

**MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 9, 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 SPYKSMA VAN RYN WESTSTEYN
ABSENT: ROOS

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.

President Spyksma proposed taking Public Comments for Item #7.e. Labor Negotiations before the Consent Calendar, as a courtesy and for the convenience to persons in attendance wanting to make public comments on this item, without having to wait until the end of the meeting when the Board undertakes Closed Session items. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, stated that the Board could do this by a motion, second, and affirmative majority vote, with the understanding that there would also be an opportunity to provide public comment on this item just prior to Closed Session.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to receive public comments on Item #7.e. Labor Negotiations as the first agenda item as a courtesy to the speakers in attendance, thereby allowing Public Comment(s) on this item to be heard ahead of Closed Session.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Public comments, for Item #7.e. Labor Negotiations, were heard from the following individuals:

- Nelson Matos, SSJID Utility Worker: Comments included his representation of SSJID employees registered with the International Brotherhood of Iron Workers (IBEW) Union Local 1245; eleven (11) months of ongoing contract negotiations regarding wages, benefits, retirement, and overtime limits; employee dedication and/or sacrifices for the responsible betterment of District services provided to its customers; and hope of finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SSJID and IBEW which will value the experience, honor and sacrifices of SSJID's workers.
- Michael Slyusarchuk, SSJID Instrument Control Technician: Comments included thanking the Board for their service to the District; his years of employment and dedication to SSJID, the "best job in his career;" and grace to reconsider current contract proposals regarding medical benefits, accrued time off, and retirement benefits.
- Al Fortier, IBEW Representative: Comments included IBEW's representation of over 25,000 laborers in public utilities and organizations; IBEW's representation of SSJID employees for 35-years; and workers' rights to dignity and fair wages.
- Sheila Lawton, IBEW Representative: Comments included IBEW's representation and established partnership with District employees for 35-years; ongoing contract negotiations regarding wages and

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health benefits; SSJID General Manager's upcoming annual review; and that the Board discuss and reach a settlement regarding labor negotiations during Closed Session.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Checks in the amount of \$424,391.81; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$1,714,909.05; and Payroll dated August 8, 2025 in the amount of \$307,191.41, August 22, 2025 in the amount of \$312,737.25, and August 22, 2025 in the amount of \$3,691.54.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2025
- C. Approval of Consent to SSJID's Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter APN 228-080-19
- D. Acceptance of Grant of Easement for Drain 8a at Manteca Self Storage
- E. Accept and File Notice of Completion for the Lateral "V" Pipeline Improvement Project (Meadowood Project)

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #1 – Directors' Reports

Director Weststeyn reported that he attended the Knights Ferry Town Hall meeting, regarding the Canyon Tunnel, on August 21. He stated that the event was well attended by local constituents, and commended SSJID Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth for his informative presentation which left attendees comfortable to move forward with the large-scale project.

Director Weststeyn reported that he attended the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) 2025 Annual Conference, held August 25-28, 2025, in Monterey, CA. Highlights included keynote speaker, former National Football League Quarterback Joe Theismann's presentation titled, "Game Plan for Success." Director Weststeyn noted a free screening of SSJID's website conducted by a cyber security company, which resulted in a positive score of the District's security measures.

Director Van Ryn thanked SSJID Management and all staff for their hard work, and stated he had no additional updates to report.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the CSDA 2025 Conference, from August 25-28, 2025, and noted the interesting vendors and representatives, excellent motivational speakers, and relationships established over years of networking at the annual event. Highlights included a session on running board meetings effectively,

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and participation in the Special Districts Leadership Foundation (SDLF) Scramble for Scholarships Golf Tournament.

Director Holbrook thanked staff for the scheduling and on-time delivery of water this irrigation season.

President Spyksma reported that he attended the Tri-Dam Advisory Committee meeting on September 8. Discussion included the status of Golden Mussels in Lake Tulloch; reopening Tulloch to boat launches in 2026; boat wash/sanitization stations; and requests for bids regarding power pole maintenance. He added that Tri-Dam General Manager Summer Nicotero will provide updates at the Tri-Dam Board Meeting on September 18.

President Spyksma thanked all staff and Management, in the offices and out in the field, for their hard work.

Item #2 – Various Reports

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, reported staff attendance at the City of Escalon (City) Council meeting on August 18 for the following items: 1) Present an update on SSJID's bid to become the electric utility service provider in the area; and 2) Support Council's approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SSJID and the City regarding payments in lieu of franchise fees from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) for retail electric service. Escalon's Council approved the proposed MOU between SSJID and the City by a 5 to 0 vote.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he participated in the Knights Ferry Town Hall meeting on August 21, which was well attended by the area residents. He noted that Drill Tech Drilling and Shoring representatives were present to address questions and/or concerns expressed by the public, and commended Mr. Killingsworth and SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson for the Q&A platform which reassured local constituents. Mr. Rietkerk stated that SSJID will continue engagement with the Knights Ferry community, and that the District intends to participate in the quarterly Municipal Advisory Committee meetings to provide routine project updates.

