

**MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 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 and led the flag salute. Upon roll call the following members were noted present:

DIRECTORS: ROOS SPYKSMA VAN RYN
ABSENT: HOLBROOK WESTSTEYN

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 \$67,903.68; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$962,436.73; and Payroll dated March 4, 2026 in the amount of \$19,091.63, and March 6, 2026 in the amount of \$284,989.28.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2026
- C. Financial Statements through February 28, 2026
- D. Investment Report through February 28, 2026

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

The motion passed 3 to 0 by the following vote:

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #1 – Directors’ Reports

Director Roos thanked the Division Managers for their hard work and noted the current high demand for water due to March’s unusually hot temperatures.

Director Roos reported that he made a site visit to the District’s “Ttb” line and commented on the impressive Rubicon gate in operation.

Director Van Ryn expressed appreciation and thanks to all employees for their service to the District.

President Spyksma thanked District employees for their work, and encouraged all to stay safe.

President Spyksma reported that he attended a meeting with the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, along

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with SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk. The meeting, held on March 23, discussed Woodward Reservoir.

Item #2 – Various Reports

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he attended the California Special District Association (CSDA) / Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) “2026 Spring Education Day” on March 18, along with Director Weststeyn, Director Holbrook, SSJID Interim Environmental Compliance and Safety Officer Sean Jefferson, SSJID Human Resources Administrator Cynthia Sanchez, and SSJID Human Resources Technician Samantha Pombo. He highlighted some breakout sessions which included Ralph M. Brown Act updates; California Department of Industrial Relations – Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) inspections; Workers' Compensation claim trends; safety “tracks;” and good/best safety practices. Mr. Rietkerk also noted the networking opportunities made available at the one (1) day conference.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that plans are progressing on the Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP) “Power Supply Backup Generator” project. He added that the WTP is in possession of the generator, which was delivered on March 23. Board discussion included an anticipated need for the generator because of the unseasonably hot weather, projected hot summer, and desire to avoid operational shutdowns should a summer power outage occur.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – Consider Approval of Updated SSJID Vehicle Policy

Ms. Sanchez addressed the Board and noted that an amended, proposed SSJID vehicle policy was provided to them after a change was made to the Policy which was included in the agenda packet, distributed on March 20. She stated that a revision was made to Exhibit A to include the Water Resources Coordinator.

Ms. Sanchez explained the Policy changes including the assignment of a vehicle for the Public and Government Relations Manager; language regarding staff authorized to take their assigned vehicles home on a regular or semi-regular basis; and updates to staff titles to ensure all vehicles are accurately assigned.

The Board requested that the language on page 1, Item 2 – Vehicle Inspections, be changed from employee-performed vehicle inspections to be performed “prior to operation” to employee-performed vehicle inspections be “conducted on a daily or weekly basis.”

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Van Ryn to adopt the Updated SSJID Driving Violations, Guidelines and Vehicle Use Policy, including amended language as requested.

The motion passed 3 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #4 – Consider Approval of Notice of Public Hearing to Adopt the 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update, and Set Hearing Date for April 14, 2026

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, addressed the Board regarding approval of a Notice of Public Hearing to adopt the 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP) Update, and to set

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the public hearing date for April 14, 2026.

Mr. Nakagawa explained that agricultural water suppliers are required to update their AWMP every five (5) years, for the years ending in zero (0) and five (5). He further explained that SSJID must adopt their updated 2025 AWMP by April 1, 2026, and submit the report to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) within thirty (30) days. Failure to submit an updated AWMP by May 1, 2026 may result in DWR hiring an outside party to complete an updated AWMP at the cost of the delinquent agricultural water supplier, and monetary fines.

