

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024
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 Weststeyn called the meeting to order. Director Spyksma led the flag salute. Upon roll call the following members were noted present:

DIRECTORS: HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA 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 \$215,317.30; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$1,476,080.57; and Payroll dated October 17, 2024 in the amount of \$320,672.65, October 17, 2024 in the amount of \$1,065.42, October 17, 2024 in the amount of \$3,716.35, and November 1, 2024 in the amount of \$303,865.99.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2024
- C. Approval of Consent to SSJID Entry of Property to Read and to Maintain Flow Meter, APN 228-060-26
- D. Accept and File Notice of Completion for the Solar Farm Repower Project PV1 Task Order 1
- E. Accept Grant of Easement from Roger J. Bianchi for Lateral X-W Connection Pipeline

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

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES: HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #1 – Directors’ Reports

Director Roos reported that he attended SSJID’s Annual Safety Day event on November 7. He commended SSJID Environmental Compliance and Safety Officer Walt Luihn on his coordination of the event, and highlighted the guest speaker, Brandon Schroeder, and his “Believe in Safety” presentation.

Director Roos expressed his gratefulness to live in the United States and be allowed the privilege of a voting system and election process.

Director Kamper stated that he recently visited C&G Shelling, in Ripon, and that the owner is experiencing

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

issues which Mr. Kamper would discuss in Closed Session.

Director Kamper shared that he recently visited the California Department of Fish and Wildlife “Mokelumne River Hatchery” and commented on the abundance of fish he witnessed climbing the fish ladder.

Director Spyksma reported that he attended the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) Commission meeting on November 4. The Commissioners welcomed newly hired SJTA Executive Director (ED) Andree Lee, who will begin working on the Strategic Plan. Director Spyksma commended the SJTA Member General Managers, and SJTA staff for their diligence in the ED recruitment process.

Director Spyksma reported that he attended the District’s Annual Safety Day on November 7, acknowledged Mr. Luihn and staff on the well done event, and opined that he enjoyed the interaction with SSJID team members.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the Manteca Police Chief Foundation’s “A Night Among Heroes” Black Tie Ball, on November 2, which highlighted the Foundation’s ongoing support and contributions to the community. He commented on the very nice evening, and tremendous turnout of attendees including Director Spyksma, SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk, and SSJID Electric Utility Manager Bill Schwandt.

President Weststeyn reported that he attended the SJTA Commission meeting on November 4, reiterated the onboarding of the new ED, Andree Lee, and stated that he is looking forward to her work on the SJTA Strategic Plan.

President Weststeyn reported that he attended the Tri-Dam Project Advisory Committee meeting on November 4. Discussion included Tulloch Dam safety issues.

President Weststeyn reported that he attended the SSJID Safety Day on November 7, and commented on the excellent event and dynamic presentation given by Brandon Schroeder.

Item #2 – Various Reports

Mr. Rietkerk noted SSJID’s Annual Safety Day event and expressed appreciation for Mr. Luihn’s recommendation to obtain Brandon Schroeder as the keynote speaker to present about safety responsibility. He acknowledged Mr. Luihn, SSJID Executive Assistant/Engineering and Legal Dawn Driesen, SSJID Office Support/Water Conservation Coordinator Julie Vrieling, SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson, SSJID Clerk of the Board/Executive Assistant Danielle Barney, and unnamed staff who contributed towards this year’s successful event.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that the City of Ripon (City) Council meeting, on November 12, will include discussion and possible action regarding a Cost Reimbursement Agreement with SSJID for a capital fee study on the City’s potential to receive water from the Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP). He noted discussions held with the City to utilize the WTP, and capital investments. SSJID will finance and do all things necessary to conduct the proposed study (e.g. Requests for Proposals, hire consultant, etc), and City would reimburse the District for expenses incurred. Mr. Rietkerk added that the work product will better inform both parties during negotiations of a water supply agreement.

ACTION CALENDAR

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Item #3 – Legislative Update Presentation by Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

Ms. Patterson addressed the Board and stated that representatives from Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange (SYASL) would be providing updates on the last two (2) years of legislature sessions including water rights, and groundwater bills. She introduced SYASL Partners Karen Lange and Andrew Antwih, as well as SYASL Legislative Aide Clifton Wilson who had been instrumental in compiling the monthly legislative reports, and the coordination and scheduling of meetings between SSJID, SYASL, and state officials.