Mr. Rietkerk announced multiple upcoming events and/or activities for the Board's consideration to attend and/or participate in. Directors interested in participating were instructed to contact Ms. Patterson. The Board requested all event dates and information be provided on a single list and emailed to them.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – Consider Approval of Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant Chemical Room and Gallery Pads Floor Coating Project

Mr. Charles Galea, Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Operations Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding acceptance of the bid(s) from: 1) United Field Services for floor coating and repair of the WTP Chemical Room and Gallery Pad area; and 2) Bay Area Coating Consultants for inspection services for this project.

Mr. Galea explained that the Chemical Room stores cleaning chemicals used to maintain the WTP membrane filters, and that the concrete floors are showing signs of degradation and damage due to over twenty (20) years of usage. He further explained that the Gallery Pads are epoxy-coated squares located in front of water quality stations to help protect the concrete but have started to fail in several areas. Exposure to water and chemicals have taken a toll on the integrity of the concrete and epoxy-coated surfaces and has caused damage to those areas.

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Staff requested bids from several industrial coating contractors for the Chemical Room and Gallery Pads Floor Coating Project (Project). Three (3) proposals were received with United Field Services Corporation (United) being the lowest bidder for a total cost of \$77,638.00. To ensure the preparation, repair, and coating of these areas is done according to District specifications, staff requested a quote from Bay Area Coating Consultants (BACC) to act as inspector on the Project.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the proposal(s) from United for a cost of \$77,638.00, and BACC for a cost of \$11,043.20. It was noted that there is sufficient funding in the 2025 Capital Account for the Project.

Board discussion included the importance of ensuring that a warranty is included in the contract regarding the epoxy-coating to which Mr. Galea confirmed a warranty in the contract, plus follow-up inspections 1 to 2 years after completion of the Project. Also discussed was the square footage of the Chemical Room at 1,200 square feet, and the Gallery Pad area at approximately 800-900 square feet.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Van Ryn and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the proposal from United Field Services Corporation for the Chemical Room and Gallery Pads Floor Coating Project at a total cost of \$77,638.00; and the proposal from Bay Area Coating Consultants for inspection services of the Project at a total cost of \$11,043.20.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #4 – Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 25-17-Q Authorizing the Disposition of Property No Longer Necessary for District Purposes: (3) Chemical Storage Tanks

Mr. Galea addressed the Board regarding adoption of Resolution No. 25-17-Q, declaring three (3) chemical storage tanks as surplus property, and authorizing WTP staff to facilitate the sale of said three (3) storage tanks.

Mr. Galea provided explanation of the three surplus tanks explaining that the two (2) 12,000-gallon sodium hypochlorite storage tanks were replacements due to leakage which could not be repaired by staff, and the one (1) 8,000-gallon aluminum chlorohydrate (ACH) tank had exceeded its useful life and was replaced in 2023.

Staff recommended that the Board adopt Resolution No. 25-17-Q declaring the tanks as surplus personal property, and authorize the WTP Operations Supervisor to facilitate their sale(s). Mr. Galea noted that a private party had expressed interest in purchasing the two 12,000-gallon tanks. He had also reached out to the local landfill regarding disposal at an estimated cost of \$10,000.00.

The Board inquired if the private party was aware of the leaks in the two 12,000-gallon tanks to which Mr. Galea responded in the affirmative.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Van Ryn to adopt Resolution 25-17-Q Authorizing the Disposition of Property No Longer Necessary for District Purposes: (3) Chemical Storage Tanks.

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**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION No. 25-17-Q**

**AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY
NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR DISTRICT PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (“District”) may sell as “surplus property” for valuable consideration, any property of the District which is determined to be no longer necessary for District purposes; and

WHEREAS, the following personal property is no longer needed for District purposes, and is deemed to be surplus:

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	12,000 gallon storage tank
1	8,000 gallon storage tank

WHEREAS, the Board finds it in the best interests of the District to dispose of the above-listed property by sale, using reasonable efforts to obtain the best possible sales-price.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that The Board of Directors authorizes the Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor to use his professional judgement in determining the most appropriate means of effectuating a sale of said property at the best possible sales price, including, but not limited to: sale at public or on-line auction; placing equipment with a dealer for consignment sale; sale by published advertisement and receipt of sealed bids; and/or sale for salvage or scrap value.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of September 2025 by the following roll call vote:

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

Item #5 – Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 25-18-N Supporting the Nomination of Bill Schwandt as a Candidate to the American Public Power Association Board of Directors

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding adoption of Resolution No. 25-18-N nominating Bill Schwandt, SSJID Electric Utility Manager, as a candidate to serve on the American Public Power Association (APPA) Board of Directors. He provided background of APPA as a national voice of not-for-profit, community-based electric utilities across the United States, and explained APPA’s role to advocate before the federal government on behalf of public power utilities, while also providing guidance on electricity policy, grid operations and technology, and workforce development.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that the APPA Board of Directors is responsible for setting the policy, strategic, and legislative direction of the Association, and is comprised of thirty (30) members from ten regions across the country. Region 6, which includes California, Arizona and Nevada currently has a vacancy due to the resignation of a Director who accepted a leadership position as APPA Board Vice Chair.

