MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 27, 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 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 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

Ms. Kyle Dees, Oakdale resident and Woodward Reservoir recreational facility patron, addressed the Board and recapped her request for transparency and updates on reopening Woodward recreation, which she gave during Public Comment at the October 13 board meeting. She cited cost, timeline, and scope of work for projects named in the SSJID Water Master Plan (WMP), which she associated with the District's plans for Woodward recreation. SSJID General Counsel Mia Brown stated that Ms. Dees' comment was related to an agendized Closed Session item, therefore allowing the Board to address the comment. President Spyksma responded to Ms. Dees that while some of her facts were correct, the context and comments regarding Woodward's closure were extremely incorrect and untrue. He added that one future project she noted was the Woodward Dam Spillway project, which is State required to improve dam safety, and has no relation to Woodward Reservoir recreation. President Spyksma invited Ms. Dees to contact Ms. Katie Patterson, SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager, to discuss and obtain correct information.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Checks in the amount of $106,459.51; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of $1,101,460.34; and Payroll dated October 7, 2026 in the amount of $6,573.64, October 9, 2026 in the amount of $111.05, October 9, 2026 in the amount of $338.48, October 16, 2026 in the amount of $321,774.08, and October 16, 2026 in the amount of $3,693.16.

B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2026

C. Approval of the Special Board Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2026

D. Accept and File Notice of Completion for the Main Office Pavement Improvement Project (SSJID-26003)

E. Consent to SSJID's Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter, APN 226-110-23

F. Approve Master Encroachment Agreement with Charter Communication

Director Holbrook referenced Page 3, Item 5.C., and inquired on Line 1, reading… "Following completion of installation, MID shall provide…." Ms. Brown responded that the agreement is created from a document template, and that "MID" shall be replaced with "Charter."

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #1 – Directors' Reports

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the San Joaquin County Advisory Water Commission on October 21. Discussion included El Niño preparation.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the State of the County event, on October 14, held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Manteca. Highlights included booths and/or representatives providing information on County resources, and the Board of Supervisors meeting discussion on County finances.

Director Holbrook wished all a safe 2026-27 construction season, and cautioned all about road safety.

Director Holbrook referenced the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Manager's Report, dated October 27, 2026, Section General Updates, Item 2, and acknowledged WTP Lab Tech Brooke Bussell on obtaining her Distribution Operator Grade 2 certification. Though not required for her position, her commitment to professional development was to be commended.

Director Weststeyn reported that he attended the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) Board meeting on October 21. Discussion included the SSJGSA preliminary 2027 budget, and the Well Mitigation Program in accordance with the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and a Department of Water Resources (DWR) requirement.

Director Weststeyn commended staff for the successful closing of the 2026 Irrigation Season, and wished all a safe winter Maintenance Season.

Director Roos thanked the Division Managers and Maintenance workers for their hard work during the Irrigation Season.

Director Roos stated that he will be attending the SSJID Annual Safety Day on October 29.

President Spyksma reported that he participated in Ripon's Annual "Main Street Day" on October 17, an SSJID sponsored event. He added that he worked in the District's booth, and addressed visitors' comments and questions regarding status of SSJID's Powered by Purpose project, and the potential for District-supplied drinking water to the City of Ripon.

President Spyksma referenced the Electric Utility Manager's Report, dated October 27, 2026, Item 2.B. and noted Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) formal notice stating that SSJID is no longer eligible for the B-6 rate plan, and will be transitioned to a new Business Time-of-Use rate plan, increasing the District's energy costs by approximately $462,000.00 annually.

President Spyksma congratulated District staff on a job well done during the 2026 Irrigation Season.

Item #2 – Various Reports

The Managers' Reports, for October 27, 2026, were provided in electronic form to the Board on October 23, 2026.

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, announced SSJID's Safety Day, to be held on October 29, which will include a keynote speaker, safety presentations, and safety-related vendors. He thanked the Board for their support of this annual District event.

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding the status of the Woodward Reservoir transition from Stanislaus County to the District. He noted that the Electric Utility Manager's Report contained the most comprehensive updates, detailed the signage and security measures that have been placed, and stated that the District continues its coordination efforts with the County. In summary, Mr. Rietkerk thanked all staff for the team effort working to make Woodward Reservoir reflective of SSJID's ongoing commitment and service to its customers.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he attended the US Committee on Irrigation & Drainage (USCID) 2026 Conference, held October 20-23, in Reno, NV. He recognized SSJID Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth for his seat as a USCID Board Member; both Mr. Killingsworth and SSJID Assistant Engineer Kent Norman for their positions on the USCID Planning Committee; and SSJID Senior Engineer Chad Parsons for his conference presentation on the District's spray-cast concrete lining program including implementation, methods, material and costs. Mr. Rietkerk proudly congratulated the team on their excellent work, and for being outstanding representatives of SSJID.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that the weekly Senior Leadership meetings have been discussing organizational and strategic priorities focusing on current versus future sustainability. A presentation will be provided to the Board at a future meeting.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – Step 4 Grievance Hearing: Equipment and Class A Incentive Pay

Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Finance and Administration Manager, addressed the Board and explained that International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1245 Business Representative Jessica Stillwell, District employee grievant, and/or District Management staff would present their case on the Step 4 grievance IBEW filed with the District, on September 18, 2026, concerning equipment and Class A incentive pay. She noted that copies of letters between the District and IBEW were included in the Agenda Item #3 Staff Report, and the Board need not render a decision today. The Board will need to render a decision, and convey said decision by November 26, 2026, in accordance with grievance procedure.

