

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 10, 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. Director Van Ryn led the flag salute. Upon roll call the following members were noted present:

DIRECTORS:           HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA VAN RYN WESTSTEYN  
ABSENT:               NONE

Also present were General Manager Peter Rietkerk; General Counsel Mia Brown; 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 \$40,952.04; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$746,730.26; and Payroll dated January 23, 2026 in the amount of \$297,077.29, January 30, 2026 in the amount of \$3,723.30, and January 30, 2026 in the amount of \$21,935.29.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2026
- C. Approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2026
- D. Approval of Consent to SSJID’s Entry to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter, APN 022-074-025

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

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Item #1 – Directors’ Reports**

Director Roos thanked the Maintenance Crews for their hard work, and acknowledged the Relining Crews for a job well done.

Director Weststeyn reported that he attended the SSJID District-wide Growers’ meeting on February 5, and commented on the good turnout and excellent dialogue with the local landowners. He thanked staff for their informative presentations.

Director Weststeyn thanked the Maintenance Crews for their work during the winter season.

Director Van Ryn thanked the Crews for their hard work and accomplishments this winter maintenance/construction season.

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Director Holbrook thanked all staff for the excellent work and service they give to the District.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the District-wide Growers' meeting on February 5, and noted the important feedback received from the growers.

Director Holbrook stated that the San Joaquin County Advisory Water Commission (AWC) meeting, on February 18, is canceled. He added that the March commission meeting will include discussion of AWC member agencies' groundwater projects.

President Spyksma reported that he attended the District-wide Growers' meeting on February 5, and commented on the total transparency that SSJID provides its customers. He highlighted the informative presentation on Woodward Reservoir given by SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson.

President Spyksma reported that he attended the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) Commission meeting on February 9, and noted the election of Robert Frobose as the new SJTA Chair. He stated that the SJTA is moving forward on their public communication efforts regarding water.

President Spyksma reported that he attended the Tri-Dam Advisory meeting on February 2. Discussion included 2026 Capital Projects.

**Item #2 – Various Reports**

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, thanked the Board for their positive comments about the District-wide Growers' meeting held on February 5. He commended staff for their hard work and collaborated efforts towards the successful customer workshop.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that the District had received a request, from the Ripon Consolidated Fire District (RCFD), to attend a future SSJID board meeting and give a brief presentation in relation to their Proposition (Prop) 218 process for a proposed rate increase. He added that the RCRD presentation is anticipated to be scheduled before the Prop 218 ballot vote in late Spring.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the Manteca Rotary "Super Bowl Breakfast" on February 8. He acknowledged the hard work demonstrated by the Rotary volunteers, including Mr. Rietkerk and his family, at the popular annual event.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #3 – Consider Approval of Budget Amendment Increase for DAF #4 Pump (WTP 23.25)**

Mr. Charles Galea, Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Operations Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding approval to increase the Capital Budget for Item #WTP23.25, and to purchase a new pump for the Dissolved Air Flootation (DAF) #4 at the WTP.

Mr. Galea explained that the DAF pre-treatment equipment is a key component to the water treatment process and must be maintained to continue generating drinking water to District customers. He further explained that a routine inspection determined that the pump on DAF #4 needs replacement, and that the pump had been rebuilt twice over the years, most recently in 2018. Mr. Galea stated that the rebuild in 2018 used custom fabricated parts that were not compatible with manufacturer specifications thereby shortening the overall lifespan. The pump is showing signs of wear on the bearings and shaft and causing high vibration and motor wear. To improve the lifespan of the pump, staff will upgrade the bearing and stuffing box to minimize wear and shaft

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026  
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vibration.

When obtaining quotes in 2025 for the 2026 budgeting process, G3 Engineering (G3) was identified as a main distributor for the Floway pump used, and the sole source for these pumps that offered Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) components and the most competitive pricing. However, the 2026 quote received, including upgraded components to lengthen the pump lifespan, has increased the cost beyond the original budget amount. The Capital Budget Item WTP23.25 budget will need to be increased from \$41,000.00 to \$50,713.71.

Mr. Galea noted staff’s proactive approach to maintenance and reliability ensuring that the WTP is able to meet city demands moving forward, particularly during peak production periods.

Board discussion included the size of the pump motor, and further inspection to eliminate any additional causes of vibration.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Van Ryn to increase the budget for Capital Project Item WTP23.25 from \$41,000.000 to \$50,713.71; and approve the purchase of a new pump for DAF #4.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #4 – Consider Approval of BNSF-Escalon Double Track Project – Lateral Bc**

Mr. Chad Parsons, SSJID Senior Engineer, addressed the Board regarding conditional approval of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) – Escalon Double Track Project (Project).

Mr. Parsons provided detailed explanations of the Project scope of work, size, location, and District facilities including Lateral Bc which crosses the railroad at Arthur Road and continues northwest adjacent to BNSF property. He added that SSJID holds a thirty (30) foot easement within the County right-of-way at Sexton Road, and that BNSF will provide driveway access on both sides of the roadway within the easement for District operations.

Mr. Parsons stated that BNSF and its contractor have the necessary pipe on site and are prepared to begin the pipe replacement project immediately upon Board approval. He noted the approaching irrigation season and that all signed agreements must be received by the District no later than February 13, in order for the work to commence. If agreements are not received by the February 13 deadline, work will be postponed until after the 2026 irrigation season. BNSF must complete all pipeline replacement work by February 27.

Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, explained that the proposed Developer’s Agreement is straightforward, and similar to an Agreement between SSJID and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR). She does not foresee any revisions by either party, which would require a return before the Board for approval.

The Board inquired about action should the Project not be completed by the February 27 deadline, to which Mr. Parsons responded that the Developer’s Agreement states the Owner or Owner’s Contractor must furnish the District with a Performance Bond which will allow SSJID to hire an outside contractor to complete the Project, and to pull funds from the Performance Bond to compensate the outside contractor for any work

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

performed.

Mr. Parsons noted the District's property along and adjacent to the Project area, and that the completed Project will provide limited safe space from the railroad. Staff has requested the adjacent landowner to remove trees within the District's property thereby providing the District with safe ingress and egress.

Mr. Lucas Reed, Consultant on behalf of BNSF, addressed the Board via the online Zoom meeting platform and confirmed that the Contractor had already ordered the necessary materials, and that all parties were aware of the deadlines. He added that the required Construction Permit had already been approved by SSJID Engineering staff, and that the Developer's Agreement (including all necessary documentation) will be signed by BNSF and returned to the District for signature(s) by the end of business today.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to authorize conditional approval of the items listed below regarding the BNSF-Escalon Double Track, subject to compliance with the District's standard requirements and to the satisfaction of District staff:

1. Signature of Improvement Plans
2. Encroachment Agreement
3. Developer's Agreement

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #5 – Consider Approval of SSJID Unclaimed Monies Policy**

Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Finance and Administration Manager, addressed the Board regarding adoption of the proposed Unclaimed Monies Policy to establish procedures for the handling and escheatment of unclaimed monies in accordance with California Government Code Sections 50050 et seq.

Ms. Williams stated that the District must adopt a formal policy to ensure that clear procedures are in place in the event monies deposited with or held by the District remain unclaimed. She added that California Government Code Sections 50050 et seq. authorizes local agencies to establish policies and procedures governing the escheatment of such unclaimed monies after specified holding periods and notice requirements are met.

Ms. Williams thoroughly explained the proposed Unclaimed Monies Policy and procedures for items identified as fifteen dollars (\$15.00) or more that remain unclaimed for more than three (3) years which includes public notice in a newspaper, a 45-day claim period, and claimants' submittal of verified claims.

Board discussion included the cost of a public notice versus the \$15.00 unclaimed monies.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to adopt the SSJID Unclaimed Monies Policy in accordance with Government Code Sections 50050 et seq.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**Item #6 – Discussion Regarding Winter Construction Deadlines and Planning for Start of Irrigation Season**

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding discussion about the start of the 2026 irrigation season, and stated that Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth, Water Resources Coordinator Brandon Nakagawa, Irrigation Operations Manager Barron Sweet, and Irrigation Services Supervisor Joe Hasten were in attendance to answer any questions.

Mr. Rietkerk cited current hydrology, water supply conditions, the incoming rain events, and projected inflows which should be considered when deciding the start date of irrigation season. He added that a full two (2) weeks is needed for the Maintenance Crews to complete SSJID winter construction projects, as well as outside contractors to complete their projects.

Staff recommended that March 4 be considered the first day for customer deliveries of the 2026 Irrigation Season, or later should hydrologic conditions warrant a postponement. Mr. Rietkerk stated that Irrigation Operations prefer to begin the water season mid-week on a Wednesday allowing crews to begin charging the District canals on Monday and having scheduled Maintenance Department crews ready should issues arise at the onset of deliveries.

Mr. Rietkerk noted that today’s discussion was for informational purposes only and did not require Board action. The final decision and Board adoption of a resolution declaring the start of the 2026 Irrigation Season will be presented at the board meeting on February 24.

Board discussion included the current condition of the Main Distribution Canal (MDC) and the likelihood of a full 300,000 acre-feet New Melones supply for 2026.

**Items #7, #8 and #9 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 9:45 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:00 a.m.*

**Item #10 – CLOSED SESSION**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*The Board returned to Open Session at 1:39 p.m.*

**Item #11 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

Disclosure of reportable actions taken in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1: There were no reportable actions taken in Closed Session.

**Item #7 – Consider Approval of Job Descriptions and Salary Updates for SSJID Finance Administrator, and Human Resources Analyst I/II**

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Van Ryn to approve the job descriptions and salary updates for SSJID Finance Administrator, and Human Resources Analyst I/II. A summary of salaries for the new and modified positions is as follows: Finance Administrator Step 1 - \$66.52, Step 5 - \$80.86; HR Analyst I Step 1 - \$42.97, Step 5 - \$52.23; HR Analyst II Step 1 - \$50.71, Step 5 - \$61.64.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #8 – Consider Approval of Salary Update for SSJID Safety and Environment Compliance Officer Classification**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve the SSJID Safety and Environment Compliance Officer revised compensation of \$148,707.00 annually, or \$71.49 per hour at Step 5 of the District’s 5-step wage scale.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #9 – Brown Act Training**

Ms. Brown addressed the Board and stated that she can present the Brown Act training in either two (2) ten (10) minute sessions today and at the next regular scheduled board meeting, or one (1) twenty (20) minute session today only. The Board selected the two 10-minute sessions option.

Ms. Brown gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Ralph M. Brown Action – Part 1. Discussion included California Government Code Section 54950 – Ralph M. Brown Act; brief biography of Ralph M. Brown; principles of meetings of legislative bodies; definition of legislative bodies; eligible legislative bodies; subject matter jurisdiction; definition of meetings; serial meetings; chain of communication; and social media and online activity.

**Item #12 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board