Mr. Rietkerk cited Mr. Schwandt’s attributes as a prime candidate to the APPA Board including his experience

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on various committees, task forces and regional joint agencies, as well as his knowledge of local, regional and national electric industry issues. He added that SSJID's Strategic Plan initiative addressed creating and/or fostering alliances and/or serving on various outside organizations and committees.

The Board inquired if Mr. Schwandt would be compensated by APPA, to which Mr. Rietkerk responded in the negative. He stated that the fiscal impact to the District would include travel for participation in three (3) additional APPA Board meetings, including airfare and lodging for an estimated total cost of \$5,000.00. Further Board discussion included APPA's support of SSJID's bid for retail electric, and that Mr. Schwandt is a great choice for candidacy and would do an excellent job.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to adopt Resolution 25-18-N Supporting the Nomination of Bill Schwandt as a Candidate to the American Public Powers Association Board of Directors.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 25-18-N**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT NOMINATING BILL SCHWANDT
AS CANDIDATE FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, the American Public Power Association (APPA) is the national organization representing not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, APPA's Board of Directors provides policy guidance, strategic direction, and legislative leadership on behalf of its members nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the APPA Board includes representation from ten geographic regions, including Region 6, which encompasses Arizona, California, and Nevada; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy currently exists on the APPA Board of Directors for Region 6 due to the resignation of a sitting director; and

WHEREAS, Bill Schwandt, Electric Utility Manager for the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID), has over 40 years of active involvement in APPA initiatives, including service on committees, task forces, and boards of regional joint action agencies and public power associations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schwandt brings extensive experience and leadership in the electric utility industry at the local, regional, and national levels, and is well positioned to represent the interests of public power agencies in California and the broader Region 6 area; and

WHEREAS, SSJID is currently pursuing the acquisition and operation of a Retail Electric Utility (REU), and Mr. Schwandt's participation on the APPA Board would provide valuable insight and advocacy for the public power municipalization movement.

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

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1. Bill Schwandt is hereby nominated as a candidate for the American Public Power Association Board of Directors representing Region 6 (Arizona, California, and Nevada);
2. The General Manager is authorized and directed to submit this Resolution, along with any required nomination forms, to APPA on behalf of the District and do all things necessary and proper to complete the nomination process; and
3. The Board expresses its full support and endorsement of Mr. Schwandt's nomination and is confident in his ability to serve with distinction.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the South San Joaquin Board of Directors at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 9th of September, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

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

Item #6 – Consider Approval of Amended and Restated Interagency Agreement Between the Oakdale Irrigation District and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District for the Joint Supply Canal Bypass Tunnel (Canyon Tunnel Project)

Mr. Killingsworth referenced the Knights Ferry Town Hall meeting held on August 21 and expressed his appreciation to the Board for attending. He stated that the presence of the Directors, along with representatives from Drill Tech Drilling and Shoring, added significant value to the event, leaving the local residents reassured and satisfied after the meeting. He also commended Ms. Patterson for organizing the informative event and mentioned plans to hold regular update meetings to keep the Knights Ferry community updated.

Mr. Killingsworth addressed the Board regarding approval of the proposed Amended and Restated Interagency Agreement (Amended Agreement) Between the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District for the Joint Supply Canyon Tunnel Project (Project). He stated that the purpose of the proposed revisions is to memorialize and clarify responsibility for approving and authorizing planned and unplanned work, and added that the amendments will create a more streamlined approach for efficiency and time management in the construction process.

Mr. Killingsworth provided detailed explanations of the proposed changes to the Amended Agreement including: a Project Budget; SSJID and OID General Managers will be authorized to jointly approve individual change orders and contracts up to \$350,000.00; SSJID General Manager will be authorized to approve, on behalf of both Districts, individual change order and contracts up to \$100,000.00; SSJID Project Manager will be authorized to approve change orders in work quantities up to a total contract price difference of 10-percent (10%) so long as changes do not increase unit prices set forth in the Construction Contract; and SSJID Project Manager will be authorized to approve all construction related invoices. Change orders and contracts that are anticipated to exceed \$350,000.00 shall require formal approval by the Board of Directors of each District.

Mr. Rietkerk, Ms. Brown, OID General Manager Scot Moody, and OID Counsel have reviewed the proposed Amended Agreement. The Amended Agreement is scheduled to be presented, for approval, to the OID Board of Directors at the OID Board meeting held today, September 9.

Board discussion included keeping the OID Board abreast of changes and/or developments regarding the Project;

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that a Canyon Tunnel Project Update will be presented monthly, to the SSJID and OID Boards, at the Tri-Dam Board meetings; SSJID's intent to remain fully transparent as the lead agency in the Amended Agreement; and the Board entrusting staff with the careful review and monitoring of change orders and invoices from both Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, and Drill Tech Drilling and Shoring.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Van Ryn to approve the Amended and Restated Interagency Agreement Between the Oakdale Irrigation District and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District for the Joint Supply Canyon Tunnel Project.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 10:01 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:10 a.m.

Item #7 – CLOSED SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:35 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

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board