

**MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 14, 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 ROOS SPYKSMA VAN RYN WESTSTEYN
ABSENT: NONE

Also present were General Manager Peter Rietkerk; General Counsel Mia Brown (via Zoom); 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 \$157,840.55; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$2,451,548.68; and Payroll dated September 19, 2025 in the amount of \$318,112.08, September 19, 2025 in the amount of \$3,691.54, September 22, 2025 in the amount of \$6,041.41, September 26, 2025 in the amount of \$23,119.40, and October 3, 2025 in the amount of \$302,029.10.
- B. Approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2025
- C. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2025
- D. Approval of Consent to SSJID’s Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter APN 229-050-12
- E. Approval of Consent to SSJID’s Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter APN 245-040-17

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn 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 Roos thanked the Division Managers and Maintenance Crews for a successful irrigation season and commented on a blessed water year.

Director Weststeyn expressed thanks to the Division Managers for doing an excellent job during the 2025 irrigation season.

Director Van Ryn thanked the Irrigation Crews for a great water season, and looks forward to the upcoming

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winter construction.

Director Holbrook expressed his thanks to all staff for their work during the 2025 irrigation season.

President Spyksma thanked all SSJID employees for a successful water season. He commented on the improved customer service, noting the maintenance automation updates, and looks forward to the 2025-26 maintenance projects.

Item #2 – Various Reports

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, expressed thanks to the SSJID teams for their excellence addressing customer needs during the irrigation season, and looks forward to winter construction. He noted the aggressive schedule of the upcoming 2025-26 maintenance season.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that the District’s Senior Leaders volunteered at the Manteca Pumpkin Fair during the weekend of October 11-12. Highlights included public interaction, fielding questions regarding the City’s water service, and the expressed support of SSJID’s Retail Electric Project.

Mr. Rietkerk passed around, for Board viewing, multiple cards and notes received from local non-profit organizations thanking SSJID for support and/or sponsorship of various charitable events and/or fundraising activities.

Mr. Rietkerk announced upcoming local non-profit fundraising events including the Manteca Police Chief Foundation Ball on November 1, and the Hope Ministries “Night of Hope” Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner on November 14. Directors interested in attending were instructed to contact SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson, as soon as possible so that she can make the necessary arrangements. Also announced was Ripon’s Main Street Day on October 18 where Senior Leaders will be manning an SSJID booth. The Directors were invited to stop by and show their support.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 25-20-A Regarding Termination of Woodward Reservoir License

Ms. Patterson addressed the Board regarding termination of the Woodward Reservoir License Agreement (Agreement) with Stanislaus County (County), which manages recreational use of the Reservoir pursuant to a Grant of License with the District. She gave a detailed history of the Agreement between SSJID and the County, originally entered into on December 1, 1985, which includes three subsequent (3) amendments. The current Agreement, as amended, ends on January 1, 2036.

Ms. Patterson provided a timeline of communication and/or action since 2022, with the County, to negotiate mutually acceptable amendments to the Agreement in order to continue the long-standing relationship. Negotiations ended in 2023, due to the inability of the parties to reach an agreement reflecting more equitable terms.

Staff evaluated the District’s options to either continue with the County’s management of recreation, or to exercise its right of early termination of the Agreement and consider other recreation management models. Considerations included interaction with the County Parks and Recreation Department during the negotiation process; current fiscal performance and condition of facilities at the Reservoir; public opinion and user reviews

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of Woodward and its current recreational operations; and protection of Woodward's water supply for the District's agricultural and urban customers.

Research and analysis identified long-term potential for the Reservoir to improve property/asset conditions and be profitable under a different management model, which would require termination of the existing agreement. This would require a one (1) year advance notification to the County to terminate the Agreement ending on October 15, 2026. In addition, real property will need to be acquired from the County to provide recreational services at the Reservoir. Future action will include Board authorization to negotiate the acquisition of certain parcels of real property so that SSJID can continue to provide recreational services at Woodward.

Ms. Patterson explained the financial implications of an early termination including a payout of \$2 million dollars, plus a pro-rata expense anticipated to be \$820,967.75 as of October 15, 2026. These costs would be due October 15, 2026. She further explained that the anticipated payback from the cancellation of the Agreement would occur between 8-12 years under a new franchise agreement, and that SSJID could earn between 10- to 15-percent (10-15%) of revenues for franchise fees with a new operator. An estimated five (5) year chart was provided depicting anticipated revenues and expenses, which included improvements to the Reservoir with similar services offered.

Staff recommended that the Board: 1) Approve Resolution No. 25-20-A authorizing the early buy-out and termination of the License Agreement with the County effective October 15, 2026; 2) Direct staff to send a letter to the County, by October 15, 2025, notifying of the District's decision to exercise the buy-out of the County's interest in the Agreement prior to January 1, 2036, and the District's intent to exercise the Early Termination provision of the Agreement; and 3) Authorize staff to negotiate terms related to unwinding and transitioning the management of Woodward Reservoir recreation from the County to SSJID with final terms, including property negotiations, to be brought back to the Board for final approval.

The Board thanked Ms. Patterson for her diligence, research and analysis, and thorough staff report. Additional Board discussion included the physical decline of Woodward Reservoir and recreational facilities; the difficult communication process with the County; the District's priority to protect the water for its customers and irrigation; and that the best scenario would be termination of the Agreement.

