

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 26, 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 WESTSTEYN
ABSENT: SPYKSMA

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 \$38,387.59; Accounts Payable Wires in the amount of \$799,694.64; and Payroll dated November 14, 2024 in the amount of \$288,307.11, November 14, 2024 in the amount of \$175.65, and November 15, 2024 in the amount of \$3,716.35.
- B. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2024
- C. Financial Statements through October 31, 2024
- D. Investment Report for October 2024

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

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Item #2 – Various Reports

The Managers’ Reports were provided in electronic form to the Board on November 22, 2024.

President Weststeyn thanked the Department Managers for their detailed monthly Managers’ Reports submitted for November 26, 2024.

Mr. Peter Rietkerk, SSJID General Manager, passed around, for Board viewing, a customer letter received from Anthony and Nancy Calestini that expressed appreciation to the Division 3 Managers and Relief Staff for attention given the customer’s irrigation needs, consistently going above and beyond their required duties, their professionalism, and their friendliness. He named the SSJID team members acknowledged in the letter: Senior Division Manager Kenny Bedsaul, Division Manager Randy Sprinkle, Division Manager Hunter Day, Division Manager Glenn Boyles, and Division Manager Jason Coltharp.

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Mr. Rietkerk announced that SSJID has been awarded the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) District Transparency Certificate of Excellence. SDLF presents the award in recognition of a district's completion of all transparency program requirements designed to promote transparency in their operations and governance to its customers, the public, and other stakeholders. He noted that the Transparency Certificate of Excellence is the second received by SSJID and commended Ms. Danielle Barney, SSJID Clerk of the Board/Executive Assistant, for her coordination, compilation, and submittal of the highly detailed and complex application packet. Mr. Rietkerk passed the award to the Board for viewing.

Item #1 – Directors' Reports

Director Roos reported that he attended the SSJID & Cities Operations Committee meeting on November 18. Discussion included SSJID Assistant Finance and Administration Manager Sarah Bloom's presentation of the Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant's (WTP) 2025 budget. He commented on the amicable relationship between the District and the participating cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca and Tracy.

Director Kamper stated that he had no updates to report.

Director Holbrook reported that he attended the Hope Ministries "Night of Hope" Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner on November 15. He commented on the new venue, and the well-attended event hosting approximately 300 guests.

President Weststeyn reported that he attended the Hope Ministries "Night of Hope" Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner on November 15. He stated that it was a very nice evening, and noted the amount of good Hope Ministries does for the community.

ACTION CALENDAR

Item #3 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 24-25-H to Honor the Service of SSJID Director Dave Kamper

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to adopt Resolution No. 24-25-H In Appreciation of Dave Kamper's Service.

Mr. Rietkerk read aloud Resolution 24-25-H which honored the 27-years of service Director Dave Kamper dedicated to the District.

Multiple comments from the Board and staff expressed appreciation and thanks to Director Kamper for his leadership as a Board Member, mentorship, knowledge, integrity, honesty, years of service to his constituents and the District, presidential counsel and advice, and his dry wit.

**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 24-25-H**

IN APPRECIATION OF DAVE KAMPER'S SERVICE

WHEREAS, Director Dave Kamper has provided over 27 years of dedicated service as a Director of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, commencing on November 25, 1997 and serving through December 6, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Director Kamper has exhibited excellence in leadership by serving as Vice President from 1999-2000, 2007-2008, and 2017-2018; and President from 2001-2002, 2009-2010, and 2019-2020; and

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WHEREAS, Director Kamper served on various District committees including the Agriculture and Water; Equipment; Community Relations; and Water Master Plan Ad-Hoc committee; and represented SSJID on the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board; and Tri-Dam Project Advisory Committee; and as voting delegate to several trade associations; and

WHEREAS, Director Kamper's leadership contributions to the betterment of SSJID during his tenure are numerous, and include:

- A. Approval and construction of the Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant bringing treated Stanislaus River water to the Cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca, and Tracy; and
- B. Promotion of local accountability through support of efforts to provide local retail electric service to communities within the District; and
- C. Approval of numerous irrigation related capital projects and improvements, including but not limited to the highly awarded pressurization project (Division 9) that incorporated state-of-the art technology and automation in supplying pressurized water service to 3,800 acres; and
- D. Development of the 2022 SSJID Water Master Plan, the District's first long-range plan to ensure financial stability, and operational reliability for irrigation services.