Ms. Lange addressed the Board, reported that the State Legislature adjourned on August 31 and reconvenes in December, and provided status and/or updates on the following:

- Senate Bill (SB) 1390: Groundwater Recharge: Flood flows: Diversion – Failed passage.
- Assembly Bill (AB) 98: Redefining California Warehouses – Passed. Will affect agriculture.
- SB 1206: Eliminate Most Super-Pollutant Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – Signed by Governor Newsom.
- AB X2-1: Energy: Transportation Fuels: Inventories: Turnaround and Maintenance – Passed.
- Proposition 4: Authorizes Bonds for Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Protection, and Protecting Communities and Natural Lands from Climate Risks – Passed. Allows the state to sell a \$10 billion bond for natural resources and climate activities. The bond money would be used for grants to local governments, Native American tribes, not-for-profit organizations, and businesses towards drought resiliency and water supply projects.

Mr. Antwih addressed the Board, stated that the new Legislature Members will be sworn in on December 2, totaling a 25-percent (25%) turnover in the Assembly, and provided status and/or updates on the following:

- Energy: California’s “growing pains” regarding electricity costs, electricity will not meet the growing demand, and electric bills have increased 110-percent (110%) over the last ten years.
- Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order asking the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Energy Commission (CEC), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS) to examine, re-evaluate, and identify underperforming programs, and return unused program funds to ratepayers. Could potentially cut clean energy programs.

In conclusion, Ms. Lange noted that the State Delegates representing SSJID, namely Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman and Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua, were wonderful to work with, and had proven themselves to be extremely responsive and supportive of the District’s water, energy, and/or agriculture issues.

Item #4 – Consider Approval of Proposal from Carollo for Preparation of the Water Treatment Plant Phase 2 Preliminary Engineering Report

Mr. Justin Ashworth, WTP Operations Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding approval of the proposal submitted by Carollo Engineers, Inc. (Carollo), to prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the WTP Phase 2 Project. He explained that the WTP currently operates at 80-percent (80%) capacity; the total plant capacity is 40-million gallons per day (MGD); and that a Phase 2 expansion would increase the Plant’s capacity to 60 MGD.

Mr. Ashworth explained the scope of work regarding preparation of the PER, which includes review of historical and foundational data from existing reports and analyses, correlation of historical municipal growth with increased WTP demands, and forecasting future WTP demands.

Staff issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to eight (8) consulting firms for the preparation of the PER, with Carollo being the sole firm to respond. Carollo submitted a proposal for \$69,450.00 to satisfy the scope of work

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

provided in the RFP. Further discussions with Carollo determined that evaluating a phased expansion approach would be beneficial to explore potential advantages of implementing Phase 2 components incrementally, offering flexible options to accommodate growing water demands. The optional review would cost an additional \$30,000.00, revising Carollo’s proposal fee to \$99,450.00. Mr. Ashworth noted that the PER was included in the 2025 Capital Budget, as approved by the Board.

Mr. Ashworth noted Carollo’s professionalism, excellent quality of work, and the positive experiences working with the company on past projects.

Staff recommended Board approval of Carollo’s proposal to prepare a PER for the WTP Phase 2 Project for the amount of \$99,450.00, and authorize the General Manager to approve a Professional Services Agreement.

Board discussion included the positive opinions of the WTP’s participating Cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca, and Tracy; that the Capital expense is a WTP expense to be billed to the participating Cities; the probable increase of WTP capacity; and the City of Ripon’s interest to receive water from the WTP in the future.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Kamper to approve the proposal submitted by Carollo Engineers, Inc. to prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report for the WTP Phase 2 Project for the amount of \$99,450.00, and authorize the General Manager to approve a Professional Services Agreement.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

Item #5 – Consider Letter of Support for the Stockton East Water District 2024 WaterSmart – Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program Application

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Manager, addressed the Board regarding approval to provide an SSJID letter of support for the Stockton East Water District’s (SEWD) 2024 WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Grant (WEEG) Program application to fund the SEWD Upper Farmington Canal Lining Project (Project). The Project would improve drought, climate change, and water delivery resiliency; improve flow measurement; and reduce vegetation maintenance.

Mr. Nakagawa noted that SEWD’s grant application directly competes with SSJID’s WEEG grant application for the District’s Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project, but emphasized that any funds awarded to member agencies of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) will alleviate funding needed for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) required Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) projects. SEWD provided a letter of support for SSJID’s WEEG Program application.

Staff recommended that the Board authorize and direct the President of the Board to sign a letter of support for SEWD’s WaterSmart – WEEG Program Application.

Board discussion included the benefits to the Eastern San Joaquin region, regardless of who receives grant funds for projects.

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Spyksma and seconded by Director Holbrook to authorize and direct the President of the board to sign a letter of support for the Stockton East Water District’s WaterSmart – Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program application.