Ms. Williams provided detailed explanations of SSJID's compensation practices, eligibility practices, and the District's internal payroll list of eligible employees. She stated that the grievant is not on the list of eligible employees.

Mr. James Gallegos, grievant and WTP Operator, addressed the Board and cited imposed terms proposed in SSJID/IBEW 2024 negotiations stating that "Employees who have a Commercial California Driver's License (CDL) and have completed the necessary training and/or received the proper certifications, and are authorized to operate equipment, will received Equipment Operator Pay in the amount of 2-percent (2%) of their base hourly rate of pay." He stated that he had been instructed by his supervisor to operate the equipment, therefore should be paid the Class A incentive pay.

Ms. Stillwell addressed the Board and reiterated Mr. Gallegos' comments about the language contained in the SSJID/IBEW Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding a Commercial CDL, completed training, 2% incentive pay, and the supervisor's instruction to operate the heavy equipment. She questioned whether the supervisor's request provided the necessary authorization and entitlement to the Class A incentive pay.

Board discussion included the fact that Mr. Gallegos is not on the list of eligible employees; the SSJID WTP Operator Job Description includes operation of equipment; all District WTP Operators run equipment as per their job description; a Class A CDL is not a requirement to operate equipment; a Class A CDL is not a requirement of the SSJID WTP Operator Job Description; the description of the heavy equipment in question; the IBEW grievance process did not attempt to place Mr. Gallegos on the payroll list of eligible employees; the Board's intent for "smooth" relationships with District employees; and future consideration of incentive pay for heavy equipment operators.

To summarize, Ms. Williams clarified that the internal payroll list of eligible employees is Management's right; the internal payroll list of eligible employees was discussed in MOU negotiations and provided to IBEW on or around March 15, 2026; CalPERS language defines operational eligibility as "…continuous, routinely, and consistently…" as was not the case with the grievant; and that some SSJID Irrigation Maintenance Workers and Operators do possess Class A CDLs to transport as well as operate the District's heavy equipment.

Item #4 – Consider Approval of SSJID Lock Out Tag Out Policy Update

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, addressed the Board regarding approval of the SSJID Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Program Revision 1. He provided background on the LOTO Program that was adopted by the Board in March 2025, and explained that pursuant to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), the California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) requires employers working with hazardous energy sources to have a Lock Out/Tag Out Program.

Mr. Nakagawa also provided a situation leading up to the proposed revisions to the LOTO Program, whereby WTP contractors hired by the District had their own LOTO Program, as required by Cal/OSHA. The contractor pointed out that they could not technically default to SSJID's LOTO Program, and needed to adhere to their own LOTO Program. The proposed edits contained in SSJID LOTO Program Rev 1 call for direct coordination between the contractor and District staff in the formulation of a single job specific LOTO Procedure for each task, piece of equipment, or District facility to ensure that both the contractor and SSJID staff are compliant with Cal/OSHA and that both parties work from a specific and clearly delineated set of procedures.

Board discussion requested the inclusion of language pertaining to contractors that do not have their own LOTO Program, and the best approach to reduce or eliminate any District liability.

Ms. Brown stated that she had discussed the concept of the LOTO Program revisions but had not yet seen nor reviewed the proposed redline version. Staff recommended that the Board table the agenda item to a future board meeting.

Board consensus agreed to table the agenda item to a future board meeting.

Item #5 – Quarterly Presentation of Financial Statements through September 30, 2026

Ms. Williams addressed the Board and gave an oral presentation of the quarterly Financial Statements through September 30, 2026. She provided detailed explanations of the balance sheets; net positions; total assets; liabilities; revenues, expenses and changes in net position; non-operating revenues; irrigation revenues and expenses; cash flows; reserve allocations and balances; actual versus year-to-date budget comparisons; and breakdown of cash

investments by category.

Board discussion included irrigation sales and requested data correlating revenue with amounts of water delivered, by acre-foot. Ms. Williams stated that she would include the requested information on the next month's financial statements.

Item #6 – Quarterly Presentation of Investment Report through September 30, 2026

Ms. Williams gave an oral presentation of the quarterly Investment Report through September 30, 2026. She provided detailed explanations of the components of cash and investments, interest income year-to-date and monthly, amounts invested by yield to maturity, investment holdings, treasury yield curve, investment activity, maturities schedule, employment rates, and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Rates of Inflation twelve (12) month average of 3.2-percent (3.2%).

Item #7 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Board Calendar for November and December 2026

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding the board meeting calendars for November and December, stating that past Board action had, at times, pared down the two (2) regular monthly meetings to one (1) to accommodate the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and/or scheduling conflicts. He noted that there were no immediate conflicts with holding the two regularly scheduled meetings in November and December, therefore staff did not recommend any changes to the meeting calendar unless the Board could provide information regarding the absence of a quorum.

Following no further discussion from the Board, the meeting calendar for November and December will remain as scheduled on November 10, November 24, December 8, and December 22, 2026.

It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 10:26 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:45 a.m.

Item #8 – CLOSED SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:46 p.m.

Item #9 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Disclosure of reportable actions taken in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1:

Item #3 – Step 4 Grievance Hearing: Equipment and Class A Incentive Pay

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to deny the grievance filed with the District on September 18, 2026 regarding equipment and Class A incentive pay. Written notification will be issued no later than November 26, 2026.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #10 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board