

**MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 14, 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. SSJID Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth 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; 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 \$124,191.84; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$6,159,752.13; and Payroll dated March 20, 2026 in the amount of \$3,592.41, March 20, 2026 in the amount of \$337,560.82, and April 3, 2026 in the amount of \$308,218.68.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2026
- C. Approval of Consent to SSJID’s Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter, APN 226-070-12

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn 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 reported that he attended the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) Annual Conference, from March 22-24, 2026, in Monterey. He noted sessions and/or discussions regarding new power generation and the inadequate infrastructures to support all-electric power.

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

- California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) 2026 Spring Education Day on March 18.
- San Joaquin Farm Bureau (SJFB) Water Committee meeting on April 8. Guest speaker Mary Hildebrand addressed siltation and the need for dredging, and the efforts of the Great Valley Farm Water Partnership to address the issue.

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Director Roos reported that he participated in the 1st Quarter Canyon Tunnel Tour on April 2. He commented on the impressive concrete pours, equipment operations, and work completed-to-date on the Lower Portal. Director Roos stated that Drill Tech Drilling & Shoring, Inc. is doing a great job.

President Spyksma referenced Director Holbrook's comment regarding the growth of electric energy, and noted recent TriDam Project (TDP) discussion regarding a potential decline in demand for hydro-electric power. SSJID Board discussion included the short-sightedness of legislation not looking to the future for potential ramifications of an all-green electric power grid.

Item #2 – Various Reports

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, reported that he participated in the 1st Quarter Canyon Tunnel Tour on April 2. He expressed thanks to Mr. Killingsworth, and SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson, for their coordination of the event which included the tour, and interaction with the engineering and construction teams. Tour participants were two (2) Directors from SSJID; two (2) Directors from the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), SSJID staff, and TDP staff.

Mr. Rietkerk passed to the Board, for viewing, a letter received from the United Water Conservation District (UWCD) thanking SSJID for support as an amicus curiae in UWCD's petition to the United States Supreme Court on a case involving a federal takings claim of state water rights.

Mr. Rietkerk announced that a Magnacide application is scheduled for April 20, and a tentative Cascade application on May 10. He conveyed that Cascade compliments the District's aquatic pesticide management program by targeting underwater weeds which tend to grow at road crossings along the District's canals. Board discussion included concern of the dead vegetation, caused by Cascade, which could enter a grower's filter system; not applying Cascade, which could subsequently impede water flow in the District's canals; manual removal and mitigation of vegetation utilizing District equipment in lieu of applying Cascade; and providing growers with advance notice of a Cascade application in order for them to implement protective measures. Mr. Rietkerk stated that he will schedule an Agricultural Water Committee meeting, including the appointed Directors, to further discuss the District's aquatic pesticide program.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – PUBLIC HEARING – Consider Proposed SSJID 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update

President Spyksma announced the public hearing and presentation regarding approval of the proposed SSJID 2025 Agricultural Water Manager Plan (AWMP).

- a. Presentation of Staff Regarding Proposed SSJID 2025 AWMP Update: Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, addressed the Board and gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed AWMP Update which detailed the regulatory requirements; AWMP overview; water balance summary; adoption process; staff recommendation; and the public hearing. He provided background of Senate Bill (SB) x-7-7 – Water Conservation Act of 2009 which identified ag water suppliers serving over 25,000 acres and their requirement to develop, adopt, and submit an AWMP to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR); and Assembly Bill (AB) 1668 – Water Management Planning Legislation which requires inclusion in the AWMP of an annual water budget, quantify water use efficiency, a Drought Management Plan (DMP), and an update of the AWMP every five years. Mr. Nakagawa noted that the State requires Board approval by a resolution adopting

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the 2025 AWMP, submittal of the adopted 2025 AWMP to DWR by May 1, and distribution of the 2025 AWMP to other specified agencies by May 1.

- b. Questions of Staff from Board: Board and staff discussion included Woodward seepage, Woodward releases to the Main Distribution Canal (MDC), OID releases, lateral deliveries, lateral spills, rapid drain erosion, data degradation, the need to rehab/replace gages, the importance of accurate data for SSJID Water Master Plan (WMP) projects, groundwater data, grant opportunities, and a general maintenance schedule for the SCADA system.
- c. Public Comments – None
- d. Closing Staff Comments – None
- e. Close of Public Hearing – President Spyksma announced the close of the public hearings at 9:49 a.m.

