

**MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 25, 2024  
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 Weststeyn called the meeting to order. Director Holbrook led the flag salute. Upon roll call the following members were noted present:

DIRECTORS:           HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA 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 \$313,429.46; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$1,278,489.14; and Payroll dated June 13, 2024 in the amount of \$311,503.14.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2024
- C. Approval of Notice of Completion for the Robert O. Schulz Solar Farm Repowering Project Task Orders 1 & 2

Director Spyksma addressed Mr. Bill Schwandt, SSJID Retail Electric Manager, and requested a project update for the Robert O. Schulz Solar Farm (Solar Farm) in three (3) months, to which Mr. Schwandt agreed.

- D. Financial Report through May 31, 2024
- E. Investment Report for May 31, 2024

Ms. Sonya Williams, SSJID Financial and Administrative Manager, addressed the Board and noted a correction to be made on Page 17, Investment Maturity Schedule at May 31, 2024, Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Reserves column. A corrected Investment Report for May 31, 2024 will be forwarded to Clerk of the Board Danielle Barney so she can amend the June 25, 2024 Board Packet on record.

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

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:               HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN  
NOES:               NONE  
ABSTAIN:           NONE  
ABSENT:            NONE

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Item #1 – Directors’ Reports**

Director Roos reported that he attended the Tri-Dam Project (TDP) Board meeting, on June 20, held at the Tri-

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Dam offices in Strawberry, CA. Following the meeting, he participated in a tour of the Donnells Power Plant, and several project sites conducted by TDP Lead Technician Daniel Hogue. He acknowledged and thanked Tri-Dam staff for their hard work.

Director Kamper stated that he had no updates to report.

Director Spyksma stated that he had no updates to report.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the Tri-Dam Project Board meeting on June 20, which included a tour of the Beardsley Dam Powerhouse. He commented on the Powerhouse maintenance, cleanliness of the facility, and the tasty catered lunch.

President Weststeyn reported that he attended a meeting with Ripon Consolidated Fire District (RCFD) Chief Eric DeHart on June 17, along with Director Spyksma, SSJID General Manager Peter Rietkerk, and SSJID Public and Government Relations Manager Katie Patterson. Discussion included the proposed RCFD assessment and Proposition 218 process.

President Weststeyn reported that he attended the SSJID Budget and Finance Committee meeting on June 24. Discussion included irrigation rates and annexations. Director Spyksma added that it was a detailed and productive meeting.

President Weststeyn reported that he attended the Tri-Dam Board meeting on June 20.

**Item #2 – Various Reports**

Mr. Schwandt provided the Board with a brief update of the Solar Farm Repowering Project. He reported that the PV2 Repower Phase (Task Orders 1 and 2) had been completed and that PV2 was commissioned, operational, and producing power on June 5. Mr. Schwandt added that the Solar Farm was now producing power at 2.5 times the rate previously produced. The next phase will be the PV1-1 Pilot Project to analyze small annual solar upgrades and best repowering approach for the entire PV1 Repowering Project. The PV1-1 Pilot Project is included in the 2024 budget, should produce additional energy savings for the remainder of 2024, and should save the District an estimated \$1.5 million annually.

Director Holbrook addressed Mr. Rietkerk, referenced the General Manager's Report for June 25, 2024, Water Supply Indicators, Stanislaus River Water Supply Projections, California Nevada River Forecast Center, and inquired on the accuracy of the identical data for 90% exceedance and 50% exceedance. Mr. Rietkerk responded that very little precipitation is expected at this point in the water year, and therefore little to no fluctuation is expected in either exceedance scenario for remaining hydrology, which is why the forecasts converge at this point in the year.

Director Spyksma referenced the General Manager's Report, General Updates, Construction Tour in Fremont, CA, and commented on the District's proactive approach to research construction planning, safety, and related protocols. Mr. Rietkerk added that it was a very informative tour and gave staff ideas to enhance SSJID's Safety Program and coordination in capital planning, engineering, and in-field construction activities.

Director Kamper addressed SSJID Interim Irrigation Operations Manager Joe Hasten regarding the R-Ditch Pond Side Project located at Louise Avenue and Austin Road, and commented that the District should utilize the surface water pumped into the Pond as opposed to using groundwater. Mr. Hasten concurred that the District could use the surface water captured in the Pond which would entail coordination to maintain a "balance" with the water usage of landowners located upstream.

