

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 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 Roos 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 \$396,487.30; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$2,961,702.50; and Payroll dated February 6, 2026 in the amount of \$290,073.89, February 6, 2026 in the amount of \$35,582.24, and February 12, 2026 in the amount of \$3,486.95.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2026
- C. Financial Reports through January 31, 2026
- D. Investment Report for January 31, 2026

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Van Ryn 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 work performed on District pipelines and ditches during the winter season.

Director Weststeyn reported that he attended and/or participated in the following meetings and/or events:

- February 11 – Attended the San Joaquin Farm Bureau (SJFB) Water Committee meeting. Discussion included the Golden Mussel invasion in the Delta River at Smith Canal in Stockton.
- February 18 – Attended a lunch presentation given by Wildeye regarding potential to remotely monitor District flow meters, which could be considered should grant funding become available. Additional

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SSJID attendees included Water Resources Coordinator Brandon Nakagawa, Telemetry System Supervisor Lance Martin, and Irrigation Services Supervisor Joe Hasten.

- February 18 – Attended a California Special Districts Association (CSDA) “Round Table” with United States Representative Josh Harder. Discussion included SSJID’s Canyon Tunnel Project, and Retail Electric Project.

Director Van Ryn thanked all the workers for their hard work during the 2025-26 Maintenance season.

Director Holbrook commented on the following Managers’ Reports for February 24, 2026:

- Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Manager’s Report:
  - Commended WTP Operator Questin Fowler on passing his Grade 4 Operator Certification Exam.
  - Commended the WTP lab on the high praises received by the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) regarding the audit conducted on February 10.
- Irrigation Operations Manager’s Report:
  - Commended the Reline Crew for completing 13,500 linear feet (LF) of relining the 36” and 42” lines at Kc, Kd, and Bf/Bfb. Crews have 1,100 LF of the Bfb and Wcc to complete the 2025-26 relining project.
- General Manager’s Report:
  - Noted the CSDA Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) Spring Education Day to be held on March 18, and stated that he would like to be registered to attend the event.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the Ripon Lion’s Club Almond Blossom Spaghetti Dinner on February 19, and noted that SSJID Division Manager Randy Sprinkle’s daughter was a contestant in the Miss Almond Blossom Queen pageant.

Director Holbrook thanked all staff for their efforts and jobs well done serving the District.

President Spyksma expressed appreciation to all staff for their hard work and positive safety record during the 2025-26 season. He commended Safety and Environmental Compliance Officer Walt Luihn for his leadership during his 11+ years of service with the District.

President Spyksma referenced the District’s current contract negotiations and looks forward to a resolution.

**Item #2 – Various Reports**

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, reiterated the upcoming SDRMA Spring Education Day to be held on March 18, in Sacramento. He stated that participation of one (1) Board Member was needed in order for SSJID to receive discounts applied towards the District’s insurance rates. Directors interested in attending were instructed to contact Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney so that she can handle registrations.

Mr. Rietkerk reported on the SSJID Division 9 Customer Workshop, held February 23, at which the District hosted eight (8) growers to discuss the Division 9 Growers Meeting held January 22. He stated that it was a very good meeting engaging with the landowners, who seemed appreciative of the District’s efforts. Discussion included operations, and capital costs. Also present was Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth. President Spyksma requested a meeting summary be distributed to the Board, to which Mr.

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Rietkerk responded in the affirmative.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #3 – Consider Approval of Imposition of Terms Following Impasse with Local Union 1245 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**

Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Finance and Administration Manager, addressed the Board, referenced the SSJID Terms of Employment for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 1245 (Union) contained in the agenda Item #3 Staff Report, page 7, Section 5.8.b.5, and stated that the sentence should read, “Coverage for scheduled absences will be covered by the Relief Shift Operator.” She stated that staff was recommending Board approval of the proposed imposition of Terms of Employment for IBEW Local 1245.

