

**MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 27, 2026
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) met in person in regular session in the District Boardroom at 9:00 a.m., with public access provided via the online Zoom meeting platform. President Spyksma called the meeting to order and led the flag salute. Upon roll call the following members were noted present:

DIRECTORS: HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
ABSENT: VAN RYN

Also present were General Manager Peter Rietkerk; Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth; and Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney.

Public Comment – None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Checks in the amount of \$410,453.40; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$1,159,274.62; and Payroll dated January 9, 2026 in the amount of \$268,657.71.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2026
- C. Approval of Consent to SSJID's Entry to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter, APN 208-170-18

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Roos to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: VAN RYN

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #1 – Directors' Reports

Director Holbrook addressed SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk, and referenced his General Manager's Report for January 27, 2026, page 2, Bullet 3, regarding California Special District Association (CSDA) Board Conferences, and CSDA Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) and Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) certification programs. He stated that he'd spoken with Tri-Dam Project General Manager Summer Nicotero regarding his attendance/participation at/in the offered events, on behalf of Tri-Dam. Further discussion will determine whether earned certifications and/or incentive credits would go towards discounted insurance provided to the District by Special Districts Risk Management Authority (SDRMA).

Director Holbrook noted the annual San Joaquin Farm Bureau (SJFB) Calla Nile and Escalon Farm Centers Meeting, on February 24, and RSVP'd that he would like to be registered to attend the dinner meeting.

Director Holbrook addressed SSJID Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth, and referenced the Engineering Department Manager's Report for January 27, 2026. He inquired about the Canyon Tunnel section and received confirmation that Community Services hours are scheduled for January 28, from 12-2:00

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PM; and the Winters & DeJong Properties Annexation Feasibility Report mapping to which Mr. Killingsworth offered further discussion offline.

Director Holbrook addressed SSJID Irrigation & Operations Manager Barron Sweet and commended him, the Maintenance Crew, and on-call supervisors for the outstanding work performed during the severe storm events that occurred from December 25 to January 4.

Director Holbrook addressed SSJID Finance and Administration Manager Sonya Williams, referenced the Finance and Administration Manager's Report for January 27, 2026, Section Human Resources, and acknowledged the six (6) temporary Maintenance Workers who successfully earned their initial incentive for perfect attendance and injury-free performance throughout the first eight weeks.

Director Holbrook addressed SSJID Electric Utility Manager Bill Schwandt, referenced the Electric Utility Manager's Report for January 27, 2026, and noted the increased annual savings as a result of the Repowered Robert O. Schulz Solar Farm Project.

Director Holbrook noted the Water Resources Manager's Report for January 27, 2026 regarding the scheduled CPR/First Aid Training for the Maintenance Department. SSJID Environmental Compliance and Safety Officer Walt Luihn responded via the online Zoom meeting platform and stated that the training is scheduled for January 28, in the District board room, and will also include Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP) personnel. Director Holbrook asked if he could participate to which Mr. Luihn responded in the affirmative.

Director Holbrook inquired about the status of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) groundwater monitoring wells, to which Mr. Rietkerk responded that the ESJGWA was awarded a grant to identify and drill monitoring wells, and that there had been a lapse in data collection responsibility between San Joaquin County (SJC) and the ESJGWA. Director Weststeyn stated that the newly established monitoring wells will provide more accurate and consistent telemetry data. Director Holbrook suggested that SSJID Water Resources Manager Brandon Nakagawa give a groundwater presentation at a future SJC Advisory Water Commission meeting.

Director Weststeyn thanked the department managers for their detailed and informative Managers' Reports.

Director Weststeyn reported that he attended the Division 9 Growers Meeting, on January 22, which prompted good discussion with the local landowners.

Director Weststeyn reported that he participated in the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) 2026 Annual Capitol Day in Sacramento, on January 27, along with President Spyksma, Mr. Rietkerk, and SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson. The day's itinerary also included legislative meetings to discuss the District's retail electric, and water issues.

Director Roos thanked the Maintenance crews for their productive work on the District's ditches and pipelines.

President Spyksma reported that he attended CMUA's Capitol Day, on January 27, and reiterated the positive discussions at the legislative meetings regarding SSJID's water and power issues.

President Spyksma announced a scheduled meeting, on January 28, to discuss District annexations.

