

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY
HELD ON OCTOBER 2, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY was held at the (old) West Side Irrigation District Office located at 1320 N. Tracy Blvd., Tracy, CA 95376 on October 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

There were present at the meeting the following named Directors:

Jerry Robinson	Division No. 1
Natalino Bacchetti	Division No. 2
Paul Marchini	Division No. 3
Mary Hildebrand	Division No. 5

Absent was Director Jack Alvarez. Also in attendance were Lea Emmons of the City of Tracy, Dominic Gulli engineer for RD 1007, Bruce Blodgett Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission. William McLaughlin of DWR, John Collins of the Delta Watermaster's Office, Robert Rickman San Joaquin County Supervisor and John Herrick, Esq., counsel and manager for the Agency. The meeting was called to order by President Robinson who acted as Chair. He declared a quorum present and Attorney Herrick acted as secretary.

**I.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-24
RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES**

Attorney Herrick presented the Board with the minutes for the September 4, 2024 regular meeting. After review and motion made and duly seconded, it was

RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Directors of the SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY as follows:

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors held on September 4, 2024 were adopted with corrections.

**II.
REPORTS**

1. Current Conditions. Attorney Herrick gave a report on current conditions in the southern Delta, including water quality, water levels, exports, reservoir storage and river flows. Director Marchini asked about how the reservoir operators decide carryover storage amounts at the end of the water year. The three rock barriers are scheduled to be removed starting in November.

Director Hildebrand noted that the X2 standard is being waived this Fall and asked how that was possible. Attorney Herrick stated he did not know but would inquire. She also asked if the Fall fishery flows have begun. Mr. Emmons stated that work on the Tuolumne for river restoration might be affecting flows.

The Directors again discussed the hyacinth problem and Director Bacchetti gave an update on RD 2058's efforts at removal. The cost charged by the Division of Boating and Waterways is significant, with boat application being cheaper than drone application. The Chair stated the Board would consider a contribution to RD 2058 to help defer the costs, but would take the matter up later after Director Bacchetti steps out.

2. Lawsuits. Attorney Herrick gave a brief update on ongoing litigation including the hearing for the Sites Reservoir permits which began last month. Attorney Ruiz is mostly handling the hearing for SDWA and CDWA, but Attorney Herrick assists especially when the modeling witnesses are on.

3. Permanent Barriers. Mr. McLaughlin gave an update on the permanent barrier program. Director Hildebrand asked if the Bureau was now involved, and the answer was a qualified "maybe." Attorney Herrick noted that he'd met with the USBR Regional Director and discussed a few issues including dredging and the barriers. It appears the Bureau is willing to begin doing more. DWR is still working with the landowners and RD's regarding access to the sites for testing. Mr. Gulli expressed his concerns about some surveys and testing being problematic, but Attorney Herrick stated such test would have to go forward regardless

4. Silt Removal. The Watermaster is attempting to garner support for dredging and Attorney Herrick and SDWA's engineer continues to evaluate the recent data in preparation for future short term efforts.

5. COP and MSS. Mr. McLaughlin gave a report on both the MSS and COP. The SWRCB granted an extension by which to complete the MSS and a draft is expected by the year's end. Various related issues remain and cooperation is necessary. Tracing of salt and an analysis of 2021 are supposed to be coming.

6. Supervisor Rickman had to leave but gave a brief update on County activities, including evaluating ways to reduce high costs. SSJID as a power producer is being evaluated.

7. Delta Conveyance/Single Tunnel. The SWRCB withdrew its notice scheduling hearings for the Tunnel permits, with no new dates being set.

8. DPC and DSC. Executive Director Blodgett gave reports on DPC matters. The Delta Leadership program will again go forward and nominations are requested. The DPC has two job openings and the National Heritage Management Plan is available for comment.

9. Irrigated Lands program/RCD. Attorney Herrick gave an update on the Irrigated Lands Program and on the Resource Conservation District efforts

10. Paradise Cut/South Delta Restoration Project. Attorney Herrick gave an update on the project. He gave a tour for the project's consultants to view the project

site. The issue of passing the overflow waters under the railroad bridge is presenting a problem. Mr. Gulli stated the County should undertake the needed dredging.

12. Diversion Reporting. Mr. Collins gave an update on Reporting and the new system. He noted there were a few South Delta diverters who are delinquent.

13. Public Comments. Mr. Gulli raised the issue of the Delta Corridors proposal and asked if it was supported by the Board. Attorney Herrick explained the project and how it could benefit the area, but also explained that it depended on additional flows being added to Old River which may not be guaranteed.

III. **FINANCES**

1. Attorney Herrick presented the Board with current bills and reviewed the most up-to-date County accounting of the SDWA financials. After explaining the current invoices, and upon motion made and duly seconded,

It was RESOLVED

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-25 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT** **OF OBLIGATIONS AND AUTHORIZING** **DRAWING AND PAYMENT OF WARRANTS**

BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Directors of the SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY as follows:

1. That the obligations of this Agency hereinafter set forth in Section 2 of this Resolution are hereby approved for payment; and

2. For the account of the SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY, request is hereby made that the Auditor of the County of San Joaquin draw, and the Treasurer of the County of San Joaquin pay, warrants as follows:

SEE ATTACHMENTS "A" hereto.

Director Bacchetti left the room and the Board took up the issue of contributing to RD 2058 to help pay for the treatment of hyacinth. The Board discussed the matter at length and it was noted that money was budgeted for this type of RD assistance.

Upon motion made and duly seconded,

It was RESOLVED

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-26
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT
OF OBLIGATIONS AND AUTHORIZING
DRAWING AND PAYMENT OF WARRANTS

BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Directors of the SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY as follows:

1. That the obligations of this Agency hereinafter set forth in Section 2 of this Resolution are hereby approved for payment; and
2. For the account of the SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY, request is hereby made that the Auditor of the County of San Joaquin draw, and the Treasurer of the County of San Joaquin pay, warrants as follows:

SEE ATTACHMENTS “B” hereto

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated: October 2, 2024

JOHN HERRICK, Acting Secretary