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Mr. Rietkerk referenced the Finance and Administration Manager's Report for June 25, 2024, and noted Finance, Projects and Activities, Bullet 3 regarding analyzing the benefits of closing the District office to the public on Friday's. He stated that staff began monitoring daily office traffic and telephone calls in December, and that office closure on Friday's could enhance efficiency, productivity and employee retention, and allow for a more equitable allocation of alternative work schedules. Mr. Rietkerk noted that additional results of the monitoring and a formal recommendation will be presented to the Board at a later date.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Item #3 – Presentation of the 2023-24 Winter Construction Maintenance Season**

Mr. Chad Parsons, SSJID Associate Civil Engineer, noted errors in the Item #3 Staff Report, Tables 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 which should have rows titled “ % of Budget ” and not “ % Diff. ” A corrected Staff Report will be forwarded to Ms. Barney to amend the June 25, 2024 Board Packet on record.

Mr. Parsons addressed the Board and provided a recap of operations, construction, and maintenance projects completed by the District's Maintenance, Irrigation, and SCADA crews in the 2023/2024 winter season. The maintenance season ran from October 31, 2023 to March 12, 2024 and consisted of six (6) “rain days” for a total of sixty-four (64) actual working days, for SSJID's approximately 50 maintenance crew members.

Mr. Parsons provided detailed explanations of the scope of work, budget, and expenses for each project category consisting of Stormwater Operations, Monitoring and Repairs; General Maintenance; and Construction, and highlighted the advancements crews have made in quality and productivity on the spray cast pipelining work. On May 17, Water Operations, Engineering, and representatives from Innovative Shotlining, Inc. reviewed, collaborated, and discussed pipelining operations that concluded proposed improvements to enhance pipelining production which Mr. Parsons conveyed to the Board. He also noted future projects in line with the District's Water Master Plan (WMP), and issues encountered regarding bad weather, materials and subsequent resolutions.

Mr. Parsons concluded that the 2023/2024 winter season was productive with a second year of implementing projects outlined in the WMP. Crews did an excellent job in staying safe, improving productivity, and producing high-quality work. Staff will continue to research and set up tools and protocols to better track materials, equipment, and labor for each project.

Board discussion included consideration of a time study on the pipelining crews to maximize productivity and equipment usage; consideration of splitting the manpower into two (2) crews (e.g. prep crew, spray crew); the positive results of the completed pipelining work; holding off on a time study until productivity plateaus; and to rent additional equipment, as needed, to complete jobs correctly and efficiently.

Mr. Rietkerk recognized Mr. Parsons and the Operations Team for their collaborative efforts on the Operations Review Kickoff meeting, held April 16, to discuss the pros and cons of the 2023/2024 construction season as well as future improvements. He also thanked Mr. Parsons and all who contributed to detailing, logging, monitoring, and compiling data throughout the season. He added that in initial discussions with the foremen, they appreciate knowing, beforehand, the details, expectations, materials needed, and budget for each construction job.

Mr. Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Engineering Department Manager, commended Mr. Parsons for his exemplary work on the detailed 2023/2024 Winter Season Operations, Construction & Maintenance Work Report, and noted his construction background and commitment working with Operations on the 2023/2024 maintenance season.

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**Item #4 – Consider Conditional Approval of Revocable License Agreement, Encroachment Agreement, and Grant of Easement for Earl John and Susan Vander Schaaf (Hilltop Dairy)**

Mr. Killingsworth addressed the Board regarding conditional approval of the Revocable License and Agreement for Use of District Property (License Agreement), and Encroachment Agreement between SSJID and Earl and Susan Vander Schaaf (Owner). Background provided included the February 13, 2024 board meeting, whereby the Board considered requests from the Owners, and Michael Dotinga (Applicant) regarding encroachments on District property associated with the Main Supply Canal (MSC), at San Joaquin County Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 002-003-020, and utilization of the MSC roadway, adjacent to said property, to access to their agricultural fields and methane gas digester currently under construction.

Mr. Killingsworth noted Board action, on February 13, which approved certain encroachments and denied others, and explained the conditions of the proposed Encroachment Agreement; License Agreement; and Grant of Easement and Right of Way for Access Purposes. He added that the Applicant had recently requested a modification to the License Agreement that would allow for “Emergency Access” to the digester facility for emergency responders in an emergency scenario.

Mr. Killingsworth provided status of the unauthorized encroachments and agreed-upon terms identified on February 13, regarding the corral fencing, lagoon embankment, 16” HDPE pipeline, concrete silage pad, and road improvements.

SSJID General Counsel Mia Brown indicated that the Encroachment Agreement was modified to be consistent with the directives provided by the Board on February 13, including the License Agreement which was amended to include language regarding “emergency access.”

Staff recommended the Board authorize conditional approval of the Revocable License and Agreement for Use of District Property, Encroachment Agreement between SSJID and Owner subject to the items listed below:

- Realignment of District MSC roadway
- Removal of lagoon embankment from District property
- Removal of silage from District property and installation of rubber bumper delineators
- Owner’s execution of Encroachment Agreement
- Owner’s execution of License Agreement
- Owner’s execution of Grant of Easement
- Grant of Easement and Right of Way for Access Purposes.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Holbrook to authorize conditional approval of the Revocable License and Agreement for Use of District Property, Encroachment Agreement between SSJID and Earl John Vander Schaaf and Susan A. Vander Schaaf, subject to the items listed above; and approval of the Grant of Easement and Right of Way for Access Purposes.