The motion passed 4 to 1 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	KAMPER
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

Item #6 – Discuss and consider Approval of Developer’s Agreement with San Joaquin Council of Governments for the Highway 99/120 Improvements and Austin Road Overcrossing Reconstruction Project; and Delegate Authority to Staff to Approve Encroachment Permit for Same

Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, addressed the Board regarding approval of the San Joaquin Council of Governments’ (SJCOG) SR 99-120 Connector Project (Project) Developer’s Agreement, and to delegate authority to District Engineering staff to approve a pending Encroachment Permit upon resolution of outstanding issues with submitted plans, and satisfaction of all District requirements.

Mr. Chad Parsons, SSJID Associate Civil Engineer, provided background of the Project introduced to the District, three (3) years ago, via a Common Use Agreement between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and SSJID. He explained that SJCOG is now undertaking the Project, which requires SJCOG to remove and replace existing SSJID facilities (a segment of Lateral Tb), as well as place encroachments within SSJID easements/right of way. SJCOG has provided a Developer’s Agreement, as well as a retainer for fees.

Mr. Parsons stated that upon initial review of the Project Plans, issues were identified regarding interference with District facilities. A revised set of plans has been received, though not yet reviewed. He added that the Project will have a minimal impact to District facilities, requiring the removal and replacement of portions of Lateral Tb, and approval of a Structure Permit.

Ms. Brown clarified that the Utility Agreement is between Caltrans and SSJID; SJCOG is funding the Project; SSJID’s easement interests are first-in-time; and Caltrans is legally responsible for the full costs of replacing SSJID’s facilities.

Board discussion included confirmation that all pipes are within SSJID’s existing easement; all pipes are cast-in-place pipes; and a 10-foot fill will be applied over District pipes.

The Board requested to view drawings of the Project configuration, to which Mr. Parsons responded that he would forward a snapshot of the Project to the Directors via email.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to approve the Developer’s Agreement with San Joaquin Council of Governments for the Highway 99/120 Improvements and Austin Road Overcrossing Reconstruction Project; and delegate authority to staff to approve an Encroachment Permit for same.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AYES: HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

Item #7 – Discussion and Possible Action of Board Appointment for an SSJID Voting Delegate at the 2024 Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) Board Meeting, and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Membership Meeting to be Held at the ACWA 2024 Fall Conference

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board and noted that the Board President appoints Directors to various outside boards, commissions, or committees, as well as District committees, on an annual basis or as needed should there be a change of Board Members. The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) will host its bi-annual conference, from December 2-5, 2024, and conduct the Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) Board meeting on December 2, and the ACWA Membership meeting on December 4.

SSJID has been a longstanding member of ACWA and JPIA. ACWA and JPIA require their members to designate a voting delegate to represent and vote on behalf of their respective agency at these meetings. The two (2) Directors appointed as District representatives to ACWA and JPIA are unable to attend the 2024 Fall Conference. Communication among the Board and staff have determined that Director Roos is attending the conference and available to represent the District at both the JPIA and ACWA meetings.

Staff recommended that the Board appoint Director Roos as the SSJID voting delegate for the JPIA Board meeting on December 2, and the ACWA Membership meeting on December 4, at the ACWA 2024 Fall Conference.

Board discussion included ACWA’s proposed amendments to its bylaws, which will be voted on at the Membership meeting (included in agenda Item #7 Staff Report – Attachment C), and authorized and directed the SSJID delegate to cast the following specific votes:

- Amendment 6, Article 8, Special Council, Committees, and Task Forces – Vote “No.”
- Amendment 10, Article 9, Meeting of Members – Vote “No.”
- Amendment 12, Various, References to ACWA – Probable “No” vote, though clarification was requested. Mr. Rietkerk stated he would reach out to SSJID’s ACWA representative to clarify the proposed changes for a more informed vote. He would present the new information at the Board meeting on November 26.

The JPIA Board Packet, containing agenda items requiring JPIA Board action, is provided two (2) weeks prior to the JPIA board meeting. Once received, Ms. Barney can forward the JPIA Board Packet to the SSJID Board for the Directors’ review and voting decision(s).

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Spyksma to appoint Director David Roos as the SSJID voting delegate for the JPIA Board meeting on December 2, and the ACWA Membership meeting on December 4; and authorize and direct Director Roos to cast specific votes for ACWA’s proposed amendments to its bylaws as listed above.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AYES: HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA 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 10:25 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:36 a.m.

Item #8 – CLOSED SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:11 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:
There were no reportable actions taken in Closed Session.

Item #10 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board