MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 13, 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 9:23 a.m., with additional public access provided as a courtesy 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 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 $2,239,220.18; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of $216,153.41; and Payroll dated September 18, 2026 in the amount of $3,693.16, September 18, 2026 in the amount of $331,243.54, and October 2, 2026 in the amount of $318,391.78.

B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2026

C. Approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2026

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Van Ryn 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 Van Ryn thanked the crews for their hard work during the 2026 Irrigation Season, and stated that he is looking forward to the 2026 Maintenance Season.

Director Holbrook thanked all staff for their service during water season. He commented on the notably efficient communication from the Division Managers to keep District customers, like himself, updated on irrigation schedules and/or status.

Director Roos thanked the Division Managers for the successful and safe 2026 Irrigation Season.

Director Weststeyn commented on a strong finish to the 2026 Irrigation Season, and wished all a safe Winter Maintenance Season.

President Spyksma thanked Mr. Joe Hasten, SSJID Irrigation Services Supervisor, for the excellent communication

and customer service provided by the Division Managers; and congratulated all staff for a great Irrigation Season.

Item #2 – Various Reports

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, reiterated sentiment expressed by the Board Members and thanked everyone for the successful 2026 Irrigation Season, and looks forward to moving forward on the winter maintenance projects.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he attended a meeting with Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), Modesto Irrigation District (MID), and Turlock Irrigation District (TID) staff, discussing a conceptual project to connect the Don Pedro and New Melones Reservoirs and optimize water storage and hydroelectric production during certain years and/or weather conditions. He noted the positive, initial conversations, and intent for ongoing coordination toward future feasibility studies. Board discussion included identifying, up front, the potential needs, regulations, rights, and user intent prior to the commitments associated with a feasibility study. It was also noted that the concept was first discussed ten to twelve years ago with no forward motion.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – PUBLIC HEARING – Annual Status Report of District Vacancies, Recruitment and Retention Efforts per Assembly Bill 2561 (Government Code §3502.3)

President Spyksma referenced Assembly Bill (AB) 2561 (Government Code §3502.3) – Annual Status Report of District Vacancies, Recruitment and Retention Efforts, and opened the Public Hearing at 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Finance and Administration Manager, addressed the Board and explained that per AB 2561, public agencies with represented employees must annually report the status of their employment vacancies in a public hearing, which must occur prior to the adoption of the annual budget. The report must address retention/recruitment efforts currently utilized and identify any changes necessary to address obstacles in the hiring process. Ms. Williams cited requirements, should the number of vacancies within a single unit represent twenty percent (20%) or more.

a. SSJID Presentation – SSJID has two (2) distinct employee groups. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1245 Bargaining Unit has approximately seventy-nine (79) authorized full-time positions, with three (3) employment vacancies (1-Pest Control Applicator; 2-Division Managers), representing 3.8-percent (3.8%) of the Bargaining Unit. The Management Unit currently has approximately thirty-two (32) staff with two (2) current vacancies (1-Assistant General Counsel; 1-Accountant), representing 6.2-percent (6.2%) of the Management Unit. The current vacancy rate of 3.8% for the Bargaining Unit, and 6.2% for the Management Unit is below the 20% statutory threshold therefore additional reporting requirements under Government Code Section 3502.3 do not apply. The District uses multiple recruitment strategies including industry-specific job boards and publications, professional associations, targeted outreach, internal postings, and the recent usage of NEOGOV.
b. Employee Organization Presentation – None.
c. Governing Body Questions and Discussion – Board discussion included the District's positive hiring practices to fill vacancies, and congratulating the Human Resources team on their efforts.
d. Final SSJID Comments – None.
e. Final Employee Organization Comments – None.
f. Public Comments – None.

SSJID General Counsel Mia Brown stated that the Public Hearing and presentation(s) were for informational purposes only, per AB 2561 requirements, and that no Board action was required.

President Spyksma closed the Public Hearing at 9:40 AM.

Item #4 – Consider Approval of SSJID 2027 Health Plan Recommendations

Ms. Williams addressed the Board and summarized the Association of California Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA) plans for the District's current medical, vision and Employee Assistance Program (EAP); the current self-funded dental plan; the life, accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D), and long-term disability (LTD) plans offered through Lincoln National Life Insurance; employee contributions; and plan/cost comparisons of 2027 monthly premiums for ACWA, Special District Risk Management Association (SDRMA), and California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS).

Ms. Williams recommended renewing the District's current medical, vision, and EAP plans through the ACWA/JPIA; the current self-funded dental plan administered by Stanislaus Foundation; and life, AD&D, and LTD plans through the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. She noted the 2027 rate increases for Anthem PPO and CDHP (12%), Anthem HMO (12.5%), Kaiser HMO (0.061%), and Kaiser CDHP (0.061%).

Ms. Williams stated that SSJID's Employee Benefit Packets are going out today (October 13), and that the District's Open Enrollment will run from October 19 to November 2, 2026. In addition, Human Resources will be giving a Benefit Packet presentation to employees at SSJID's Annual Safety Day on October 29.