Mr. Nakagawa stated that the 2025 AWMP covers the hydrologic period from 2020 through 2024 and includes updates to the District's water balance tables; efforts towards securing grant funding for advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) to accurately measure and report farm gate deliveries; development of a plan to seek grant funding for the rehabilitation of SSJID drain measurements sites and gages; and efforts towards adapting to climate change and regulatory challenges such as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Mr. Nakagawa cited the steps required in the AWMP adoption process to enable public review and participation which include holding a public hearing; publishing a Notice of Public Hearing to Adopt an AWMP twice in a local newspaper with the first publication being at least two (2) weeks prior to the public hearing date; and notify, in writing, each City (Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca, Ripon and Tracy) and County (San Joaquin and Stanislaus) in which the District supplies water. The Notice of Public Hearing will indicate that the draft 2025 AWMP will be available on the District's website no later than March 31.

Technical services related to support the 2025 AWMP will be provided by Todd Groundwater Inc. for a not to exceed amount of \$34,025.00. These tasks include preparation of updated water balance tables and the development of a plan for the rehabilitation of District drain gages and measurement sites. Mr. Nakagawa noted that the remaining updates to the 2025 AWMP could be handled by staff drawing from existing documents such as the Eastern San Joaquin Amended 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and SSJID's WaterSmart Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Water and Energy Efficient Grant Program application.

Board discussion included the responsibility of the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) versus SSJID; and clarification that the AWMP is to be adopted in 2026 for the period ending in 2024, and is called the 2025 AWMP Update.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Van Ryn to approve a Notice of Public Hearing to adopt the 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP) Update, and set the public hearing date for April 14, 2026.

The motion passed 3 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #5 – Consider Approval of Proposal from Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group to Provide Engineering Services for the Woodward Reservoir Spillway

Mr. Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Engineering Department Manager, addressed the Board and stated that SSJID's new Associate Engineer Edgar Torres, was assisting with the Project and had written the staff report regarding the proposal from Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P) to provide Phase 1 engineering services for

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development of a Basis of Design Report, and initiate the application process with the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) for the Woodward Reservoir Emergency Spillway Project (Project).

Mr. Killingsworth provided background of DSOD notifying the District that Woodward Reservoir Dam lacked a properly designed spillway, which is considered a dam safety deficiency. He then gave a detailed timeline of communication with DSOD and/or activity regarding identifying a feasible approach to address the deficiency; the District's Woodward Spillway Study Update; advanced planning for a potential spillway improvement; and the District's Woodward Spillway Implementation Plan outlining a conceptual spillway approach.

On December 23, 2025, DSOD responded and indicated that the conceptual spillway approach was acceptable, that the proposed project schedule was reasonable, and that further evaluation of the design would occur during the formal application review process. DSOD also requested that the District evaluate potential downstream mitigation measures associated with spillway discharges. Based on this response, staff proceeded with requesting a proposal from P&P to advance the project into the next phase, namely Phase 1.

Mr. Killingsworth explained the scope of work identified in the P&P proposal to provide engineering services to support Phase 1 of the Project, including consultation with DSOD, refinement of the Project description and conceptual layout, and preparation of a Basis of Design Report. He emphasized that establishing a Basis of Design was a critical step in advancing the project to confirm criteria and assumptions with DSOD prior to final design, which would reduce the risk of major design revisions, delays, or additional costs. Following receipt of DSOD's requirements for spillway design, the District will request a subsequent proposal for Design, and California Environmental Quality Action (CEQA), and Bid Administration services in preparation for construction bidding.

The estimated cost for Phase 1 services is \$30,000.00 on a time and materials (T&M) basis. The District had allocated \$135,000.00 in the 2026 Capital Budget for engineering services associated with the Woodward Spillway Project.

Board discussion included sending Request for Proposals (RFP) for the formal engineering design process following completion of Phase 1, and P&P's experience and familiarity with the District's Woodward Spillway Study and Implementation Plan.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Van Ryn and seconded by President Spyksma to approve the proposal from Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group to provide Phase 1 engineering services for development of a Basis of Design Report, and to initiate the application process with the Division of Safety of Dams for the Woodward Reservoir Emergency Spillway Project.

The motion passed 3 to 0 by the following vote:

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

It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 9:34 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 9:45 a.m.

Item #6 – CLOSED SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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The Board returned to Open Session at 12:38 p.m.

Item #7 – 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 #8 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board