Item #4 – Consider Approval of SSJID 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update; and Adoption of Resolution 26-11-W Adopting the 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to approve the SSJID 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update; and adopt Resolution 26-11-W Adopting the 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 26-11-W**

ADOPTION OF 2025 AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Water Management Planning Act, codified in section 10800 *et seq.* of the California Water Code (“CWC”), requires all agricultural water suppliers greater than 25,000 acres in size to prepare and adopt an Agricultural Water Management Plan (“AWMP” or “Plan”); and

WHEREAS, South San Joaquin Irrigation District (“District”) has prepared a Plan which satisfies the requirements of CWC Section 10826 and the guidance put forth by the Department of Water Resources (“DW”); and

WHEREAS, an AWMP shall be updated every five years and adopted and submitted in years ending in six and one; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2026, the Board of Directors set the public hearing date on whether to adopt the 2025 AWMP for 9:00 a.m. on April 14, 2026 at a regularly scheduled meeting; and

WHEREAS, the District notified the Counties of San Joaquin and Stanislaus and the Cities of Escalon, Lathrop Manteca, Ripon, and Tracy of the intent to prepare the 2025 AWMP and of the opportunity to provide public comment at the public hearing prior to adoption; and

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WHEREAS, in accordance with Government Code Section 6066, the District published a legal notice in the Manteca Bulletin on March 31 and April 7, 2026, notifying the public of the availability of the Draft 2025 AWMP on the District’s website and of the time and place for the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors duly conducted the public hearing at its regular meeting on April 14, 2026; and

WHEREAS, once adopted, the CWC requires that the Plan be submitted to DWR by May 1, 2026.

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

1. The 2025 AWMP is hereby adopted; and
2. Staff is hereby directed to submit the 2025 AWMP to DWR by May 1, 2026 and to file the Plan with other appropriate entities as required by the CWC; and
3. The General Manager is hereby authorized and directed to take appropriate action to implement the 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 14th day of April, 2026, by the following roll call vote:

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

Item #5 – Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 26-12-P Regarding Declaration of Exempt Surplus Property (Drain 2A)

Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, addressed the Board and clarified that staff recommendation was not for the actual disposition of real property, but rather for declaration of the subject District property as “exempt” for future disposition in accordance with the Surplus Land Act (SLA)” (Government Code §54200 et seq).

Ms. Brown provided detailed explanations of the District’s proposed exempt surplus properties, being strips of land located within San Joaquin County (SJC) Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 197-020-02 and 204-050-22; the locations; and the history and usage of the properties for the location and operation of Drain No. 2, which is no longer in use by the District. She further explained that the adjacent parcels (APNs 197-020-02 and 204-050-22) are expected to be developed in the future and the District intends to quitclaim the property to the eventual owner(s) of the adjacent parcels.

Before the District can quitclaim the properties, it must follow the requirements set forth in the SLA declaring the properties as exempt, and by formal adoption by Board action supporting the exemption in a properly noticed public meeting. The SLA defines “exempt surplus property” to include “surplus land that is a former street, right-of-way, or easement, and is to be conveyed to an owner of an adjacent property” (Government Code §54221(f)(1)(E). The properties at issue meeting this definition.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to adopt Resolution No. 26-12-P Regarding Declaration of Exempt Surplus Property (Drain 2A).

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**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 26-12-P**

DECLARING EXEMPT SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (“District”) is the owner in fee simple of certain real property situate in San Joaquin County, generally described as follows:

1. A strip of land 30 feet wide which runs along the northern boundary of the Southwest Quarter of Township 1 South, Range 7 East, Section 17 and is located within that parcel of real property identified by San Joaquin County Assessor’s Parcel No. 204-050-22, consisting of 0.52 are, more or less and which is more particularly described in Exhibit “A” attached hereto (“Property One”).
2. A strip of land 60 feet wide which runs along the westerly boundary of property identified by San Joaquin County Assessor’s Parcel No. 197-020-02 and consists of approximately 1.59 acres, more or less, and which is more particularly described in Exhibit B attached hereto (“Property Two”); and

Property One and Property Two are collectively referred to herein as the “Properties.”