WHEREAS, Director Kamper has provided leadership to the Tri-Dam Project and Tri-Dam Power Authority through many initiatives, including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicensing, construction of the Third Unit at Tulloch, rehabilitation of the Beardsley Afterbay Dam, and the Tulloch Day Use Project; and

WHEREAS, Director Kamper's deep respect for history and his ability to vividly recall historical moments has made him an indispensable resource for fellow Board members and staff, and has resulted in consistency in policy and decision-making for SSJID and the Tri-Dam Project throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Director Kamper's understanding of District operational needs, balanced with empathy for the District's customers, is unrivaled, and has contributed to many common-sense and well-reasoned outcomes for the betterment of both; and

WHEREAS, Director Kamper will be greatly missed as a Director, colleague, historian, steward, visionary and customer and community advocate.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, on behalf of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, this Board of Directors expresses its deepest and most sincere appreciation for Director Kamper's 27 years of dedication and service to the District, its customers, and the greater community. The District also wishes to extend its appreciation to the Kamper family, especially Dave's wife Judy, for their support of Director Kamper during his tenure.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26th of November 2024 by the following roll call vote:

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

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Item #4 – Consider Approval to Renew Employment Agreement with Robert Holmes

Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, SSJID Water Resources Manager, addressed the Board regarding approval of Amendment #2 to the Employment Agreement (Agreement) with Robert Holmes, the SSJID Groundwater Liaison for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) related services. He stated that the proposed amendments to the Agreement would extend Mr. Holmes’ contract through December 31, 2025, and increase his hourly rate from \$100.00 per hour to \$125.00 per hour.

Mr. Nakagawa provided background of Board actions, on February 14, 2023, when the Board first approved the Agreement for a one (1) year period, and on December 19, 2023, which extended the term of the Agreement through December 31, 2024. He noted duties provided by Mr. Holmes, on behalf of SSJID, including serving as Director on the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) formed as a requirement for local SGMA groundwater compliance and coverage; and appointment by the SSJGSA to serve on the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) Board of Directors and Steering Committee to represent the interests of the SSJGSA as one of the sixteen (16) groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) on the ESJGWA.

Mr. Nakagawa highlighted Mr. Holmes’ instrumental contributions in the development of the SGMA required 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Amendments, and Drinking Water Well Mitigation Program, as well as in the coordination, communication and engagement of the GSAs regarding a necessary one-time quadrupling of ESJGWA member dues.

Due to the level of activity planned for 2025 with the implementation of the soon-to-be adopted 2025 GSP Amendment, staff recommended the amendment of the Agreement with Mr. Holmes through 2025. If approved, and at the SSJID President’s discretion, Mr. Holmes was also recommended to continue representing SSJID on the SSJGSA, and at the SSJGSA Chair’s discretion, will be recommended to continue to present the SSJGSA at the ESJGWA.

President Weststeyn stated that Mr. Holmes fills the Groundwater Liaison position well, and his knowledge and understanding of the relevant groundwater issues has gained him respect and trust from the member GSAs. He added that approval of the proposed amendment would be a good investment for the District.

Mr. Nakagawa provided an update on upcoming critical dates regarding SGMA related items:

- November 27, 2024 – Final GSP Amendments posted to the ESJGWA website
- December 11, 2024 – ESJGWA accepts Final GSP Amendments and recommends adoption by Member GSAs
- December 18, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m. – SSJGSA Board and Staff host a “Coffee Hour” for customers to discuss GSP Amendments
- December 18, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. – SSJGSA holds a Public Hearing and considers adoption of the GSP Amendments
- January 2025 – The Final GSP Update will be adopted by all GSAs and submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Kamper to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Employment Agreement for Robert Holmes to increase the hourly compensation rate from \$100.00 per hour to \$125.00 per hour commencing on January 1, 2025; and to extend the term of the Agreement through December 31, 2025.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #5 – Consider Approval of Proposal from Euro Style Management for the Nick C. DeGroot Water Treatment Plant M2 Potable Water Tank Interior Lining Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Charles Galea, WTP Chief Plant Operator, addressed the Board regarding the bid from Euro Style Management (Euro) to repair the interior coating of the M2 Storage Tank. He provided a brief background of the Manteca (M2) pump station that has an on-site 1-million gallon potable storage tank to provide drinking water to nearby residents, and to blend with four (4) of the City of Manteca’s (City) groundwater well sites downstream of the pump station. He stated that the interior coating is original and over twenty (20) years old, and preventative maintenance is necessary to continue providing safe, high-quality drinking water to District customers.

Mr. Galea explained that during repair to the tank, following vandalism to the tank shell, an inspection was conducted on the interior coating. The inspection revealed parts of the topcoat were peeling away from the primer and other sections were showing bare metal. Following the inspection, staff contacted a National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) certified coating inspector to do a closer inspection which determined that the topcoat was delaminated from the primer in several locations and a complete media blast and recoat was recommended.

