

**MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 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. Director Holbrook 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 \$35,577.09; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$3,475,248.88; and Payroll dated November 28, 2025 in the amount of \$299,990.49, November 28, 2025 in the amount of \$3,691.54, and November 28, 2025 in the amount of \$1,056.34.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2025

Amended draft minutes for the November 25, 2025 regular meeting of the SSJID Board of Directors were distributed to the Board to reflect a corrected Board vote for agenda Items Consent, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8A and 8B. The amendment corrected the voting for all the above-mentioned items, with Director Holbrook's votes changed from "No" to "Absent."

- C. Approval of Assignment of Encroachment Agreement from Brocchini Family Partnership to Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
- D. Approval of Notice of Termination and Voiding of Recorded Agreement ("South San Joaquin Irrigation District Pipeline Maintenance Agreement" with Austin Ranch, recorded January 22, 1996)

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

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 Holbrook shared about a recent personal trip to Tennessee and noted the similarity in the cold weather temperatures.

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Director Holbrook expressed excitement for the end of a successful 2025, and moving forward with Capital Improvement projects.

Director Van Ryn thanked staff for their hard work, and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Director Weststeyn thanked the crews for the work they perform efficiently and safely, and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Director Roos reported that he made a site visit to observe the work crews are performing on the District's KD line. He described the piece of equipment used to pump water into the pipes, power wash, then vacuum the water back out.

Director Roos thanked the Nick C DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP) crews for their work providing clean water to District customers.

Director Roos wished all a Merry Christmas.

President Spyksma reported that he attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) 2025 Fall Conference, from December 2 – 4, 2025, in San Diego, CA. He commented on the good event, and a more congenial atmosphere among water districts from the northern versus southern regions of the State, due to increased awareness of needs.

President Spyksma reported that he attended the ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) Board meeting on December 1. He noted the growing membership of the JPIA, and a new JPIA District Office being constructed in Roseville.

**Item #2 – Various Reports**

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, reported that a District-wide Growers' Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for February 5, 2026, at 9:00 AM. The location is to be determined with consideration being given to the District's Board Room, Manteca Transit Center, Ripon Council Chambers, or a local grower's barn/shop structure. He encouraged the Directors to reach out to local growers within their Division who might consider hosting the SSJID "Special" Board meeting.

Mr. Rietkerk elaborated on potential content for the District-wide Growers' Meeting including the SSJID Water Master Plan; Canyon Tunnel; Organizational Design; Woodward Reservoir; Financial Overview; Water Rights and the Water Quality Control Plan; Retail Electric Project; and/or Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Public Outreach. He provided the Board with a form ranking possible Growers Workshop topics, and requested that the Directors complete and submit following today's meeting.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #3 – Presentation by SSJID Lobbyists Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange**

Ms. Katie Patterson, SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager, addressed the Board and stated that representatives from Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange (SYASL) would be providing updates on 2025 legislature sessions. She introduced SYASL Partners Karen Lange and Andrew Antwih.

Mr. Antwih addressed the Board and reported on past 2025, and upcoming 2026 legislative updates including

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the State’s fiscal outlook and projected \$18 billion deficit; leadership changes in the State Assembly; the California Air Resources Board (CARB) “Cap-and-Trade Program;” the CARB Advanced Clean Fleets Program; California Proposition 4 – Parks, Environment, Energy and Water Bond Measure authorizing \$3.5 billion in the 2025-26 Spending Plan; and changes to streamline California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

Ms. Lange addressed the Board and provided updates on water issues including the revised CEQA requirements relative to the State Water Resources Control Board’s “Water Quality Control Plan;” the Delta Conveyance Project (“Delta Tunnel”); the Golden Mussel infestation and \$20 million allocated to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to research and eradicate the invasive species; and recent legislative indictments.

Ms. Lange noted that the State Delegates representing SSJID 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.

Board discussion included California’s recent “Energy and Affordability” legislative package relative to SSJID’s Retail Electric Project.

**Item #4 – Consider Approval of Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Chemical Supply Purchase (2026-2028)**

Mr. Jeremy Ellsworth, WTP Chief Plant Operator, addressed the Board regarding the chemical bid selections for 2026. He explained that the WTP operates using specific chemicals to treat raw water and provide drinking water for the municipalities it serves, and that the chemicals are supplied at a guaranteed price by vendors through a Chemical Supply Agreement over a three (3) year period. The current chemical supply agreement(s) will expire at 11:59 PM on December 31, 2025.

Mr. Ellsworth explained the bid process, and detailed each vendor, their product and cost. The 2026 WTP budget allocated \$1,239,322.00 in the Chemical Account, totaling an approximate \$3.6 million for a 3-year contract.

Board discussion requested an annual escalator report depicting periodic price and/or payment increases.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Holbrook to accept and approve the bid selections for the WTP 2026-2028 chemical supply.

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 Award of Contract for SSJID Drain 11 – Lateral W333dd Pipe and Control Box Replacement Emergency Project**

Mr. Chad Parsons, SSJID Senior Engineer, addressed the Board regarding approval of the Drain 11/Lateral W333dd Control Box Replacement Emergency Project (Project #25017).