Ms. Williams provided a timeline of the District’s and the Union’s efforts in negotiations, the mitigation process, mediation and fact finding. She gave detailed explanations of the current status of negotiations; and proposed terms regarding wages, overtime, vacation, retirement cash-out accruals, health insurance, and disciplinary procedures. Ms. Williams stated that the Terms of Employment to be imposed are consistent with the District’s “One-Year Last, Best, and Final Offer” presented to the Union on October 24, 2025, and that the imposed terms are effective March 15, 2026, unless otherwise specified.

Ms. Williams noted in the staff report and verbally that regardless of the Board’s decision today, District staff remain hopeful that the parties can return to the table shortly thereafter to negotiate successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) terms.

The Board inquired if there was sufficient staff to maintain a seven (7) days “On/Off” work schedule, to which Mr. Hasten responded that there are currently twenty-five (25) trained Division Managers to maintain the 7 days on/off schedule, so training would be required for three (3) additional staff to achieve the required twenty-eight (28) staff-person schedule.

President Spyksma opened up the Public Comment period and noted that comments would be limited to five (5) minutes, in accordance with formal board policy. Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, clarified that the five-minute limitation is per person.

Public Comments were provided by Welder/Mechanic Tom Lindsey, Maintenance Worker Tim Hagin, Utility Worker Nelson Matos, Division Manager Jason Coltharp, Division Manager Hunter Day, Maintenance Worker Greg Wallace, Maintenance Worker David Pauley, Division Manager Randy Sprinkle, IBEW Representative Sheila Lawton, and IBEW Representative Jessica Stillwell. The public comments included recognition of the skills, loyalty and dedication of the District’s workers; the proposed schedule cuts; the proposed insurance rate increases; the financial hardships the proposed Terms would place upon families and households; the current low morale of staff; urging the Board to reconsider and show good faith in continued negotiations; imploring for Board support of the workers and a mutually agreeable contract; and the harmful “snowball” effects the proposed Terms could have on the Dichtender/Maintenance/SCADA workforce.

Board discussion included thanking all for their comments, that all staff are important to SSJID, that the Board will continue to express thanks and gratitude to District employees for their service, and that the final decision must be made for the betterment of the District as a whole. The Board also indicated their interest in restarting negotiations with the Union as soon as possible.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

imposing the proposed Terms of Employment set forth in the District’s “One-Year Last, Best, and Final Offer,” upon employees represented by Local Union 1245 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, with an effective date of March 15, 2026, unless otherwise specified.

The motion passed 3 to 2 by the following vote:

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

**Item #4 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 26-07-W Declaring the Start of the 2026 Irrigation Season with No Initial Imposition of Water Allotments or Tier II Restrictions**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding Resolution No. 26-07-W Declaring the Start of the 2026 Irrigation Season. He noted the recent rains and projections of wet weather anticipated within the next weeks, the winter construction completion schedule, and that SSJID and OID will most likely be allocated the 600,000 acre-feet (AF) of inflow into New Melones Reservoir per the 1988 Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Staff recommended March 11, 2026 as the start date of the 2026 irrigation season, or later if rain is on the horizon. Staff also recommended that the General Manager consult with the Board President on a later start date should hydrologic conditions warrant.

Board discussion included the timeline to begin bringing water into the Joint Supply Canal in preparation for water deliveries.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Van Ryn to approve adoption of Resolution No. 26-07-W Declaring the Start of the 2026 Irrigation Season as March 11, 2026.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 26-07-W**

**DECLARING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11  
THE START OF 2026 IRRIGATION SEASON WITH NO INITIAL IMPOSITION OF  
WATER ALLOTMENTS OR TIER II RESTRICTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) is authorized to impose water allocations, restrictions, and water conservation measures pursuant to Sections 350 *et seq.* and Division 11 of the California Water Code, in the event of a present or threatened water shortage; and

**WHEREAS**, SSJID has imposed such allotments and restrictions in the past, when SSJID’s water supply was endangered due to multiple years of below-average precipitation which reduced inflow to and depleted storage levels within New Melones Reservoir, making such extraordinary conservation measures necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, SSJID’s Board of Directors adopted Resolution 00-21-O on November 14, 2000, which provides that the water supply to lands annexed after that date “. . . is subject to cutoff in order for the District to serve Original Landowners and to satisfy the District's contractual obligations to the Cities of Manteca, Escalon, Ripon, Lathrop and Tracy,” and which cutoff is referred to below as “Tier II Restrictions;” and