Staff invited proposals for the M2 Interior Coating Rehabilitation Project, with Euro being the lowest bidder at a total cost of \$568,440.00.

Staff recommended that the Board accept the bid from Euro to repair the interior coating of the M2 Storage Tank for the amount of \$568,440.00, and approve the services of Bay Area Consultants to oversee and inspect the Project for a total cost of \$40,260.00. Staff has coordinated with the City regarding the draining of the M2 Storage Tank for the duration of the Project.

Board discussion included consideration and cost of stainless-steel tanks which may alleviate long-term maintenance; the probability of rust even with stainless-steel tanks; and product/project warranty to which Mr. Galea responded that the coating system has a one (1) year warranty combined with the manufacturer warranty could provide a five (5) year warranty.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Kamper to approve the proposal from Euro Style Management to repair the interior coating of the WTP’s M2 Potable Water Tank for a cost of \$568,440.00; and approve the services of Bay Area Coating Consultants to oversee and provide inspection services for the Project for a cost of \$40,260.00.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

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Item #6 – Consider Approval of Amendment to Service Abandonment Agreement for Weststeyn Family TR, APN 245-190-01

President Weststeyn recused himself from the meeting, at 9:30 a.m. due to his direct relationship with the agenda item, and appointed Director Kamper to chair the meeting in his absence.

Mr. Anthony Podesto, SSJID GIS/Engineering Technician, addressed the Board regarding approval to amend the Irrigation Service Abandonment Agreement (SAA) for San Joaquin County (SJC) Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 245-190-01.

Mr. Podesto provided background of the previous owner, Jen Chieh Ku, entering into a SAA with the District in 1992 (Agreement #441), and the current owner's, Weststeyn Family TR (Owner), request to amend the existing SAA so that the property can be eligible to receive District water. The Owner has submitted a structure permit application to install a new on-farm pressurized system on Lateral Vb, which proposes a sprinkler sump be installed at the end of an existing private pipeline that connects to Lateral Vb.

Mr. Podesto described the subject properties, District facilities, serviceability, required improvements, an unrecorded Agreement to Convey, and the recommendation for the Owner to grant the District an easement for all SSJID facilities with the subject properties.

Mr. Podesto and the Applicant met, on October 10, to review the District's findings and recommendations, to which Mr. Weststeyn provided verbal confirmation that he would be willing to comply with the recommendations stated as a condition to amending the SAA.

Board discussion noted that the Owner had just recently purchased the property six (6) months ago.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to approve the "Agreement to Amend Irrigation Service Abandonment Agreement" for the Weststeyn Family TR, APN 245-190-01.

The motion passed 3 to 0 by the following vote:

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

President Weststeyn returned to the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Item #7 – Consider Approval of Amendment to Service Abandonment Agreement for Dole Revocable TR, APNs 245-230-57 & 58

In a show of full transparency, Director Kamper disclosed that he was related to the property owner(s) but held no financial interest in the matter.

Mr. Podesto addressed the Board regarding approval to amend the Irrigation Service Abandonment Agreement (SAA) for SJC APNs 245-230-57 & 58.

Mr. Podesto provided background of the previous owner, Richard Ohland, entering into a SAA with the District in 1991 (Agreement #303), and the current owner's, Dole Revocable TR (Owner), request to amend the existing

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SAA so that the property can be eligible to receive District water. Currently, the Owner has no desire to use District water, however, would like to have the option in the future.

Mr. Podesto described the subject properties, District facilities (Lateral S1), serviceability, existing easements, and recommended specific conditions regarding flood, sprinkler or drip irrigation. There are no unauthorized encroachments within the easements associated with District’s Lateral S1.

Board discussion included the current condition of the District pipeline, to which Mr. Podesto responded that the pipeline is in good condition and provides sprinkler irrigation downstream.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to approve the “Agreement to Amend Irrigation Service Abandonment Agreement” for the Dole Revocable TR, APNs 245-230-57 & 58.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #8 – Consider Adoption of Resolution 24-26-P to Quitclaim Property Interests Associated with Drain 8a at APN 226-170-24

Mr. Forrest Killingsworth, SSJID Engineering Department Manager, addressed the Board regarding approval of a Quitclaim Deed, and Transfer Agreement with Oleander Manteca, LLC (Developer/Applicant) at APN 226-170-24 (Subject Property) for the abandonment of a portion of Drain 8a, in Manteca.

