

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY
HELD ON DECEMBER 4, 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 December 4, 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

Absent was Director Hildebrand. Also in attendance were Dominic Gulli engineer for RD 1007, Bruce Blodgett Executive Director of the Delta Protection Commission. William McLaughlin of DWR, Ali Stevens, Esq., representing 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.

**I.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-29
RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES**

Attorney Herrick presented the Board with the minutes for the November 6, 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 November 6, 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. Mr. McLaughlin noted DWR was finishing up the removal of the barriers. Mr. Gulli inquired if rocks used for the temporary barriers were ever available for local RD's when they were no longer needed by DWR.

Attorney Stevens and Director Bacchetti gave an update on RD 2058's efforts at hyacinth removal. The Department of Boating and Waterways failed to spray when requested under the agreement with RD 2058. The District is considering when to initiate further requests for next year. SDWA and RD 2058 may look into getting their own permit for in-water treatment.

2. Lawsuits. Attorney Herrick gave a brief update on ongoing litigation including the hearing for the Sites Reservoir which continues. Attorney Ruiz is mostly handling the hearing for SDWA and CDWA, with Attorney Herrick assisting.

3. Permanent Barriers. Mr. McLaughlin gave an update on the permanent barriers project. One landowner is still hesitant to grant access for testing and surveys unless action is taken by DWR to get local dredging done. Attorney Herrick is attempting to resolve this issue. Mr. McLaughlin reiterated the proposed schedule for the project

4. Silt Removal. Attorney Herrick briefly related his efforts at finding funding for dredging whether it be via the Paradise Cut project or separately.

5. COP and MSS. Mr. McLaughlin gave a report on both the MSS and COP. The draft MSS is now expected in January 2025. Various related issues remain and cooperation is necessary. Tracing of salt and an analysis of 2021 are supposed to be coming.

6. Delta Conveyance/Single Tunnel. The SWRCB has yet to reschedule workshops or hearing regarding the Tunnel project permits. A “consistency” hearing on the project is set for December 19 before the Delta Stewardship Council.

7. Water Quality Control Plan. Attorney Herrick gave a brief report on the recently released draft WQCP. It was noted that it did not appear that the Water Level and Water Quality Response Plans, required in the existing WQCP are included in the new draft. The focus in the draft is on other measures to protect fish and water quality with little attention paid to exports. There is also a question of the required Plan of Implementation not being included.

8. DPC and DSC. Executive Director Blodgett gave reports on DPC matters which included, vacant positions being filled, the Delta Leadership Program moving forward, road closures regarding the Empire Tract project and the NHA Advisory Committee. He reminded the Board that a South Delta representative needs to be selected.

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. The process includes both a Management Team and the Advisory Committee which are meeting regularly. There is a concern that the consultants are evaluating alternatives which do not include comprehensive dredging in the area and Attorney Herrick is making sure everyone knows that without comprehensive dredging the project will lose local support. It was briefly discussed that if the Kisst Dairy is no longer operating, that land might be a potential site for a levee setback to increase habitats.

12. Resource Conservation District. Attorney Herrick gave a brief update on the RCD and Water Quality Coalition.

13. Diversion Reporting. The Board briefly discussed the new reporting system and how both Statements and Reports will be submitted at the same time. Attorney Stevens noted that comments to the new regulations on reporting are due soon. Attorney Herick said he would determine if CDWA was handling any comments.

12. Public Comments. Director Marchini asked if the Agency's engineer/modeler could attend the next meeting and give a report on the recent bathymetry efforts and results in light of the significant costs associated thereto.

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. 2024-30 **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.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dated: December 4, 2024

JOHN HERRICK, Acting Secretary