

**MINUTES FOR THE JULY 8, 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. Director Holbrook 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 \$653,799.22; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$1,063,152.35; and Payroll dated June 20, 2025 in the amount of \$974.65, June 26, 2025 in the amount of \$4,455.74, June 27, 2025 in the amount of \$3,691.54, and June 27, 2025 in the amount of \$307,289.51.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2025
- C. Accept and File Notice of Completion for Lateral “X-W” Connection Pipeline Project

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos 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 Weststeyn reported that he, and SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk, attended the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) Board meeting on July 1, in support of four (4) agenda items regarding the SSJID/OID Canyon Tunnel Project including the award of construction bid, approval for construction management services, and two (2) property purchase agreements. The OID Board approved all four items.

Director Roos thanked all Division Managers and Irrigation crews for delivering water and noted the extremely clean waterways.

Director Holbrook stated that he had no updates to report.

Director Van Ryn stated that he had no updates to report, and thanked staff for their work this irrigation season.

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President Spyksma stated that he had no updates to report, thanked the Directors for their comments expressing appreciation to the Division Managers and crews, and stated that the Board values SSJID's employees and the work they do for the District.

**Item #2 – Various Reports**

Mr. Rietkerk referenced Director Weststeyn's report of attending the OID Board meeting, on July 1, in support of the Canyon Tunnel agenda items, and noted the positive OID Board comments acknowledging SSJID Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth and the Engineering Department staff for their hard work and coordination of the large-scale project. Both the SSJID and OID Boards have approved the necessary items to move forward and commence construction. He stated that a joint SSJID/OID groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for August 4, at Goodwin Dam, and that President Spyksma and/or Director Weststeyn and/or delegated SSJID Board Members will speak at the monumental event. Ms. Katie Patterson, SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager, will coordinate the groundbreaking activities including the ceremony, speeches, and carpooling.

Mr. Rietkerk announced that the District was not awarded a Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) WaterSMART Drought Efficiency Grant to supplement funding for the Lateral Q-Qc Regulation Reservoir Project. He added that the City of Escalon had also applied and was not awarded the grant. Staff has a meeting scheduled with Reclamation, on August 19, 2025, to discuss the grant scoring methodology, and future funding opportunities.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that the District has been contacted by landowners expressing interest in annexation of five (5) properties. Discussions with the current annexation applicants are ongoing, while new applications submitted following the lifting of the moratorium will follow the recently approved annexation policy.

Mr. Rietkerk announced the Ripon Chamber of Commerce 2025 Installation and Awards Dinner, on July 16, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Directors interested in attending were instructed to inform Ms. Patterson today, so she can purchase the event tickets. Director Holbrook stated that he would attend, and will discuss details with Ms. Patterson off-line.

Director Holbrook reported that he had a phone conference with a Structural Engineer at Provost & Pritchard Consulting Firm, regarding the suspended cable bridge at Goodwin Reservoir as it relates to the Canyon Tunnel Project. Discussion included conducting an analysis of the bridge structure to ensure soundness and safety.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #3 – Consider Approval of Water Treatment Plant Air Relief Valve Leak Repair**

Mr. Charles Galea, Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Operations Supervisor, addressed the Board requesting approval of the quote from Preston Pipelines (Preston) to repair the Air Relief Valve (ARV) leak on Lathrop Road, in Manteca. He provided background of the District's transmission pipeline; numerous air relief/vacuum valves located throughout the line; routine inspections, maintenance, and repairs; and staff identifying the leak and exact location. Staff utilized the Master Services Agreement (MSA) with Preston to mobilize equipment and workers to conduct the repair and subcontract traffic control.

Mr. Galea stated that the section of road was recently paved, therefore the City of Manteca (City) Engineering Department placed a moratorium on any needed repairs for the next four (4) years. Although District was approved for the Encroachment Permit to move forward with the repair, the City is requiring that staff grind

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and overlay an additional ten (10) feet in each direction from the original trench.

Mr. Galea explained the additional work required due to the City's moratorium, which added costs to the project. Preston submitted a quote of \$49,328.13 for the additional work, which included the cost of a paving subcontractor to complete the grind and overlay per the City's requirements.

Board discussion included the number and locations of identified leaks, and verified that the repairs will not cause any interruption of service.

