

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 11, 2025  
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 VAN RYN WESTSTEYN  
ABSENT:               NONE

Also present were General Manager Peter M. Rietkerk, Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth and Executive Assistant Dawn Driesen.

**Public Comment** - None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approval of Checks in the amount of \$112,435.43; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$651,010.71; and Payroll dated February 21, 2025 in the amount of \$309,529.46, and February 21, 2025 in the amount of \$3,691.54.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2025
- C. Approval of Consent to SSJID’s Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter, APN 245-120-47
- D. Approval of Consent to SSJID’s Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter, APN 245-190-01  
  
Director Weststeyn requested that Item D be addressed separately.
- E. Approval of Consent to SSJID’s Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter, APN 249-110-48
- F. Accept and File Notice of Completion for the M2 Tank Interior Recoating Project

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Roos to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted with the exception of Item D, which will be addressed separately.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

- D. Approval of Consent to SSJID’s Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter, APN 245-190-01

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve Item D.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Item #1 – Directors’ Reports**

Director Weststeyn attended the Tri-Dam meeting where they discussed the mussel issue at Tulloch. Staff is working on getting tags and taking certification classes to be able to do the inspections. Melones tags are the same and they will honor those tags at Tulloch for 30 days.

Director Roos had nothing to report.

Director Holbrook attended the Ad-Hoc Finance Committee meeting. He also attended the TuCare Dinner in Sonora. Tri-Dam was acknowledged for all they do for the community.

Director Van Ryn thanked Forrest Killingsworth and Joe Hasten for the tour of SSJID facilities and Control Room.

President Spyskma noted that Water Season has been delayed and staff will continue to discuss scheduling a start date.

**Item #2 – Various Reports**

Mr. Rietkerk stated that staff is tracking the upcoming storms, but the rainfall projections are trending downward over the coming week. He will be meeting with Joe Hasten and Brandon Nakagawa to discuss a possible start date for Water Season later in the week, and will confer with President Spyskma before making final decisions.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #3 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 25-06-G Appointment of Authorized Agents for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program**

Michael O’Leary, IT Systems Administrator, requested that the Board adopt Resolution 25-06-G appointing Peter Rietkerk, Sonya Williams and Michael O’Leary as authorized agents to the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Van Ryn to adopt Resolution 25-06-G Appointment of Authorized Agents for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION 25-06-G**

**APPOINT AUTHORIZED AGENTS FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT  
PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) is eligible to receive federal funding through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of SSJID must designate Authorized Agents to execute any actions necessary for each application and subaward under the SLCGP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors acknowledges that this Resolution shall be valid for up to three grant years.

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

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that the following individuals, or their successors in office, are hereby authorized and empowered to execute, on behalf of SSJID, any actions necessary for the purpose of obtaining federal financial assistance provided by the Federal Department of Homeland Security and sub-granted through the State of California under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program:

- Peter Rietkerk, General Manager
- Sonya Williams, Finance and Administration Manager
- Michael O’Leary, IT Systems Administrator

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this authorization is effective for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 and shall remain in effect for up to three grant years unless amended or revoked by the Board of Directors.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025 by the following roll call vote:

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

**Item #4 – Consider Approval of Engineering Services for the Lateral W-190dd3dd to We Pipeline Connection Project**

Chad Parsons addressed the Board and explained that the Lateral W-199dd3dd to We Pipeline Connection Project was identified as a capacity enhancement project during the development of the Water Master Plan. Staff have started the process of obtaining new easements, and Giomi Appraisals is working on getting us appraisals.

Mr. Parsons requested that the Board authorize staff to execute a task order under the current Master Services Agreement with MCR Engineering for engineering services, not to exceed \$60,400.00.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the engineering services for the Lateral W-190dd3dd to We Pipeline Connection Project, not to exceed \$60,400.00.

The motion passed 4 to 1 by the following vote:

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

**Item #5 – Consider Approval of Grant of Easement for Lateral Vb**

Mr. Killingworth stated that the Board previously authorized the District to enter into an Amendment to Irrigation Service Abandonment Agreement for APN 245-190-01. The current easement within this property is an unrecorded Agreement to Convey from 1913. As a condition of approval for the Amendment, the Board required the owners to issue a formal Grant of Easement to the District and this document fulfills that obligation.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Van Ryn to approve the Grant of Easement for Lateral Vb.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #6 – Consider Approval of Lockout/Tagout Program**

Brandon Nakagawa and Walt Luihn presented the Lockout/Tagout Program to the Board. They stated that the plan meets the minimum standards required by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA). The document will be appended to the District’s Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) and each department will develop their own Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). This is a living document and there will be additional updates and approvals as necessary for the Lockout/Tagout Program, as well as the IIPP in the future. There will be a cost of approximately \$3,000.00 to update Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as employee locks per the program.