Public comment was provided by David Vickers, Radio Control Flyers Unlimited (RCFU) Club Member. Mr. Vickers addressed the Board, explained RCFU's activity at or in the proximity of Woodward Reservoir, and stated that all RCFU members were tested and certified to operate the radio-controlled airplanes.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to:

1. Approve Resolution No. 25-20-A Authorizing Early Termination of Grant of License to Stanislaus County for Recreational Use of Woodward Reservoir.
2. Direct staff to send a letter to the County, by October 15, 2025, notifying the County of the District's decision to exercise the buy-out of the County's interest in the Agreement prior to January 1, 2036, and the District's intent to exercise the Early Termination provision of the Agreement.
3. Authorize staff to negotiate terms related to unwinding and transitioning the management of Woodward Reservoir recreation from the County to SSJID with final terms, including real property acquisitions, to be brought back to the Board for final approval.

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**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 25-20-A**

**RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
AUTHORIZING EARLY TERMINATION OF GRANT OF LICENSE TO STANISLAUS COUNTY
FOR RECREATIONAL USES OF WOODWARD RESERVOIR**

WHEREAS, the County of Stanislaus (“County”) has been given management responsibilities of the Recreational Facilities at Woodward Reservoir through a Grant of License from South San Joaquin Irrigation District (“SSJID”) dated December 1, 1985, and as amended March 15, 2001, August 23, 2005, and December 20, 2022 (License Agreement); and

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 1 to the Grant of License required SSJID and the County to initiate good faith negotiations on or before June 1, 2022, to modify the terms of the Grant of License, and allow the County to continue to provide recreation at Woodward Reservoir, upon mutually acceptable new or modified terms; and

WHEREAS, the County and the SSJID were unable to reach agreement on mutually acceptable terms to modify the License Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the SSJID Board of Directors has concluded that early termination of the Grant of License to the County for these services and provision of new recreational services will improve stewardship of the recreational assets at Woodward Reservoir, provide for more reinvestment of capital into Woodward recreation facilities, increase revenue sharing opportunities, and will be in the best interest of SSJID constituents; and

WHEREAS, the existing Section 1.c.ii of Amendment No. 1 of the License Agreement provides for such early termination; and

WHEREAS, SSJID is committed to the protection of water quality in Woodward Reservoir for the benefit of the residents of the cities of Manteca, Lathrop, and Tracy who receive treated drinking water from SSJID, and SSJID’s agricultural customers who receive surface water supplies for irrigation of approximately 50,000 acres in the District; and

WHEREAS, SSJID wishes to coordinate with the County in good faith negotiations toward an orderly transition of facilities and property interests at Woodward Reservoir so that recreation may continue for the benefit of local residents and the general public.

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

1. The General Manager is authorized and directed to submit this Resolution, along with a formal letter to the County to complete the required advance notification for early termination of the License Agreement between the County and SSJID by October 15, 2025, setting the termination date of the License as October 15, 2026.
2. The Board further authorizes staff to begin negotiations regarding real property interests necessary for the continuation of recreational uses at Woodward Reservoir, with acquisition terms to be brought back to the SSJID Board for approval.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board of Directors at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 14th of October, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

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

Item #4 – Consider Approval of SSJID 2026 Health Plan Recommendations

Mr. Don Thornburg, SSJID Human Resources Specialist, 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 2026 monthly premiums for ACWA, Special District Risk Management Association (SDRMA), and California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS).

Mr. Thornburg 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. He noted the 2026 rate increases for Anthem PPO and CDHP (10%), Anthem HMO (5%), Kaiser HMO (4.8%), and Kaiser CDHP (4.28%).

Mr. Thornburg stated that contributing factors to the increased 2026 health insurance premiums are due to the current economy, specifically labor rates and cost of goods. He noted plans to offer one-on-one meetings with employees to answer questions and fully discuss options, and thanked the Board for the District contributions to the Health Savings Account (HSA) offered to employees.

Board discussion included the benefits of enrolling in the District’s HSA.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Van Ryn 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 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Board Calendar for November and December 2025

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding the board meeting schedule for November and December 2025, and potential conflicts due to office closure in observance of the Veteran’s Day Holiday on November 11, and the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. He noted Board action, in years past, to either reduce the board calendar in November and December of each year to one meeting or keep the regularly scheduled two meetings per month.

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Staff recommended the Board cancel the November 11 board meeting in observance of the Veteran’s Day Holiday office closure; schedule a special board meeting on November 10 or November 18, if needed, in replacement of the November 11 meeting; and hold the regularly scheduled board meeting on November 25. For December, staff recommended to keep the regular board meeting scheduled for December 9; cancel the second board meeting scheduled for December 23; and schedule a special board meeting on December 16, if needed, in replacement of the December 23 meeting.

Board discussion concluded that the special board meeting in November would be scheduled for November 10, if needed.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Weststeyn to cancel the November 11 board meeting in observance of the Veteran’s Day Holiday office closure; schedule a special board meeting on November 10, if needed, in replacement of the November 11 meeting; hold the regularly scheduled board meeting on November 25; keep the regular board meeting scheduled for December 9; cancel the second board meeting scheduled for December 23; schedule a special board meeting on December 16, if needed, in replacement of the December 23 meeting; and authorize the Board President to call and/or cancel any special meetings as necessary in November and December, should the Board need to consider urgent or unanticipated District business.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 9:40 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 9:50 a.m.

Item #6 – CLOSED SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:48 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 1:49 p.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board