Board discussion noted the work involved to compile the data necessary for the presentation, and thanked staff for their efforts.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to renew the District's current medical, vision, and EAP plans through the ACWA/JPIA; the current self-funded dental plan administered by Stanislaus Foundation; and life, AD&D, and LTD plans through the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

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 Water Treatment Plant Lighting Upgrade Project

Mr. Charles Galea, Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Operations Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding approval of the quote from Valley Alpha Electric Inc. (Valley) to install new upgraded lighting fixtures in the WTP Administrative and Membrane Buildings (Project); authorize the General Manager to execute the Valley Agreement for a not-to-exceed amount of $107,140.84; and approve an increase to the Capital Budget for the Project by $18,000.00.

Mr. Galea explained the light locations and proposed scope of work. He further explained that the WTP Administrative Building still uses its original "fluorescent bulb" fixtures rather than LED bulbs now being adopted. The Membrane Building's obsolete emergency lighting requires replacement to meet emergency-lighting requirements. Mr. Galea noted that the new LED fixtures will use lithium-ion batteries, which will provide a longer service life.

Staff requested quotes from three (3) companies, with two (2) proposals submitted and one (1) refusal to bid.

The 2026 Capital Budget includes $45,000.00 for Administrative Building lighting upgrades and $45,000.00 for Membrane Building emergency lighting, therefore staff requested an additional $18,000.00 to complete the required work.

The Board inquired about the installations being done internally by staff, to which Mr. Galea responded that the District employs two (2) electricians that are currently being utilized for larger, prioritized tasks including a Solar Tracking Upgrade Project, and a Variable Frequency Pump Upgrade Project. Further Board discussion expressed appreciation to complete the Project in a timely manner to ensure the safety of employees and property.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Van Ryn to approve the quote from Valley Alpha Electric Inc. to install new upgraded lighting fixtures in the WTP Administrative and Membrane Buildings; authorize the General Manager to execute the Valley Agreement for a not-to-exceed amount of $107,140.84; and approve an increase to the Capital Budget for the Project by $18,000.00.

Director Weststeyn stated that he would abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest with Valley. Ms. Brown clarified that Director Weststeyn's conflict was not regarding a direct family member, but rather a familial conflict associated with the contractor.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #6 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Board Meeting Schedule(s) Following Close of the 2026 Irrigation Season on October 19, 2026

Mr. Rietkerk provided a recap of Board action, on July 14, 2026, which temporarily modified the board meeting schedules during harvest season and until the end of the 2026 Irrigation Season, allowing a Special Board meeting at 7:00 a.m. on the regularly scheduled meeting days to discuss Closed Session items only, immediately followed by the Regular Board meeting commencing no sooner than 9:00 a.m. He noted that Board action, on September 22, 2026, chose October 19, 2026 as the end of the Irrigation Season and requested Board direction about reverting back to the regular meeting schedule following the end of the water season.

Board discussion included reverting back to the Regular Board meeting schedule commencing at 9:00 a.m., including Consent, Action, and Closed Session items; and changing the board meeting start time to 8:00 a.m. Ms. Brown stated the requirements to change a board meeting time per the California Water Code § 40652: 1) The board may change the time or place of its regular monthly meeting by passing a formal resolution entered into its minutes; and 2) A change to the meeting time or place does not become effective immediately; the resolution must first be published once a week for two (2) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the District.

The Board expressed appreciation for the temporary 7:00 a.m. Special Board meetings to discuss Closed Session items only, thereby shortening the Regular Board meetings during the busy harvest season; and discussed reverting back to the regular 9:00 a.m. meetings through the end of the year and revisit scheduling considerations in the new year.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to revert back to the Regular Board meeting schedule, commencing at 9:00 a.m., and agendizing Consent, Action, and Closed Session items.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #7 – Update and Possible Action on Woodward Reservoir Transitional Matters Concerning Termination of the Recreational License Agreement with Stanislaus County

Mr. Rietkerk gave a brief recap of Board action, on October 14, 2025, which approved the termination of the License Agreement between the District and Stanislaus County (County) for operation of recreation at Woodward Reservoir (Woodward). The termination initiated a year-long transition and negotiation process to transfer recreational operations and address real property assets needed to continue recreational activities at Woodward.

The District's ongoing efforts, including negotiation with the County, have not yet yielded an agreement that would provide sufficient long-term property access or ownership rights to operate recreation at Woodward. Such an agreement is paramount to securing a successor concessionaire to operate Woodward recreation into the future. As a result, recreational services will be temporarily suspended when the current agreement expires at 11:59 p.m. on October 15, and the District assumes operational control of Woodward on October 16, 2026.

Staff have developed an interim plan to responsibly secure and maintain assets on SSJID's Woodward properties while integrating regular operations to protect water quality, and meet water storage, dam-safety, operational, and public-safety requirements. It was noted that the interim plan is specifically intended from the end of the County's license until future Board decisions on recreation services, staffing, contracting, capital needs, and facility management at Woodward.