President Spyksma encouraged staff to train and demonstrate required skills. He thanked the Water Treatment Plant, Brandon Nakawaga, Walt Luihn and Lance Martin for taking the time to prepare the program.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve the Lockout/Tagout Program.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

*It was announced that Item #7 would be discussed after Closed Session and that all items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed.*

**Item #8 – CLOSED SESSION**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*The Board reconvened to Open Session at 12:55 p.m.*

**Item #9 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION(S) 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 Adoption of Resolution 25-09-W Approving the 2025 Spring Pulse Flow Release Project and Finding that the Project is Categorially Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Van Ryn to approve the Adoption of Resolution 25-09-W Approving the 2025 Spring Pulse Flow Release Project and Finding that the Project is Categorially Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

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**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 25-09-W**

**APPROVAL OF THE 2025 SPRING PULSE FLOW RELEASE PROJECT  
AND FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID), collectively referred to as “Districts”, are California irrigation districts operating under and by virtue of Division 11 of the California Water Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Districts are co-owners of certain water rights on the Stanislaus River, including pre-1914 appropriative rights to divert water from the Stanislaus River for irrigation of the lands within the Districts, and various post-1914 appropriative rights to store Stanislaus River water in various reservoirs for diversion to irrigate lands within the Districts, as well as to generate electrical power; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) is a California joint power authority operating under and by virtue of Section 6500, et seq., of the California Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, SLDMWA’s member units are 28 water agencies representing approximately 2,100,000 acres of land within the western San Joaquin Valley, San Benito and Santa Clara Counties that receive water from the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) under water service or exchange contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) owns, operates and maintains water collection, storage, conveyance and delivery facilities, including but not limited to the State Water Project (SWP), and delivers water to its water service contractors located throughout California; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the applicable requirements of State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Revised Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is required to make releases from New Melones Reservoir to meet water quality objectives measured at Vernalis; and

**WHEREAS**, Districts’ water rights are satisfied by and through the performance of a settlement agreement with the USBR (the 1988 Agreement) which requires the USBR to deliver water to the Districts at Goodwin Dam each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount of water made available to the Districts each year under the 1988 Agreement is calculated by adding the inflow into New Melones to the amount derived by the formula (600,000-inflow) divided by three (3), not to exceed 600,000 acre-feet; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon forecasts from Bulletin 120 and the California Nevada River Forecasting Center, the Districts are willing to release up to 100,000 acre-feet of water at Goodwin Dam during April and May 2025 without reservoir refill criteria. The USBR will be responsible for determining the flow rate and schedule of the release; and

**WHEREAS**, the Districts will coordinate with the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure the release of such water at Goodwin Dam; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Project intends to benefit fish downstream of Goodwin Dam by providing water over, above and in excess of the quantities released by the USBR necessary to satisfy the USBR’s obligations under the Stopped Release Plan for the Stanislaus River and New Melones Reservoir, consistent with the USBR’s 2024

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Record of Decision for the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP, and the 2024 USFWS and 2024 NMFS Biological Opinions; and

**WHEREAS**, such operations in the Delta will strive to be consistent with D-1641 and the applicable Biological Opinions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Districts' release of supplemental flow in April and May will contribute to instream flow conditions for migratory fish in the Stanislaus and San Joaquin River and will have an incidental effect on water quality and water supply conditions in the Delta that can benefit CVP and SWP operations; and

**WHEREAS**, SWP and CVP beneficiaries are willing to fund the supplemental releases and to share the anticipated incidental water supply benefits with their respective water contractors; and

**WHEREAS**, the SWP and/or CVP beneficiaries will pay OID and SSJID for every acre foot of water released at Goodwin Dam; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Project would utilize existing water conveyance infrastructure and no construction would take place; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA because it will result in the maintenance of stream flows to protect fish and wildlife resources consistent with CEQA Guidelines §15301, subsection (i), and in the ongoing operation of the existing system without change in operation or expansion of use pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15301; and

**WHEREAS**, Goodwin Dam is located in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties; OID is located in Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties; SSJID is located in San Joaquin County; and the DWR and SLDMWA facilities are located in Contra Costa, Alameda, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, OID is the custodian of the documents or other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Board's decision is based, and the OID office is the location of this record.

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

1. Finds the foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. Approves the proposed Project.
3. Finds that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA under 14 Cal. Code of Regulations, Section 15301, subsection (i) Maintenance of streamflows to protect fish and wildlife resources. There will be no change in operation or expansion of existing diversion and pumping facilities, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.
4. Directs staff to file a Notice of Exemption at the Clerk's Office (or other authorized place) of Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Alameda, Merced, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and in the manner prescribed by the CEQA.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025 by the following vote:

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

**Item #10 – Brown Act Review**

Deferred.

**Item #11 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Dawn Driesen, Executive Assistant