President Spyksma acknowledged the Pipelining crews for their productivity, efficiency, and a job well done.

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Item #2 – Various Reports

Mr. Rietkerk gave a brief hydrology report noting the current and upcoming “dry period.” He added that at 58-percent (58%) through the rainy season, precipitation measures at 121-percent (121%) of average.

Mr. Rietkerk commended the crews and supervisors for the excellence demonstrated during the winter maintenance season. He noted their efficiency and productivity in the pipelining process.

Mr. Rietkerk noted Senate Bill (SB) 827 which identified new mandates for required training of members of a local legislative body; elected officers of a local agency; officials appointed by governing bodies regarding finances and use of public resources; local agency executives; and additional employees designated by the board. Required trainings will now include Fiscal and Financial Training, in addition to the already established Ethics, and Sexual Harassment Prevention. The deadline to complete Fiscal and Financial Training is January 1, 2028. CSDA offers several in-person workshops in northern California throughout 2026, as well as a webinar scheduled on March 4.

Mr. Rietkerk passed around, for Board viewing, a thank you note received from Garden Joy in Ripon for SSJID’s support of their local community organization.

Mr. Rietkerk announced SSJID’s District-wide Growers’ Meeting scheduled for February 5, in the District board room, commencing at 9:00 a.m. He encouraged the Directors to invite their local constituents.

President Spyksma expressed appreciation to Mr. Luihn and SSJID teams for their quality work standard, and outstanding diligence and adherence to the District’s safety protocols.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – PUBLIC HEARING – Consider Proposed Increase in Division 9 Project Pressurized Water Service Charge as Fully Described in the 45-Day Proposition 218 Hearing Notice to Customers Which Was Mailed on or About December 1, 2025

President Spyksma announced the public hearing and presentation regarding a proposed increase in Division 9 Project pressurized water service charge.

- a) Presentation of Staff Report Regarding Proposed Increase in Division 9 Project Pressurized Water Service Charges – Ms. Sarah Bloom, SSJID Management Accountant addressed the Board and provided an explanation of the protest process; a recap of the Proposition 218 public hearing process; Division 9 Grower Workshops held on November 12, 2025 and January 22, 2026 to present the current rate calculation methodology and proposed rates; the inflationary index; the capital provision inflationary index; the District’s 5-year Maintenance Plan; and a comparison of the existing and proposed charges. Collected revenue from the capital provision will be deposited to the Division 9 Capital Reserve, the use of which is restricted to Division 9 capital asset replacements and improvements. As of December 2025, the Division 9 Provision for Capital reserve balance was approximately \$764,861.00.
- b) Adoption of Time Limits and Other Rules for Conduct of Public Hearing – Mr. Rietkerk explained the rules of conduct for a public hearing, and the written protest process. Customers in the Division 9 service area have received instructions for submitting a written protest to oppose the proposed rate increases.

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- c) Remarks of the President – President Spyksma stated that the public hearing was for the receipt of public testimony regarding the proposed pressurized irrigation rates, and that there would not be Director of staff responses during the hearing. He clarified that public testimony and verbal comments are not counted protests, and that protests must be in writing, signed, and contain the Assessor's Parcel Number of the parcel to which the protest was submitted. Written protests must be submitted, or withdrawn, before the close of the public hearing.
- d) Questions of Staff from Board – Board and staff discussion included the variable frequency drive (VFD) pump controllers allowing precise flow rates of 50-60 pounds per square inch (PSI) at customer turnouts; the variable based on flow hydrology; and the necessity of an analysis to consider a PSI adjustment. The Board inquired about action should the proposed rate increase be protested, to which Ms. Bloom responded that a majority protest of the proposed Division 9 rate increase would constitute no change to the current Division 9 rates.
- e) Opening of Public Hearing – Announced by President Spyksma at 9:40 a.m.
- f) Public Comments – None
- g) Closing Staff Comments – None
- h) Call for Final Submittal of Written Protest – Ms. Bloom exited the public hearing to physically collect any and all written protests submitted.
- i) Close of Public Hearing – President Spyksma announced the close of the public hearing at 9:42 AM.

The Board took a break at 9:44 AM to validate, log, and count all written protests submitted.

