

**MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 11, 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 Weststeyn 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 \$71,048.44; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$715,917.18; and Payroll dated January 24, 2025 in the amount of \$309,145.81.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2025

Director Holbrook referenced page 11, Item #3 – Consider Appeal of Denial of Encroachment Permit for David Van Elderen, APN 257-290-24, Motion, and inquired on the definition of “scion” wood noted in the directives. Ms. Mia Brown, SSJID General Counsel, responded that scion wood is a young piece of wood cut from a tree to graft onto another tree.

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

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 reported that he’s received endorsement requests regarding two (2) candidate nominations for the upcoming Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) / Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) Executive Committee election. He stated that the endorsements would require adopted SSJID resolutions and requested the items be placed on the next board agenda for February 25. These endorsements would come through a concurring resolution of nomination. The two candidates requesting endorsement include Reclamation District No. 784 Trustee Brent Hastey, and San Bernadino Valley Water Conservation District Board President Melody McDonald. Director Holbrook distributed copies of the endorsement requests and resolution templates to the Board for viewing. The deadline to submit the resolutions to JPIA is Friday, April 11, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Ms. Brown clarified that an organizational endorsement would not constitute an election vote.

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Director Holbrook reported that he attended the Canyon Tunnel Public Meeting in Knights Ferry, on February 4, and commended SSJID Engineering Department Manager Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson, and Engineering Department Executive Assistant Dawn Driesen for their contribution to and/or participation at the event. He stated that it was an excellent presentation, and was received well by the public which helped mitigate any issues or concerns previously expressed by the Knights Ferry community.

Director Van Ryn reported that he completed his Director Orientation #9 – Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Overview & Tour. He thanked WTP Operations Supervisor Justin Ashworth, and WTP staff, for the interesting and informative tour of the facilities and operations.

Director Weststeyn reported that he attended and/or participated in the following meetings/events:

- January 29 – Employee Appreciation Luncheon and Service Award Ceremony: Good opportunity to show appreciation to staff, acknowledge years of service, and enjoy a good meal.
- January 30 – San Joaquin Farm Bureau (SJFB) Calla Nile & Escalon Farm Centers Meeting: Good meeting. SSJID Water Resources Coordinator Brandon Nakagawa gave a presentation regarding groundwater issues.
- February 3 – TriDam Project Advisory Committee Meeting: Topics included Lakeview, and announcement of the 36th Annual TuCARE Dinner and Auction on Saturday, March 8, in Sonora. SSJID Clerk of the Board/Executive Assistant Danielle Barney will forward the flyer to the Board and coordinate RSVPs for the event.
- February 4 – SSJID Finance Committee Meeting
- February 4 and February 6: Canyon Tunnel Public Meetings at Knights Ferry and SSJID, respectively. Director Weststeyn commended Mr. Killingsworth and Ms. Patterson for their excellent work and informative presentations, and noted the importance to continue engaging the public on the Project status.
- February 5 – SJFB Water Committee Meeting

Director Roos reported that he attended the WTP Operations Committee meeting on February 10. Topics included a presentation by Carollo Engineering regarding a water treatment plant preliminary engineering report for Phase 2, that will discuss Phase 2 demand projections and costs. SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk added that it was a preliminary presentation and that discussions are ongoing with the participating Cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca and Tracy regarding future demands and design recommendations.

President Spyksma reported that he attended the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) Commission meeting on February 10, and noted new SJTA Commissioner Kate Stacy, President of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). President Spyksma mentioned ongoing litigation regarding the Bay Delta Phase I Water Quality Control Plan, biological goals, and curtailments. He commended the SJTA General Managers on the recruitment strategy used to search for and select SJTA Executive Director Andree Lee, and for the direction the SJTA is taking to address and resolve issues and legislative matters.

Item #2 – Various Reports

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board and stated that Mr. Nakagawa would provide a brief hydrology update, and that a recommendation for the start of the 2025 irrigation season would be presented at the board meeting on February 25.

Mr. Nakagawa addressed the Board and gave a recap of recent rain events, current water levels, and trace versus 90-percent (90%) water level projections which are contingent upon the snowmelt and runoff. He noted the

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heavy storm anticipated to hit the area on February 13 which should bring more good news for the water supply forecast, and that the next California Department of Water Resources (DWR) snow survey is tentatively scheduled for March 1.

Mr. Rietkerk provided an update on the Golden Mussel invasion and subsequent boating ban at Woodward Reservoir. He stated that SSJID Irrigation Operations Manager Joe Hasten, has received calls from duck hunters regarding status of the ban and removal of duck blinds on the water. Internal discussions have included a potential thirty-day (30) Quarantine Program, and low water levels which would prove inadequate for usage of the boat ramps to remove the duck blinds. Mr. Rietkerk added that he forwarded an email to the Board, on February 10, regarding a Tri-Dam boating ban at Lake Tulloch to address the Golden Mussel issue.

Mr. Rietkerk commented on the successful Canyon Tunnel outreach meetings, and commended Mr. Killingsworth, Ms. Patterson, and Ms. Driesen on their work and coordination of the multiple events. He also expressed staffs' appreciation of the Board for their support and presence at the Knights Ferry and SSJID meetings.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he has fielded calls from Goodwin Reservoir landowners regarding an Azolla outbreak. Discussion with Tri-Dam staff have included opening the buoys on the water to flush the Azolla downstream. He noted that the vegetation does not impact Tri-Dam operations, floats atop of water, and moves with the current.