The motion passed 5 to 0 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

**Items #5 and #6 to be discussed following Closed Session.**

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*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 10:10 a.m.*

**Item #7 – CLOSED SESSION**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

*The Board returned to Open Session at 12:30 p.m.*

**Item #8 – 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 #5 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 24-11-W Approving a California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Water Transfer Agreement By and Between SSJID and South Delta Water Agency**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Holbrook to adopt Resolution 24-11-W Approving a California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Water Transfer Agreement By and Between SSJID and South Delta Water Agency.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 24-11-W**

**APPROVAL OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF  
EXEMPTION FOR WATER TRANSFER AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN  
SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND  
SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) is a California irrigation district operating under and by virtue of Division 11 of the California Water Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the SSJID, along with Oakdale Irrigation District, are the owners of certain senior water rights to the waters of the Stanislaus River, including pre-1914 appropriative water rights as recognized by the 1988 Agreement and Stipulation with the Bureau of Reclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, the SSJID provides limited drainage services and is the owner and operator of a number of groundwater wells; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Delta Water Agency (SDWA) is a California public agency, set forth in Act 1270, California Water Code, Uncodified Acts; and

**WHEREAS**, SSJID and SDWA are located in San Joaquin County; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Delta Water Agency has requested that the South San Joaquin Irrigation District consider a temporary water transfer due to certain water rights in the Delta being subject to Term 91 restrictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board of Directors has determined that water surplus to

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District demands is available for sale; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed transfer (Project), totaling three hundred seventy (370) acre-feet through September 30, 2024, would utilize existing drainage, water conveyance and diversion infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Project has been determined by the Board of Directors to be categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) based on the ongoing operation exemption in 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15261; projects designed to protect the environment (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15307); no change or expansion of existing diversion and pumping facilities (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15301); and on the basis that there is no possibility that release of the subject water into the Stanislaus River for re-diversion in the South Delta in this water year will cause any significant impacts in the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, SSJID is the custodian of documents or other material which constitute the record of proceedings upon which this Board's decision is based, and SSJID's Main Office is the location of this record.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by this Board of Directors that:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. The proposed Project has been determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA based on the ongoing operation exemption in 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15261; projects designed to protect the environment (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15307); no change or expansion of existing diversion and pumping facilities (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15301); no negative effect on the environment.
3. A Notice of Exemption is hereby approved (and is on file with the District's records).
4. Staff is authorized and directed to file a Notice of Exemption at the Clerk's Office (or other authorized place) of San Joaquin County in the manner prescribed by the CEQA.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

**Item #6 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 24-12-W Approving a Water Transfer Agreement By and Between SSJID and South Delta Water Agency**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Director Spyksma and seconded by Director Kamper to adopt Resolution 24-12-W Approving a Water Transfer Agreement By and Between SSJID and South Delta Water Agency.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION 24-12-W**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A WATER TRANSFER AGREEMENT  
BY AND BETWEEN SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND  
SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District is a California irrigation district operating under and by

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virtue of Division 11 of the California Water Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, along with Oakdale Irrigation District, are co-owners of certain water rights senior water rights to the waters of the Stanislaus River, including pre-1914 appropriative water rights as recognized by the 1988 Agreement and Stipulation with the Bureau of Reclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District provides limited drainage services and is the owner and operator of a number of groundwater wells; and

**WHEREAS**, South Delta Water Agency is a California public agency, set forth in Act 1270, California Water Code, Uncodified Acts; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Delta Water Agency has requested that the South San Joaquin Irrigation District consider a temporary water transfer, totaling three hundred seventy (370) acre-feet through September 30, 2024, due to certain water rights in the Delta being subject to Term 91 restrictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board of Directors has determined that water surplus to District demands is available for sale; and

**WHEREAS**, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board of Directors has determined that the proposed water transfer is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) based on the ongoing operation exemption in 14 Cal. Code Regs. 15261; projects designed to protect the environment (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15307); no change or expansion of existing diversion and pumping facilities (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15301); and on the basis that there is no possibility that release of the subject water into the Stanislaus River for re-diversion in the South Delta in this water year will cause any significant impacts in the environment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the South San Joaquin Irrigation District Board of Directors does hereby approve a water transfer agreement with the South Delta Water Agency and authorizes the General Manager to sign the agreement upon negotiation of final terms as directed by this Board of Directors.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:	HOLBROOK KAMPER ROOS SPYKSMA WESTSTEYN
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

**Item #9 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board