WHEREAS, the Properties were acquired by the District as rights-of-way for the purpose of construction and operation of the District-owned drainage facility known commonly as “Drain 2;” and

WHEREAS, the Properties are no longer utilized by District for Drain 2, the District no longer requires the Properties for any District purpose, and hereby declares the Properties to be land surplus to the needs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Surplus Land Act (Government Code section 54220 et seq.) generally governs the sale of surplus land; and

WHEREAS, the Surplus Land Act also provides for land to be declared “exempt surplus land” if said land meets one or more of the definitions contained in Government Code section 54221(f)(1); and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54221(f)(1)(E) includes “surplus land that is a former street, right-of-way, or easement, and is conveyed to an owner of an adjacent property;” and

WHEREAS, the District intends to convey the Properties to the respective adjacent landowners, being the then-current owners of the real property identified by San Joaquin County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 197-020-02 and 204-050-22.

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

1. The foregoing Recitals are true, correct, and incorporated herein.
2. The Properties are not presently used for Drain 2, are no longer needed for any District purpose, and are hereby declared “surplus.”
3. The Properties were acquired for and utilized as the right-of-way for Drain 2. The Properties will be transferred to the respective adjacent landowners of each. Therefore, the Properties are found to be,

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and hereby declared to be, to be “exempt surplus property” as defined by Government Code section 54221(f)(1)(E).

4. District staff are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary and proper to effectuate the declaration of the Properties as “exempt surplus property” in compliance with the California Department of Housing and Community Development Guidelines, and to dispose of said Properties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the South San Joaquin Board of Directors at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 14th of April, by the following roll call vote:

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

Item #6 – Consider Approval of Additional Vac-Truck Services from Nor-Cal Pipelines

Mr. Barron Sweet, SSJID Irrigation Operations Manager, addressed the Board regarding approval of a Change Order with Nor-Cal Pipelines (NorCal) for additional vac-truck services for the 2025-2026 pipelining operations, for an amount not-to-exceed \$37,375.00.

Mr. Sweet explained that on September 23, 2025, the Board approved a services contract with NorCal for vac-truck and closed-circuit television (CCTV) services for hourly rates not to exceed \$55,000.00, based on an estimated 12,500 linear feet (LF) of pipeline cleaning. He further explained that pipelining crews exceeded the planned production during the 2025-2026 season, and that on January 27, 2026, the Board approved a budget amendment, and additional Shotline materials for approximately 4,000 LF of added pipelining work. Mr. Sweet noted that the not-to-exceed amount for vac-truck services was not increased at that time, though vac-truck services were provided by NorCal throughout the season.

Mr. Sweet stated that NorCal has been paid the original contract amount of \$55,000.00. Staff is reconciling final invoices and approximate an amount of \$37,375.00 in additional charges, bringing the total cost of services to approximately \$92,375.00. The SSJID 2026 budget allocated \$101,970.00 for vac-truck cleaning and CCTV services.

Board discussion included the cost to purchase a vac-truck, the multiple uses throughout the year for a District-owned vac-truck, and the current cost to rent vac-truck services which includes travel expenses for NorCal staff. The Board requested that Mr. Sweet provide a brief presentation listing pros and cons of SSJID purchasing a vac-truck, which will include data identifying costs associated with labor, fuel, materials, and other expenses.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Weststeyn to authorize the General Manager to approve a change order with Nor-Cal Pipelines for additional vac-truck services during the 2025-2026 pipelining operations for an amount not-to-exceed \$37,375.00.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

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President Spyksma invited any Public Comments for Closed Session Items to be heard now, as a courtesy and for the convenience to persons in attendance wanting to make a public comment without having to wait until the meeting reconvenes to Open Session following Closed Session.

Item #7(b) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, Government Code §54956.9

Mr. Mark Bowman, Attorney representing landowners Michael and Kim Jerome, addressed the Board on behalf of his clients regarding their Real Property Damage Claim against the District. He explained that the property has experienced flooding for years due to inadequate draining from adjacent parcels; that his clients are currently in litigation with neighbors regarding flooding; and alleged that the flooding worsened following the District’s maintenance on SSJID utilities. Mr. Bowman expressed his clients’ intent towards resolution, and thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 10:04 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:20 a.m.

Item #7 – CLOSED SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:49 p.m.

Item #8 – 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 #9 – ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rietkerk announced that the next quarterly Canyon Tunnel Tour is scheduled for June 4. The remaining three (3) Directors that had not yet participated in the tour were instructed to let staff know if they’d be interested in attending. The Canyon Tunnel Tours, that include the Board Members, will be coordinated so as not to violate the Ralph M. Brown Act requirements regarding assembly of a quorum.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board