- j) Protest Count and Public Announcement of Protest Count Results – SSJID Finance and Administration Manager Sonya Williams, and Mr. Killingsworth remained in the board room while validating, logging, and counting all written protests submitted.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 10:05 AM.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that a majority of owners of the identified parcels protesting the proposed Division 9 rate increase would equal fifty-nine (59). He announced that sixty-four (64) written protests were submitted by owners of the identified parcels and/or any tenants directly liable for the payment of irrigation water rates. A majority protest was counted, therefore no further consideration was given to the proposed Resolution No. 26-04-B Raising Pressurized Irrigation Service Rates, and Resolution No. 26-05-B Certifying 2026 Charges for Services Furnished by SSJID.

Item #4 – Consider Approval of Increase of Charge for Pressurized Water Service from Division 9 Pressurized Pipeline Project; and Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 26-04-B Raising Pressurized Irrigation Service Rates

Item #4 was removed from the Action Calendar. The Proposition 218 process resulted in a majority protest to increase the charge for pressurized water service from Division 9 Pressurized Pipeline Project.

Item #5 – Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 26-05-B Certifying 2026 Charges for Services Furnished by SSJID

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Item #5 was removed from the Action Calendar. The Proposition 218 process resulted in a majority protest to increase the charge for pressurized water service from Division 9 Pressurized Pipeline Project.

Item #6 – Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 26-03-F Update Signature Card with Financial Institution

Ms. Williams addressed the Board and explained that adoption of a resolution to update the signature card with a financial institution is necessary when there is a change in staff and/or Board. The upcoming resignation of Ms. Bloom will indicate a change in District signatories.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Roos to adopt Resolution No. 26-03-F Update Signature Card with Financial Institution.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION 26-03-F**

**UPDATE SIGNATURE CARD WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
TO BE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 27, 2026**

WHEREAS, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (“District”) must update its signature cards with its financial institutions whenever there are changes to its authorized signatories.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that any one of the following named Directors,

John Holbrook
David Roos
Glenn Spyksma
William Van Ryn
Mike Weststeyn

and any one of the following named District staff,

Peter M. Rietkerk, General Manager and Secretary
Sonya Williams, Finance & Administration Manager and Assistant Secretary

are authorized to co-sign checks for and on behalf of the District drawn on the District's checking account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any one of the above noted staff is authorized to sign payroll checks, drafts, direct deposits, ACH transactions, and wires drawn on the District's checking account, or other orders for and on behalf of the District.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of January 2026 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	VAN RYN

Item #7 – Consider Approval of SSJID Fleet Purchases

Mr. James Ferguson, SSJID Department Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding the purchase of four (4)

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additional vehicles for the District fleet. He provided detailed information on each vehicle's make and model, assignment to staff and/or fleet service, and costs.

Board discussion included turnaround time and delivery within one (1) to two (2) months; and future consideration of full-size versus mid-size pickups , four (4) door versus two (2) door trucks, and adequate seating/space for District employees.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the purchase of new SSJID Fleet vehicles in the 2026 budget including: One (1) 2026 Chevrolet Traverse from American Chevrolet for a cost of \$43,109.23; One (1) 2026 Chevrolet 1500 Double Cab from Steve's Chevrolet for a cost of \$56,547.67; One (1) 2026 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab from Steve's Chevrolet for a cost of \$65,151.56; and One (1) 2026 Toyota 4-Runner from Modesto Toyota for a cost of \$50,633.38.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	VAN RYN

The Board inquired on the District's status with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) "In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation." Mr. Ferguson responded that Board action to approve the early retiring and replacement of SSJID's older and "dirty" engine vehicles provided the District with CARB credits towards its Air Board's scoring, as well as a saving of \$1.5 million in expenditures to satisfy CARB compliance.

Item #8 – Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 26-02-P and Approval of Request to Quitclaim the District's Interest and Transfer Lateral "QD" to The Wine Group

Mr. Killingsworth addressed the Board regarding approval to quitclaim the District's interest and transfer Lateral "QD" to The Wine Group ("Owner" and "TWG"). He provided history of Joe Franzia Jr. submitting a pipeline application to install the lateral for West Coast Grape Farms, in 1954. Under terms of this agreement, the property owner granted the District a right-of-way for the pipeline, and the District assumed ownership and maintenance responsibility following a one (1) year period. The District owns Lateral "QD," a dead-end 38-inch cast-in-place pipeline that terminates at approximately Station 33+00.