Mr. Rietkerk provided detailed descriptions of the interim plan including security measures, staffing, and maintenance.

Staff recommended Board approval to contract 24/7 security for approximately one (1) month, and then scaling services to coincide with increased SSJID presence for operations and maintenance activities during regular business hours. Staff also proposed hiring two (2) temporary employees to provide general grounds and facilities maintenance at Woodward; and one (1) Facilities and Grounds Supervisor to lead the safe and efficient maintenance and operation of District-owned property and facilities at the reservoir; ensure regulatory compliance; and serve as the on-site liaison with the District, emergency responders, vendors and partner agencies.

Mr. Rietkerk noted that SSJID and Stanislaus County have discussed the possibility of cost-sharing agreements for services of mutual benefit to the parties during the transition period, a reciprocal Access Agreement, and a holdover lease to keep certain personal property at Woodward through the transition.

The proposed 2026 transition costs are estimated not to exceed $240,000.00. These costs are subject to change depending on plan modifications, and cost-sharing arrangements with the County. 2027 costs will be developed through the regular budget process.

Ms. Brown stated the aforementioned proposed draft Access Agreement was provided to the Board during Closed Session, and that staff was requesting Board authorization for the General Manager and General Counsel to enter into said agreement contingent upon ongoing negotiations and finalization with Stanislaus County. She added that the County has not been forthcoming with providing necessary and/or requested information.

Public comment was given by Ms. Kyle Dees, Oakdale resident, which detailed her 20-year use of Woodward's recreational amenities; her understanding of the District's dealing with Stanislaus County; and her personal experience and frustration interacting with Stanislaus County's Parks & Recreation Department. She also requested that the District remain transparent in providing the public with updates and timelines to reopen Woodward recreation.

The Board thanked Ms. Dees for her comments, and shared that the District's intent was to engage a third party concessionaire by the October 15 deadline, though negotiations with the County could not implement a plan. Additional Board comments included the District's pride and commitment to transparency; that the District's intent is to reopen Woodward for quality recreational activities; that the District's priority is the protection of Woodward Reservoir and service to its customers; and that SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson is available and can directly answer any questions.

Ms. Brown noted Ms. Dees' concerns and stated that the Board cannot disclose the details of ongoing property negotiation matters with the public, but that the District has been unsuccessful, thus far, in discussions with the County regarding the purchase and/or use of County-owned properties at Woodward Reservoir..

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Van Ryn to approve the following:

- Approve the 2026 Woodward Reservoir transition budget of $240,000.00 – October 16 to December 31, 2026.
- Authorize the General Manager to enter into contracts for procurement of various materials, services, security, and equipment within the approved budget.
- Authorize the General Manager, with review and approval of General Counsel, to enter into various agreements with Stanislaus County Sheriff, for possible services and property lease; and with Stanislaus County regarding reciprocal access, and cost-sharing for transition activities, contingent on reaching mutual agreement among the parties.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #8 – Consider Approval of Facilities and Grounds Supervisor (Woodward Reservoir) Classification

Mr. Rietkerk noted that Item #8 Staff Report regarding approval of Facilities and Grounds Supervisor (Woodward Reservoir) Classification was distributed to the Board during Closed Session. He provided detailed explanations of the proposed Supervisor's role and responsibilities at Woodward Reservoir to coordinate day-to-day reservoir operations; protect District assets; and ensure facilities remain safe, functional and available for future public recreation and District operations following the transition of recreation management. This position will also participate in the rotating on-call pool for irrigation operations supervisors.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that the District will post the job opening internally and promote from within the SSJID team.

A salary survey was conducted on comparable positions with Turlock Irrigation District, Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation, and the City of Manteca. While the external survey data produced an average maximum salary of approximately $109,000.00 and a medium maximum salary of approximately $113,000.00, staff believes the proposed Woodward classification warrants compensation above the survey average due to the unique, temporary

nature of the assignment and the breadth of anticipated responsibilities.

Staff recommended a 5-Step annual salary beginning at $98,724.00 (Step 1) up to $120,000.00 (Step 5). It is anticipated that the position would be filled for six (6) months through the temporary promotion of an internal candidate, with an estimated fiscal impact of $20,000.00.

Board discussion included employee reinstatement once the Woodward Reservoir transition is complete and/or the supervisor position is no longer needed; the focus of the position on duties and responsibilities specifically for Woodward Reservoir; related job classification concepts discussed in the SSJID Organization Design process; and future employment opportunities that may be identified through staffing in this position to meet the Organizational Design and other District needs.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve the Facilities and Grounds Supervisor (Woodward Reservoir) Classification and establish an annual salary range of $98,724.00 to $120,000.00.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #9 – Consider Approval of Annual Compensation for General Manager

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to increase General Manager's annual salary by 5.5 percent (5.5%), retroactively effective the anniversary date of September 21, 2026.

The motion passed 4 to 1 by the following vote:

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

President Spyksma noted that the General Manager has not received a salary increase since 2024, and the approved annual compensation covers the last two (2) years.

Item #10 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board