Mr. Killingsworth explained that the Developer/Applicant has applied for the District to transfer its property interests in Drain 8a within the Subject Property, to further develop the property and utilize the area currently occupied by the District easement. It was noted that Drain 8a was a dirt ditch which was backfilled and has not been used for drainage conveyance for many years.

District Operations and Engineering staff have reviewed and approved the application, and agreed that the facility is no longer needed for service and the easement would not be needed for future purposes.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the Quitclaim Deed, and Transfer Agreement with at APN 226-170-24; and adopt Resolution No. 24-26-P Authorizing the Quitclaim of an Easement Owned by the SSJID.

Board discussion included future drainage opportunities for the Landowner upon development of the property.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Roos to approve the Quitclaim Deed, and Transfer Agreement with Oleander Manteca, LLC at APN 226-170-24 for the abandonment of a portion of Drain 8a; and adopt Resolution No. 24-26-P Authorizing the Quitclaim of an Easement Owned by the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (Portion of Drain 8a).

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**SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 24-26-P**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE QUITCLAIM OF AN EASEMENT
OWNED BY THE SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
(PORTION OF DRAIN 8A)**

WHEREAS, the SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT (“District”) is the lawful owner of an easement upon real property situate in the unincorporated area County of San Joaquin, identified by San Joaquin County Assessor’s Parcel Number 226-170-24 (the Subject Property). Said easement is sixty (60) feet in width, and contained a portion of District’s dirt ditch identified as Drain 8, and is more particularly described in the attached Exhibit “A” (“Easement”) and shown in the plat attached hereto as Exhibit “B;” and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that the District no longer requires the Easement for District purposes; and

WHEREAS, the District Board of Directors finds it in the best interests of the District to quitclaim the Easement unto OLEANDER MANTECA, LLC, the owner of the underlying real property burdened by the Easement; and

WHEREAS, California Water Code section 22500 authorizes an irrigation district to dispose of real property where: 1) the District’s Board of Directors find the property is no longer necessary for district purposes; 2) the proposed conveyance is supported by valuable consideration; and 3) the District’s Board of Directors finds the terms and conditions of the conveyance to be in the best interests of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Directors finds the requirements of California Water Code section 22500 have been met.

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

1. The Board of Directors finds that the Easement is no longer necessary for District purposes;
2. Valuable consideration for the quitclaim of said portion of the Easement is acknowledged as received;
3. The Board of Directors finds the terms and conditions of the quitclaim to be in the best interests of the District;
4. The Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager and other District staff to execute and record all documents and do all other things necessary and proper to effectuate the quitclaim of the Easement contained therein to OLEANDER MANTECA, LLC, the owner of the underlying real property.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of November, 2024, by the following vote:

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

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Item #9 – Consider Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Jolt Engineering for the PV1 Solar Farm Repowering Project

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding approval of a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Jolt Engineering Services (Jolt) for engineering design services related to the repowering of the Robert O. Schulz Solar Farm (Solar Farm) PV1 Solar Project (PV1 North and South phases) for an amount not to exceed \$14,900.00.

Mr. Rietkerk provided a brief recap of the PV1 Repowering Project’s scope of work, and the importance of current as-built drawings. Jolt will complete the as-built drawings that include all electrical engineering design, solar module and wiring configurations, wire sizing, and protective equipment for low voltage AC and DC systems.

The Jolt proposal is for a not to exceed amount of \$14,900.00. The capital budget for solar repowering activities in 2024 is \$2.65 million, and \$1.35 million in 2025.

Staff recommended that the Board approve the PSA with Jolt for a not-to-exceed amount of \$14,900.00.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Kamper to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Jolt Engineering Services for engineering design services related to the repowering of the Robert O. Schulz Solar Farm PV1 Solar Project (PV1 North and South phases) for an amount not to exceed \$14,900.00.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #10 – Consider Approval of a Cost Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Ripon for SSJID’s Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred to Conduct a Capacity Fee Study; and Authorize the General Manager to Enter into a Professional Services Agreement with NBS Government Finance Group

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding the two (2) part Action Item to authorize the General Manager to enter into a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with NBS Government Finance Group (NBS); and approve the Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Ripon (Ripon).

Mr. Rietkerk provided background of Ripon sending a formal request, dated November 29, 2023, asking SSJID and the Cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca, and Tracy (Project Participants) of the South County Water Supply Project (SCWSP) to consider allowing Ripon to participate and receive treated water from the SCWSP facilities. Ripon also suggested potential conditions for their participation.