On behalf of TWG, Paul Buwalda (Applicant) submitted an application requesting that the District quitclaim the existing easement and transfer ownership of Lateral "QD" to the Owner.

Mr. Killingsworth gave a detailed explanation of Lateral "QD" size and location, and stated that the utility does not serve, nor is anticipated to serve, any District customers other than parcels owned by TWG.

Staff recommended that the Board adopt Resolution No. 26-02-P and approval of request to quitclaim the District's interest and transfer Lateral "QD" to TWG. The owner will provide the application fee of \$275.00 to cover the San Joaquin County recording fees. No other costs will be incurred by the District.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to adopt Resolution No. 26-02-P Authorizing the Quitclaim of Easements and Transfer of Pipeline Owned by the SSJID (Lateral Qd).

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**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-P**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE QUITCLAIM OF EASEMENTS AND TRANSFER OF
PIPELINE OWNED BY THE SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
(LATERAL “QD”)**

WHEREAS, the SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT (“District”) is the lawful owner of easement and Lateral “Qd” pipeline (“Pipeline”) upon real property situate in the unincorporated area County of San Joaquin, identified by San Joaquin County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 245-060-33 (the “Subject Properties”). Said easement is for District’s Lateral “Qd,” Station 0+00 to 33+25, and were conveyed by that certain Grant of Easement for Right-of-Way recorded August 12, 1955 and recorded in Book 1779 of Official Records, at Page 221 (“Easements”). Said Easement is more particularly described in the attached Exhibit “A;” and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that the Easement and Pipeline are no longer needed for District purposes; and

WHEREAS, the District Board of Directors finds it in the best interests of the District to quitclaim the Easement and Transfer the Pipeline unto THE WINE GROUP LTD, PTP, the owners of the underlying Subject Property burdened by the Easement and Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, California Water Code section 22500 authorizes an irrigation district to dispose of real property where: 1) the District’s Board of Directors find the property is no longer necessary for district purposes; 2) the proposed conveyance is supported by valuable consideration; and 3) the District’s Board of Directors finds the terms and conditions of the conveyance to be in the best interests of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Directors finds the requirements of California Water Code section 22500 have been met.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by this Board of Directors that:

1. The Board of Directors finds that the Easement and Pipeline are no longer necessary for District purposes;
2. Valuable consideration for the quitclaim of the Easement and Pipeline is acknowledged as received;
3. The Board of Directors finds the terms and conditions of the quitclaim to be in the best interests of the District;
4. The Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager and other District staff to execute and record all documents and do all other things necessary and proper to effectuate the quitclaim of the Easements contained therein to THE WINE GROUP LTD, PTP, the owners of the underlying real property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of January 2026, by the following vote:

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AYES: HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: VAN RYN

Item #9 – Consider Approval to Amend 2026 CIP Budget Item MAIN.24.01 – “2025/2026 Pipelining;” and Approve Purchase of Additional Shotline Material

Mr. Chad Parsons, SSJID Senior Engineer, addressed the Board regarding approval of a budget amendment to increase the 2026 allocation for Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Item Maint.24.01 by \$218,360.00, from \$341,188.00 to \$559,548.00; and approval to purchase 300 each – 1,000 bags from Innovative Shotlining Inc. for an amount of \$176,278.50.

Mr. Parsons explained that District crews are nearing completion of the budgeted 12,500 lineal feet of pipelining along Laterals Kd and Kc. He further explained that production has been strong and efficient, and that staff anticipate the ability to complete additional pipelining work within the current 2025-26 construction window.

Operations crews have inspected an additional 4,000 lineal feet of pipeline along Laterals Wcc and Bf/Bfb, which exhibit significant leakage and are considered high-priority for rehabilitation prior to the upcoming irrigation season.

Before construction season, the Board approved the purchase of 916 bags of Shotline material at \$498 per bag, plus tax and freight (approximately \$587.60 per bag total). To complete the additional 4,000 lineal feet, an estimated 300 bags of Shotline material is needed. Innovative Shotlining Inc. provided a quote honoring the previously approved pricing and terms, totaling \$176,278.50.