Mr. Parsons explained that a sinkhole was discovered at Drain 11 near Lateral W333dd, and inspection identified that the 48-inch diameter unreinforced cast-in-place pipe was severely damaged with root intrusion from the

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landowner's almond trees planted within the District's easement. A portion of the Drain 11 pipeline was also damaged at the Lateral W333dd crossing adjacent to the Control Box. Further investigation found the Control Box was built above a degraded 36-inch diameter corrugated pipe, making the Control Box and trench unstable and inaccessible. The corrugated pipe is suspected to be the original drain pipe from Lateral W built in the 1980s. Staff will be removing the corrugated pipe up to Nile Road, abandoning with slurry, and removing the Control Box and associated pipe.

Mr. Parsons noted that the Control Box and pipeline are crucial for providing and collecting water along the entire Lateral W system, which serves over 2,700 acres and is one of the most over-demanded pipelines in the District.

Mr. Parsons explained the scope of work to dewater, construct a new Control Box with backfill, and install approximately 80 lineal feet (LF) of 48-inch Rubber Gasketed Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RGRCP), and 42-inch RGRCP with collars. District crews will follow up with the installation of the vents, gates, grating, railing, ladders, hardware, and removal/abandonment of remaining Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP). The property owner has been coordinating with staff to remove the remaining trees within the easements of Drain 11 and Lateral W333dd by January 1, 2026, to prevent further damage to the District's facilities.

Staff requested proposals from Knife River Construction (KRC) and Arnaudo Construction (Arnaudo). Mr. Parsons verbally provided quotes received from KRC for approximately \$250K, and Arnaudo for approximately \$308K. He noted that both proposals were for a lesser amount than requested for Board approval and that a lesser amount could be approved.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Drain 11/Lateral W3333dd Control Box Replacement Emergency Project for the amount of \$250K (KRC) or \$308K (Arnaudo); authorize the General Manager to award and execute an Emergency Contract in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.00; and authorize the General Manager to approve change orders up to 10-percent (10%) of the contract amount.

Board discussion included approving the Project for the original requested amount of \$480,700.00 for contingency purposes.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Van Ryn to approve the Drain 11/Lateral W3333dd Control Box Replacement Emergency Project for the amount of \$480,000.00; authorize the General Manager to award and execute an Emergency Contract in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.00; and authorize the General Manager to approve change orders up to 10-percent (10%) of the contract amount.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**Item #6 – Consider Inviting Bids for Ag Lease of 33.4 Acre Parcel Located at Northeast Corner of Austin Road and Louise Avenue, Manteca (APNs 208-070-24, 35 & 36)**

Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, addressed the Board regarding the District-owned 33.4 acre parcel of agricultural property located at the northeast corner of Austin Road and Louise Avenue in Manteca. She explained that the District has, historically, leased the property to local growers, and that the current tenant has

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opted to not renew the Agricultural Lease with SSJID.

Ms. Brown explained the competitive selection process with the award of lease based upon the highest price offered per acre. In the event of a tie, the lessee will be selected by coin-toss or other impartial manner. The deadline to submit the Offer for Lease of Agricultural Property is December 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM. It was noted that bids received from parties with outstanding balances owed for water charges and/or existing or repeated violations of the District's water Rules & Regulations may be rejected.

Staff recommended that the Board authorize staff to implement procedures for offering the District-owned property for short-term agricultural lease. The term is a one (1) year lease with the option to renew for two (2) additional one-year terms, by mutual agreement. The lease will be entered into by the parties, effective January 1, 2026.

Board discussion included the "Ag Land for Lease" advertising/notification methods utilized.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Roos to authorize staff to invite bids for agricultural lease of the 33.4 acre parcel located at the northeast corner of Austin Road and Louise Avenue in Manteca, San Joaquin County Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 208-070-24, 35 & 36.

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 – Consider Approval of City of Manteca Request for Temporary Out-of-District Stormwater Discharge on As-Needed Basis**

Mr. Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Engineering Department Manager, distributed the agenda Item #7 Staff Report regarding the City of Manteca's (City) request for temporary out-of-District stormwater discharge. It was noted that Ms. Brown also sent electronic copies of the Staff Report to the Board on December 8.

Mr. Killingsworth explained that SSJID and the City are parties to a Stormwater Drainage Agreement (Agreement) that allows the City to convey stormwater runoff through District facilities within areas where the City and District boundaries overlap. He further explained that, on December 4, the City submitted a formal request seeking a temporary emergency stormwater discharge connection to Drain 8 to address immediate capacity concerns at stormwater detention basins serving areas located outside the District boundary, which are not covered by the existing Agreement.

On December 4, SSJID immediately responded in writing, acknowledged the City's request, and outlined conditions under which the District may consider a limited, emergency-only arrangement. These conditions were intended to protect District facilities and operations, and to ensure that the accommodation does not establish precedence or ongoing service obligations.

