

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY  
HELD ON AUGUST 7, 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 August 7, 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
Jack Alvarez	Division No. 4
Mary Hildebrand	Division No. 5

Also in attendance were William McLaughlin of DWR, Jay Ziegler the Delta Watermaster, Will Anderson of the Delta Watermaster's office, Greg Pombo landowner and Board member of RD 2058 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.

The Watermaster introduced the newest member of his staff to the Board, Mr. Will Anderson.

**I.  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20  
RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES**

Attorney Herrick presented the Board with the minutes for the July 3, 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 July 3, 2024 were adopted with corrections.

## **II. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. The Agency received an invitation to the annual EBMUD Bar-B-Que in October. The Chair and Attorney Herrick expressed their desire to attend, but had to check their calendars first. Any other Board member interested should contact Attorney Herrick so he can make a reservation for them.

## **III. 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. All three rock barriers are installed and operating. Water levels seem to have improved now that the GLC barrier is in. Director Hildebrand noted that Vernalis flows are dropping.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that SWP exports will be rising from 6680 cfs to 7180 cfs which caused some concern among the Directors. Due to this increase, Attorney Herrick asked if the Middle River barrier could be raised the extra foot as allowed by the permits. Mr. McLaughlin stated he would initiate that and Attorney Herrick stated he would send the appropriate request as required,

Director Bacchetti whose district is suffering from low water levels asked if the barriers are at their correct heights. This will be checked.. He also gave a report on the hyacinth problem in Tom Paine Slough noting the large amounts being spent to remove it mechanically. Attorney Herrick said he would coordinate with the attorney for RD 2058 to see what else might be done. The application of herbicide under the agreement with the Division of Boating and Waterways via drone might help, but it was noted that dead hyacinth would sink and cause other problems.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that DWR was attempting to get the barrier permits amended so that all three barriers might be raised the additional foot. However, that would only occur next year at the earliest.

2. Lawsuits. Attorney Herrick gave a brief update on ongoing litigation noting the virtual hearing for the Sites Reservoir permits will begin later this month.

3. Permanent Barriers. Mr. McLaughlin gave an update on the permanent barrier program. DWR and Attorney Herrick will meet with the landowners abutting the permanent barrier locations to discuss access for various testing and evaluations.

4. Silt Removal. Attorney Herrick reviewed the current situation and efforts to date, including discussions with Congressmen Duarte and Harder's offices. Mr. McLaughlin noted that MWD recently expressed interest in moving the dredging program forward. Attorney Herrick is trying to set up a meeting with USBR to get them on board. The Watermaster and DWR asked to attend such a meeting if set. Lastly, Attorney Herrick stated he will be a panelist on a Congressional Committee hearing as requested by Congressman Duarte. His topic will be the need for dredging.

5. COP and MSS. Attorney Herrick met with the new Deputy Director of DWR and discussed numerous topics including his perceived shortcomings with the COP and MSS. Immediately thereafter he and Tom Burke met with DWR personnel regarding the status of the MSS and were assured the modeling requested will be included. Attorney Herrick stated there were still some points of contention given the near complete lack of interest by DWR in using the 2021 year as a model for meeting the salinity standards.

It was noted that it appears the dairy abutting Paradise Cut is now out of business and if it were a source of salt in that channel, that problem might be resolved. The draft MSS is expected in September with the final scheduled to be done in December.

6. Delta Conveyance/Single Tunnel. The SWRCB has tentatively scheduled the hearings for the Tunnel project to begin in January 2025.

7. DPC and DSC. The Watermaster gave a brief report on the Delta Protection Commission and the Delta Stewardship Council. The SDWA needs to hold an election to select a new representative for the DPC.

8. Legislation. The Watermaster noted the water bond set for the ballot this November. It contains \$1B multi-benefit and flood control projects. Mr. McLaughlin stressed the need to begin preparing how to fit local needs efforts into the authorized money/programs which might be approved under the bond. Director Hildebrand asked if any bond money could be used to continue our efforts at getting updated bathymetry each year.

9. Diversion Measuring and Reporting. The Watermaster gave an update on the program.

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

11. Paradise Cut/South Delta Restoration Project. Attorney Herrick gave an update on the project. Two more tours are scheduled this month which Attorney Herrick will take the lead. So far only various process issues have reached the Advisory Committee, but Attorney Herrick is sending comments to the consultants to guide the process.

12. Public Comments. It was noted that Darryl Foreman died recently. He was an original consultant on the River Islands project and then operated an elderberry “farm” for habitat mitigation.

Director Marchini recommended an effort to find any other area experiencing hyacinth problems to see how they might be handling the situation. Attorney Herrick suggest he contact UC Davis and/or Michelle Leinfelder-Miles.

**IV.**  
**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. 2024-21**  
**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.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated: August 7, 2024

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JOHN HERRICK, Acting Secretary