President Spyksma announced that a Public Comment was received on this agenda item, from Mr. Marty Harris via email, dated July 7, 2025 at 2:26 p.m. It was noted that copies of the email were distributed to the Board, available at the meeting, and available for inspection by the public. Receipt of the Public Comment will be recorded in the board meeting minutes of July 8, 2025.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve the quote from Preston Pipelines for the repair of the ARV on Lathrop Road in Manteca.

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 Revised Professional Service Agreement for State Legislative Advocacy with Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange**

Ms. Patterson addressed the Board regarding approval of the revised Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange (SYASL) for legislative and advocacy services; and authorize the General Manager to sign the revised PSA. She added that the term of the Agreement would commence on October 1, 2025, for an initial two (2) year period through September 30, 2027, with three (3) 1-year extension options for years 2027 through 2030.

Ms. Patterson explained that staff would like to continue consulting services with SYASL to monitor activities within the California Legislature, and engage elected officials with information to support the SSJID's mission and projects including the District's Retail Electric Project. She noted the critical projects the District is currently undertaking, and stated that changing the legislative/advocacy consultant could hinder SSJID's progress and forward motion. Ms. Patterson added that SYASL, and Legislative Advocate Karen Lange, are well-known and respected advocates on the County and State levels.

The proposed fee for SYASL services is \$5,500.00 per month for the first twelve (12) months, with an annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase thereafter, not less than 2 ½ percent (2.5%). This fee represents an increase of \$6,000.00 from the previous contract, for a total of \$66,000.00 for the 2025-2026 term.

Board discussion included staff having accompanied Ms. Lange to State meetings and the high level of respect shown by her legislative peers. Also discussed was the CPI annual increase of the contract fee; that the proposed 2.5% annual increase is competitive and comparable in today's economy; to be cognizant of necessary transitions to other advocacy consultants in the future; and to research the legislative advocates used by neighboring water districts.

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**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the revised Professional Services Agreement with Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange for legislative and advocacy services for an initial 2-year period through September 30, 2027, with three (3) 1-year extension options for years 2027 through 2030; and authorize the General Manager to sign the revised contract.

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 Purchase and Sale Agreement, Grant Deed, and Certificate of Acceptance for Purchase of Easement from Sran Agro Enterprise, LLC. (Lateral We190dd3dd to We Pipeline Connection Project)**

Mr. Chad Parsons, SSJID Associate Civil Engineer, addressed the Board regarding approval of a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Sran Argo Enterprise, LLC (Landowner or Sran), for the Lateral We190dd3dd to We Pipeline Connection Project (Project).

Mr. Parsons provided background of the Project identified as a capacity enhancement project during development of the SSJID Water Master Plan (WMP), which will resolve service challenges in the Lateral W and Lateral Wc service areas by utilizing surplus capacity from Lateral X. He explained the Project location, size, and scope of work, and added that the District is in the process of obtaining easements from four (4) different property owners to implement the Project. Construction is anticipated to begin in Fall of 2025.

The District provided Sran an offer letter on April 30, 2025, and a follow-up letter on May 16, 2025, offering a purchase price of \$36,575.00 for the 0.59 acre easement, and compensation for the removal of twenty-eight (28) almond trees within the easement area. The landowner accepted the District's offer on May 16, 2025.

Staff recommended Board approval of the Purchase and Sale Agreement, and Grant Deed and Certificate of Acceptance for the acquisition of a permanent easement from Sran; and authorize the Board President and General Manager to sign all documents and do all things necessary and proper to complete the purchase of the easement. Terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement were included in the Staff Report for Agenda Item #5.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement, and Grant Deed and Certificate of Acceptance for the acquisition of a permanent easement from Sran Argo Enterprise, LLC, for the Lateral We190dd3dd to We Pipeline connect Project for a purchase price of \$36,575.00; and authorize the Board President and General Manager to sign all documents and do all things necessary and proper to complete the purchase of the easement.

The motion passed 4 to 1 by the following vote:

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

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*It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 9:30 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 9:45 a.m.*

**Item #6 – CLOSED SESSION**

*Director Weststeyn exited the meeting at 11:29 a.m.*

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*The Board returned to Open Session at 12:41 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 – Brown Act Review – Deferred**

**Item #9 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board