Mr. Killingsworth detailed the location of the proposed emergency discharge connection, the District utilities, and the safeguards identified in the District's response letter including:

- Advance notification and coordination of each discharge event

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- Confirmation of downstream capacity
- District review and approval of proposed temporary discharge facilities
- Inclusion of a flow measurement device
- Compliance with applicable local and state stormwater discharge permits
- Indemnification of SSJID
- Full reimbursement of District costs associated with review, monitoring, and operations
- Agreement expiration on August 1, 2026, or as otherwise specified by the Board

Staff recommended that the Board authorize staff to negotiate and execute a temporary emergency agreement with the City of Manteca allowing limited, short-term discharge of stormwater into District drainage facilities subject to the terms outlined above, a discharge service fee, and any additional conditions required by the Board.

Mr. Kevin Jorgensen, City of Manteca Director of Engineering, addressed the Board, thanked them for their consideration, and noted the relationship between SSJID and the City working for the betterment of the community. He stated that the recent severe storm event emphasized the need for a stormwater drainage outlet.

Board discussion included commending staff on their fast work addressing the emergency request from the City; confirmation that the City agreed with the District's stipulations; the effect of additional stormwater flows on Drain 8; the discharge service fee of \$2,000.00 per day; past incidents of non-cooperation from the City regarding District-related issues; a good-faith request for the City's cooperation on any future District-related business; and to include language in the Temporary Emergency Agreement regarding the City's cooperation on future District-related business.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Van Ryn to authorize staff to negotiate and execute a temporary emergency agreement with the City of Manteca allowing limited, short-term discharge of stormwater into District drainage facilities subject to the terms outlined above, a discharge service fee, and any additional conditions required by the Board; and include language in the Temporary Emergency Agreement regarding the City's cooperation on future District-related business.

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 the Notice of an Impending Raw Water Charge Increase, Effective January 1, 2027, to the Cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca and Tracy**

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Coordinator, addressed the Board regarding approval of the Notice of Impending Raw Water Charge Increase, effective January 1, 2027, to the Cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca, and Tracy (Cities).

Mr. Nakagawa provided background of the Cities' participation in the South County Water Supply Project (SCWSP) which provides drinking water needs to residents from SSJID's owned and operated Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP). He explained the methodology used to calculate the raw water charges; cited the current in-District charge of \$30.89 per acre-foot (AF) for the cities of Escalon and Manteca, and out-of-District charge of \$85.85 per AF for the cities of Lathrop and Tracy; and noted that the current charges had remained unchanged since first instituted in 2005.

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To develop the proposed raw water charge, the District engaged Bell Burnett & Associated (BB&A), who recommended an embedded cost approach to develop the proposed raw water charge. Included in agenda Item #8 Staff Report were three (3) BB&A Technical White Papers to support the raw water rate increases, and the draft Notice of Impending Raw Water Charge Increase. Mr. Nakagawa noted that Mr. Drew Atwater, Principal at BB&A, was in attendance to answer any questions.

Mr. Nakagawa stated that prior to implementing an increased raw water charge rate, the District must comply with Section 13 of the Water Supply Development Agreement as executed individually by SSJID and the Cities which requires a meet and confer process with the Cities, and to provide notice at least twelve (12) months prior to implementation of a rate increase. He added that the impending raw water charge increase had also been previously discussed with the Cities at the last WTP Operations Committee's regularly scheduled quarterly meeting.

Mr. Lea Emmons, City of Tracy Water Operations Superintendent, was in attendance and concurred that the proposed raw water rate increase had been previously discussed at the WTP Operations Committee meetings, and that it was an expected and understandable expense, especially when comparing the proposed charges to the open market for surface water supplies in California. Mr. Emmons also noted that the City will be analyzing the full report and calculations once received.

Board discussion included that the raw water increase pertains to SSJID's municipal water treatment plant customers only; and that the rate increase notification was in compliance with stipulations of the Water Supply Development Agreement and did not require a Proposition 218 process.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Van Ryn and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the Notice of an Impending Raw Water Charge Increase, effective January 1, 2027, to the Cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca and Tracy.

The motion passed 4 to 1 by the following vote:

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

**Item #9 to be Discussed Following Closed Session**

*It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 10:40 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:50 a.m.*

**Item #10 – CLOSED SESSION**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*The Board returned to Open Session at 1:46 p.m.*

**Item #11 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

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

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There were two (2) reportable actions taken in Closed Session, under Item #10(d)(i): Conference with Real Property Negotiator, Property: Woodward Reservoir, Negotiating Parties: Stanislaus County, District Negotiator: General Manager, Under Negotiation: Grant of License.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by President Spyksma and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the conduct of a Summary Appraisal and retaining services of Carl Dietz, of Agave Realty Advisors, to appraise up-to eight (8) parcels of real property adjacent to Woodward Reservoir.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

**MOTION:** A motion was made by President Spyksma and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve sending Stanislaus County a Notice of Appraisal for County-owned properties adjacent to Woodward Reservoir.

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 Job Descriptions for SSJID Human Resources Administrator, and Management Accountant**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve the job descriptions for SSJID Human Resources Administrator, and Management Accountant.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

President Spyksma noted that December 16 was the date selected for a potential SSJID Special Board meeting, pending any District business and/or issues that need immediate discussion and/or Board action.

**Item #12 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board