**WHEREAS**, hydrologic forecasts for the 2026 water year have informed SSJID to reasonably expect inflow

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

into New Melones Reservoir to be greater than 600,000 acre-feet which entitles SSJID and OID to the full 600,000 acre-feet entitlement pursuant to the 1988 Agreement and Stipulation with Bureau of Reclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of water expected to be available to SSJID is anticipated to meet the full agricultural and municipal needs of the District for the 2026 water year provided that precipitation and runoff forecasts continue to meet or exceed expectations; and

**WHEREAS**, the expectation that SSJID's available water for the 2026 water year will be sufficient to fully meet the needs of its agricultural and municipal customers alleviating the need for extraordinary conservation measures in the form of allotments or Tier II restrictions at this time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** by the Board of Directors of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District:

1. The foregoing Recitals are true and correct.
2. The 2026 Irrigation Season shall start no sooner than Wednesday, March 11, which is the first day irrigation customers may schedule and receive SSJID deliveries.
3. The Start of the 2026 Irrigation Season may be delayed due to local precipitation at the discretion of the President of this Board of Directors as informed by the General Manager.
4. There shall be no maximum limit on the number of inches of water that will be delivered to growers.
5. There shall be no Tier II restrictions imposed.
6. Deliveries of drinking water to the Cities of Manteca, Lathrop and Tracy will not be restricted.
7. Should unprecedented circumstances or dry hydrologic undermine available water supplies, the Board reserves the right to reconsider water allotments and restrictions for the remainder of 2026 to assure the adequate allocation of available water supplies.
8. SSJID municipal and agricultural customers and employees are encouraged to take reasonable and appropriate measures to prevent unnecessary and wasteful use of water and are further encouraged to prudently and efficiently use available water resources.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District at a regular meeting thereof held this 24th day of February 2026 by the following roll call vote:

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

**Item #5 – Consider Approval of Amendment No. 3 to the Employment Agreement with Robert Holmes**

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board regarding approval of Amendment #3 to the Employment Agreement (Agreement) with Robert Holmes, the SSJID Groundwater Liaison for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) related services. He stated that the proposed amendments to the Agreement would extend Mr.

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Holmes’ contract through February 28, 2027, which would coincide with the end of his two (2) year term as Chair of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA). He noted an oversight and lapse in the current contract (Amendment #2) which ended on December 31, 2025.

Mr. Nakagawa stated the Mr. Holmes’ employment is considered “part time” approximating 5-10 hours per month at a fully-loaded rate of \$125.00 per hour. Mr. Holmes receives no other compensation nor benefits from the District, would continue to report to the General Manager, and that only time worked would be approved for compensation through payroll.

Board discussion clarified that the ESJGWA does not compensate the member Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) representatives for serving on the ESJGWA board, and commended Mr. Holmes for his outstanding job as ESJGWA Chair working alongside Mr. Nakagawa.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve Amendment No. 3 to the Employment Agreement for Robert Holmes, and to extend the term of the Agreement through February 28, 2027.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #6 – Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 26-08-I Regarding Approval of the Retiree Health Savings Account**

Ms. Williams addressed the Board regarding adoption of Resolution No. 26-08-I to approve participation in the MissionSquare Retiree Health Savings Account (RHSA) program consistent with the Terms of Employment with the IBEW. She noted that the resolution was contingent upon Board approval of the imposed Terms of Employment with the IBEW which was presented and approved earlier in the meeting, under agenda Item #3.

Ms. Williams stated that the Terms of Employment included implementation of a MissionSquare RHSA structure for eligible employees hired after December 31, 2015. The RHSA is a tax-advantaged trust established pursuant to Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code and is designed to fund eligible post-employment medical expenses.

Ms. Williams explained that the District would contribute fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each of the first two (2) pay periods per month into each eligible employee’s RHSA. She further explained that the District would pay the associated administrative fees, and that IBEW shall determine employee contributions which will be made through a payroll deduction subject to applicable terms and IRS limitations.