Mr. Parsons noted that superior quality of the Shotline mix bags provided by Innovative Shotlining Inc.

Board discussion included pipeline vents; sealing with Water Stop; landowners’ responsibility to maintain and repair private valves; and the outstanding work and productivity which the crews are demonstrating, safely and efficiently.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve a budget amendment to increase the 2026 allocation for Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Item Maint.24.01 by \$218,360.00, from \$341,188.00 to \$559,548.00; and approve the purchase of 300 each – 1,000 bags from Innovative Shotlining Inc. for an amount of \$176,278.50.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: VAN RYN

Item #10 – Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 26-06-P Regarding Approval of Irrigation Service Abandonment Request for APN 257-030-17; and Abandonment of District Interest in Lateral U307dd

Mr. Parsons addressed the Board regarding adoption of Resolution No. 26-06-P to abandon irrigation service to Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 257-030-17, currently served by Lateral U307dd, and authorize abandonment of the District’s interest in Lateral U307dd.

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Mr. Parsons explained the District's Lateral U307dd, its size, location within seven (7) residential parcels in South Ripon, and service to a 35.38-acre property identified as APN 257-030-17 (Property) owned by the United States of America (Applicant). He further explained that the Property is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which requested irrigation service in the early 2000s to support a tree habitat establishment. The Applicant has not requested irrigation for several years and is now requesting abandonment of District service.

Staff recommended Board approval of the Applicant's request to abandon irrigation service, and further recommended full abandonment of the facility and transfer of easements thereby reducing long-term liability and eliminating future maintenance obligations. Proposed abandonment activities include: Removal of the canal gate and installation of a concrete plug at the Lateral U307dd turnout; removal of all above-ground vents to below finished grade; excavation and backfilling of access pits to allow placement of approximately 350 cubic yards of sand slurry into the pipeline and pressure manholes to ensure proper abandonment; removal and backfilling of the District's control box located on the Applicant's property; and transfer and quitclaim of the Lateral U307dd easement to each underlying landowner.

The estimated cost of \$125,000.00 for abandonment of Lateral U307dd, including recording fees, to be budgeted in 2027.

Board discussion included San Joaquin County's process, as a public utility, to abandon the property and automatically revert ownership to the underlying landowner(s).

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to adopt Resolution No. 26-06-P Abandoning Easement, regarding approval of Irrigation Service Abandonment Request for APN 257-030-17, and abandonment of District interest in Lateral U307dd.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 26-06-P**

RESOLUTION ABANDONING EASEMENT

WHEREAS, the SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") is the lawful owner of an easement ("Easement") upon real property situate in the unincorporated area County of San Joaquin, as described in that "Grant of Easement" from Miriam A. Mohler, surviving Trustee of the Mohler Family 1989 Trust to the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, recorded as Document No. 01056220 on April 17, 2001, San Joaquin County Official Records (Exhibit "A"); and

WHEREAS, the sole purpose of the Easement was for the location and operation of District facilities, namely an irrigation pipeline known as "Lateral U307dd", to serve a parcel of real property consisting of approximately thirty-five acres (35ac), which is owned by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, and managed as part of the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, and identified as San Joaquin County Assessor's Parcel Number 257-030-17 ("Subject Property"); and

WHEREAS, the District is in receipt of a letter from the United States Department of the Interior, dated November 18, 2025, requesting abandonment of irrigation service for the Subject Property (Exhibit "B"); and

WHEREAS, abandonment of irrigation service for the Subject Property renders the District facilities obsolete, and the Easement therefor unnecessary for District purposes; and

WHEREAS, the express terms of the Grant of Easement provide that in the event the District abandons the use of the facilities as evidenced by a Resolution of its Board of Directors, the Easement shall revert back to the

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Grantors, their heirs, successors, or assigns; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Directors finds it necessary and proper to abandon the facilities as a result of the United States Department of the Interior's request.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by this Board of Directors that:

1. The Board of Directors finds that the facilities and corresponding Easement are no longer necessary for District purposes;
2. Abandonment of the Easement by adoption of this Resolution is proper and in the best interests of the District;
3. The Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager and other District staff to execute and record all documents and do all other things necessary and proper to effectuate the abandonment of the facilities and Easement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of January, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	VAN RYN

Mr. Killingsworth acknowledged Mr. Parsons, Mr. Sweet, and the Pipelining crews on the quality of work demonstrated this 2025-26 Maintenance season. He added that the scheduling, productivity, and efficiency completing tasks and handling encroachments was to be commended.

