legislation, Assembly Bill 2026, regarding diversions and permitting groundwater: After obtaining information from Manager Martin, legal counsel drafted a brief summary of potential upsides and downsides of the bill in its current form.

FOUR ENTITIES' MANAGER REPORTS:

Firebaugh Canal Water District: Manager Bryant recapped that water deliveries are proceeding as expected as the district enters the peak summer irrigation season. Staff continue working to keep canals clean and are actively treating aquatic vegetation throughout the system. Working on a two-week program trying to keep Golden Mussels out without affecting the pumps.

San Luis Canal Company: Manager Wiersma reported May deliveries of approximately 15,000 AF. They adopted their budget and are planning several significant improvement projects, which include construction of a new building for their operations and maintenance department and upgrading landscaping around the company's office.

Central California Irrigation District: Manager Martin reported that water demands were heavy in May, and they continue to focus on aquatics, and on the filter testing for removal of Golden Mussels.

Columbia Canal Company: Executive Director White read a report provided to him from Manager Gardner as follows: current deliveries were approximately 135 cfs, with total deliveries for May reaching 5,700 AF. The usual activities for this time of year are proceeding with mowing, disking, spraying for weeds, and treating the canal for pond weed and algae.

JULY BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Director recommended that due to the Fourth of July Holiday, the Friday, July 3, 2026 Board meeting be moved to Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

A motion was made by Director Fontana and seconded by Director Michael to approve changing the July 2026 Board meeting to Wednesday, July 1, 2026. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

INFORMATIONAL:

Executive Director White recapped his upcoming trip to Washington D.C. from June 8th through June 11th with SLDMWA and reminded the Board of the upcoming California Ag Leadership tour scheduled for August 20th and 21st.

No further business came to the Board, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

MIKE STEARNS, VICE-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

CANNON MICHAEL, DIRECTOR

KIMBERLY BROWN, ALTERNATE DIRECTOR