Mr. Rietkerk added that this benefit is a separate account offered to employees, which would grow over time, and be used towards retiree health care only.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to adopt Resolution No. 26-08-I Approving Participation in a Retiree Health Savings Account (RHSA) Program.

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 26-08-I**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN A  
RETIREE HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT (RHSA) PROGRAM  
FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

**WHEREAS**, on February 24, 2026, the Board of Directors adopted imposed terms between the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (“District”) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the imposed terms, the District provides a MissionSquare Retiree Health Savings Account (RHSA) for employees hired after December 31, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, under the imposed terms, the District contributes Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each of the first two (2) pay periods per month into each eligible employee’s MissionSquare RHSA account and pays the administrative fees associated with the program; and

**WHEREAS**, the RHSA is a tax-advantaged trust established pursuant to Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code to fund eligible post-employment medical expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, the RHSA provider requires governing body authorization to participate in the program and execute the necessary trust and service agreements;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED**, as follows:

- a) The Board hereby approves participation in the MissionSquare Retiree Health Savings Account (RHSA) program.
- b) The Board authorizes employer contributions in the amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each of the first two (2) pay periods per month for eligible employees.
- c) The Board authorizes the General Manager, or designee, to execute the RHSA Trust Agreement, Service Agreement, and any related documents necessary to implement and administer the program.
- d) The District is authorized to establish payroll deduction mechanisms as necessary to administer the RHSA program, including employee-elected contributions, in accordance with the imposed terms and applicable law.
- e) The District acknowledges that participation in the RHSA program includes administrative fees as outlined in the service agreement and authorizes payment of those fees in accordance with the terms of that agreement.
- f) The General Manager is further authorized to make minor administrative or non-material revisions as necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution, in consultation with District General Counsel.
- g) This Resolution shall become effective upon the adoption of the imposed terms.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026, by the following vote:

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

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Item #7 – Consider Approval of One (1) Year Extension of Existing Master Services Agreements with MCR Engineering, and Provost & Pritchard Communications Group**

Mr. Killingsworth addressed the Board regarding approval of a one (1) year extension of the existing Master Service Agreements (MSA) with MCR Engineering (MCR) and Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P), retroactive from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026; and authorizing the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 3 for each MSA.

Mr. Killingsworth stated that in June 2020, the District entered into an MSA with selected engineering firms to provide professional engineering and surveying services on an as-needed basis. Over time, engagement has continued with MCR and P&P through successive one (1) year extensions. He further stated that the current MSAs expired on December 31, 2025 and that the recommended retroactive date ensures that there is no lapse in contractual authority for ongoing task orders or services provided at the beginning of the calendar year.

Mr. Killingsworth explained the scope of work provided by MCR and P&P and noted that the onboarding of two (2) SSJID engineers in March, will alleviate some tasks requested of the firms. MCR rates have remained unchanged for 2024, 2025 and 2026 resulting in no increases over two (2) consecutive years. P&P's proposed 2026 rates reflect an average 4.4 percent (4.4%) increase from 2025.

The approved 2026 Engineering budget includes \$18,000.00 for designated engineering services, and \$84,000.00 for miscellaneous on-call engineering services. Staff recommended that the Board authorize issuance of a 2026 On-Call Services Task Order to MCR Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00.

Board discussion clarified the 2026 Engineering budgeted amounts, the specialized services provided by MCR and P&P, consideration to solicit a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for potential MSA consultants in 2027, and to select the right time of year to begin the RFQ process.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to:

- Approve a one (1) year extension of the existing Master Services Agreements with MCR Engineering, and Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, retroactive from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026;
- Authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 3 for each Agreement;
- Authorize issuance of a 2026 On-Call Services Task Order to MCR Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00; and
- Authorize continuation and completion of any task orders issued prior to expiration of the prior agreement term but not yet finalized.

The motion passed 4 to 1 by the following vote:

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

*It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 10:36 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:50 a.m.*

**Item #8 – CLOSED SESSION**

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 24, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*The Board returned to Open Session at 1:14 p.m.*

**Item #9 – 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 #10 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board