Item #11 – Consider Approval of Professional Service Agreement with Baker Tilly to Perform Financial Auditing Services

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding approval of a Professional Service Agreement (PSA) with Baker Tilly to perform financial audit services.

Mr. Rietkerk explained that the District seeks to hire an auditing firm to review its financial business processes, including internal controls, policies and procedures. He further explained that the goal of a third-party assessment was to identify gaps in current practices, offer recommendations to strengthen and improve the integrity of SSJID's financial operations, and avoid internal and external fraud.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that staff sought proposals and statements of qualifications from two (2) professional consulting firms that had not previously worked with the District, offering an unbiased assessment. Following phone interviews with prospective consultants, and review of hourly rates and scope of service, staff selected Baker Tilly as the viable choice.

Mr. Rietkerk noted a typo in the agenda Item #11 Staff Report and confirmed that the fee estimate for the proposal was a not to exceed amount of \$65,000.00, and would constitute an amendment to the 2026 budget.

Board discussion confirmed that the scope of work would be in-person audit services and travel expenses for a one (1) week duration. The financial audit services would not include an analysis of electronic transfer processes.

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MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to authorize the General Manager to approve a Professional Service Agreement with Baker Tilly to perform financial audit services with a budget not to exceed \$65,000.00.

The motion passed 3 to 1 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	ROOS
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	VAN RYN

Item #12 – Quarterly Presentation of Financial Statements through December 31, 2025

Ms. Bloom addressed the Board and noted a typo on the Financial Statement for December 31, 2025, page 2, Year-to-Date should read December 31, 2025 and not December 31, 2024, as indicated.

Ms. Bloom gave an oral presentation of the quarterly Financial Statements through December 31, 2025. She stated that the financial statements are preliminary, are un-audited, and are lacking certain year-end accounting adjustments made on an annual basis after the year has ended.

Ms. Bloom provided detailed explanations of the balance sheets; net positions; total assets; liabilities; revenues, expenses and changes in net position; non-operating revenues; irrigation revenues and expenses; cash flows; reserve allocations and balances; and actual versus year-to-date budget comparisons; and breakdown of cash investments by category. She noted that the Operating Revenues for Electric Sales, and Utilities, listed on page 9, were understated as Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) had not provided meter data information.

Item #13 – Quarterly Presentation of Investment Reports through December 31, 2025

Ms. Bloom distributed two (2) handouts titled Investment Report for November 30, 2025, and Investment Report for December 31, 2025. She explained that new financial software did not process comparable reports thereby requiring a manual review, so the Investment Reports were not finalized for inclusion in the board agenda packet in time for distribution on January 23.

Ms. Bloom gave an oral presentation of the quarterly Investment Report through December 2025. She provided detailed explanations of the components of cash and investments, interest income year-to-date and monthly, amounts invested by yield to maturity, investment holdings, treasury yield curve, investment activity, maturities schedule, employment rates, and rates of inflation at Consumer Price Index 2.7%. She noted that due to the Government shutdown in October 2025, data for unemployment rates and rates of inflation for October 2025 were omitted from the report(s).

President Spyksma acknowledged Ms. Bloom's upcoming resignation from SSJID employment and her final presentations of the Financial and Investment Reports to the Board. He thanked her for her years of service, her contributions to the District, and congratulated her on her "next chapter." President Spyksma told Ms. Bloom that she will be missed.

Item #14 to Be Discussed Following Closed Session

It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 10:56 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 11:10 a.m.

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Item #15 – CLOSED SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 2:11 p.m.

Item #16 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Disclosure of reportable actions taken in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1:

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve a settlement agreement in Threfall Ranch LP v. SSJID.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	VAN RYN

Item #14 – Consider Approval of Job Descriptions for SSJID Safety and Environmental Compliance Officer, and Safety and Environmental Compliance Specialist I/II

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the Job Description for SSJID Safety and Environmental Compliance Officer, and annual compensation based on a five (5) step tier system beginning at a Step 1 salary of \$111,065.00 and Step 5 salary of \$135,000.00.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	VAN RYN

Item #17 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board