Mr. Rietkerk reported that he attended the Finance Committee meeting, on February 4, which included discussion regarding funding options for the Canyon Tunnel Project. Representatives from PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, gave a presentation outlining public and private financing, government loans, and State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans. Also discussed was utilizing District reserves versus financing to fund the Project. An informative update will be presented to the Board, at a future meeting, for review and/or consideration.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – Consider Approval of Billboard Lease Renewal with Outfront Media

Ms. Patterson addressed the Board regarding approval of the 52-week billboard lease renewal between Outfront Media and SSJID, and authorizing the General Manager to sign the contract with Outfront Media.

Ms. Patterson described the artwork of the two (2) current billboards, and their locations at Highway 120 at SSJID Headquarters, and at the end of the Austin Road onramp to southbound Highway 99 facing southbound traffic.

The fiscal impact, for the 52-week period, would be \$52,260.00 plus the cost of installation and vinyl. Ms. Patterson stated that rate increases occur every 52-weeks, varying from 4- to 9-percent (4-9%) and that the 2025 rates increased by \$30.00 for each billboard. The billboard advertisement, increases, and installation costs were approved in the 2025 budget.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Weststeyn to approve the 52-week billboard lease renewal with Outfront Media for a total of \$52,260.00 plus the costs of vinyl and installation, as necessary; and authorize the General Manager to sign the contract with Outfront Media.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #4 – Consider Approval of Fleet Equipment Purchases

Mr. James Ferguson, SSJID Shop Department Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding 2025 fleet purchases including a JLG-519 Open Cab Telehandler, three (3) 2025 Toyota Tacoma 4x4 pickups, and one (1) 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 pickup.

Mr. Ferguson described the engines, features, and usages of the proposed equipment and stated that the Toyota Tacoma pickups would replace current division trucks that have exceeded the mileage cap after four (4) irrigation seasons, the Chevrolet Silverado would replace the current Chevrolet Silverado assigned to the WTP Manager, and the Telehandler would be stationed at the Control Room to replace their current Toyota forklift.

The fiscal impact would be the Telehandler at a cost of \$89,270.88, three (3) Toyota Tacoma 4x4 pickups at \$40,764.00 each for a cost of \$122,292.00, and one (1) Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 pickup at a cost of \$56,159.23 for a total cost of \$267,772.11, towards the SSJID 2025 Equipment and Truck budget.

Board discussion included the features and capabilities of a Teleskid versus a Telehandler; recommendation of the JLG Telehandler over other lower bids due to independent maintenance professional experience; status of the California Air Resources Board’s (CARB) “Advanced Clean Fleets Rule;” and that quotes were not received from other Toyota dealerships due to a reluctance to lock-in future purchase costs.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Holbrook to approve the 2025 fleet purchases of a JLG-519 Open Cab Telehandler at a cost of \$89,270.88; three (3) 2025 Toyota Tacoma 4x4 pickups at \$40,764.00 each for a cost of \$122,292.00, and one (1) 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 4x4 pickup at a cost of \$56,159.23 for a total cost of \$267,772.11, towards the SSJID 2025 Equipment and Truck budget.

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 Adoption of Resolution 25-05-V Authorizing and Directing the Sale of District Vehicles as Surplus Property

Mr. Ferguson addressed the Board and described the three (3) pieces of equipment that would be sent to auction including one (1) diesel CAT Forklift, one (1) CAT Backhoe, and one (1) Kobelco Excavator. He stated that removal of these items, from the District fleet, will place SSJID in a good position for compliance with CARB requirements.

The District will utilize JJ Kane Auctions for sale of the equipment, at a 4-percent (4%) commission rate for the auction house which includes the pick up and transport of the items.

Board discussion included keeping the excavator for parts inventory, and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) “Environmental Quality Incentives Program” (EQIP) or other state programs whereby farmers

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can replace old, high-emitting agricultural equipment with newer, eco-friendly options.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Weststeyn and seconded by Director Roos to adopt Resolution No. 25-05-V Authorizing and Directing Sale of District Vehicles as Surplus Property.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 25-05-V**

**AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING SALE OF DISTRICT VEHICLES
AS SURPLUS PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (“District”) may sell as “surplus property” for valuable consideration, any property of the District which is determined to be no longer necessary for District purposes; and

WHEREAS, the District Board of Directors finds the following described vehicle no longer necessary for District purposes:

<u>DISTRICT I.D. No.</u>	<u>VEHICLE TYPE</u>	<u>VIN NUMBER</u>
35-99	CAT Forklift DP-45-D	5CM10489
42-02	CAT Backhoe 416-D	0416DCBFP03033
47-05	Kobelco Excavator 290LC	LB04U0463

and;

WHEREAS, the Board finds it in the best interests of the District to dispose of said vehicle by sale, using reasonable efforts to obtain the best possible sales-price.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED,

1. The Board of Directors authorizes the District Shop Supervisor to use his professional judgement in determining the most appropriate means of effectuating a sale of said vehicle at the best possible sales price, including, but not limited to: sale at public or on-line auction; placing vehicle with a dealer for consignment sale; or sale by published advertisement and receipt of sealed bids.
2. The Finance and Administration Department Manager is authorized and directed to do all things necessary and proper, including execution of all documents, to execute the sale of said vehicle and transfer title thereto.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of February 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK ROOS SPYKSMA VAN RYN 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 10:00 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 10:15 a.m.

Item #6 – CLOSED SESSION

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RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 2:08 p.m.

Item #7 – 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 #8 – Brown Act Review

Deferred.

Item #9 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board