On April 24, 2024, city managers and representatives of the Project Participants met to discuss Ripon’s request and determine next steps. The meeting resulted in consensus that the Project Participants were willing to enter into negotiations with Ripon and that estimation of a potential capital charge to Ripon would be necessary to capture Project Participant’s prior investments in the SCWSP. It was determined that SSJID would contract with a qualified rates consultant (NBS) to perform the study, and the costs would be reimbursed by Ripon.

Mr. Rietkerk explained the NBS scope of work to develop a water capacity fee study including meetings with

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District staff, Project Participants, and Ripon; data collection; data review and analysis; and finalization. The study results will be used to inform negotiations between Ripon, the Project Participants, and SSJID.

The NBS proposal is for a not to exceed amount of \$35,900.00. The study is anticipated to take approximately four (4) months, commencing in December 2024.

The Reimbursement Agreement between SSJID and Ripon has been negotiated and finalized. The City of Ripon City Council approved the scope of work for the Water Capacity Fee Study and the Reimbursement Agreement with SSJID on November 12. The scope of work was provided to the Project Participants at the Operating Committee meeting on November 18.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Roos and seconded by Director Holbrook to authorize the General Manager to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with NBS Government Finance Group to conduct a Water Capacity Fee Study for an amount not to exceed \$35,900.00; and approve the Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Ripon.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

The Board took a brief recess at 9:54 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 9:59 a.m.

Item #11 – Consider Approval of Holiday Office Closure for 2024

Mr. Rietkerk addressed the Board regarding approval to close the District Office from public access between December 26 and December 31. He provided history of Board action that included annual consideration of discretionary vacation days around the recognized Christmas and New Years holidays, along with office closures in the same period.

Staff requested that the Board approve a policy to close the District’s Main Office annually from December 26 to December 31, to accommodate employees seeking additional time off, in addition to the regularly observed December 25 and January 1 holidays, by use of their accrued vacation, administrative leave, and/or other appropriate accruals. The District Office would reopen from the annual closure on January 2, or the next business day.

Mr. Rietkerk noted that while employees may request time off during the closure, staffing may be required for operational needs, including but not limited to WTP, storm drainage, payroll, and other administrative staff, and that requests for time off would be approved accordingly.

The Board clarified that the District would remain open and running, but closed to public access during the proposed office closure dates.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to approve the closure of SSJID offices annually between December 26 and December 31, and that the District offices will reopen from the annual closure on January 2, or the next business day.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #12 – Consider Approval of the SSJID 5-Year Plan of Major Expenditures for January 2025 – December 2029

Ms. Bloom addressed the Board and explained that the SSJID 5-Year Plan of Major Expenditures for January 2025 – December 2029 (Plan) is presented to the Board every six (6) months and provides context to the annual Capital Budget allowing staff and the Board to properly plan large projects. She emphasized that the Plan is to be used as a guide and does not grant approval for projects presented in the Plan. Staff and the Board may decide to alter the Plan during the mid-year update and/or at the next annual adoption. Ms. Bloom added that the Plan identifies large projects, strategic plan efforts, small projects, and/or shop vehicle replacements that could account for foreseeable near-term capital expenditures.

Board discussion noted that the Total Project Budget column on the Summary of Plan Expenditures included projects not within the 5-year snapshot or already underway resulting in an inaccurate total. The Board requested that the budget incorporate estimated projected costs to provide a more precise representation of the budget.

The Board inquired on page 5, lines 29-33, Items Eng25.10-14, Float Valve Installations, and asked if these are standard installations, to which Mr. Killingsworth responded that they are standard and that the Water Master Plan includes annual installation of float valves. Specific float valve installations are re-evaluated for consideration during the mid-year budget update process based on customer demands received throughout the season.

Ms. Bloom acknowledged the entire Budget Team for the collaborated efforts during the 2025 budget process.

Mr. Rietkerk stated that there are multiple projects identified in the Water Master Plan, that while included in the 5-Year Plan, will be contingent on additional grant funding and financing options.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Holbrook and seconded by Director Roos to approve the SSJID 5-Year Plan of Major Expenditures for January 2025 – December 2029.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

Item #13 – Consider Approval of the SSJID Proposed 2025 Budget

Ms. Williams addressed the Board regarding the proposed SSJID 2025 budget, and stated that the Board may choose to adopt the proposed 2025 budget as presented, adopt the proposed 2025 budget with specified changes, or ask for a revised budget proposal to be considered by the Board at the December 10 meeting. She clarified that adoption of the proposed official budget document which was presented in the staff report for agenda Item #13, Attachment A, would include adoption of the Capital Budget, the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) budget, and the South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SSJGSA) proposed 2025 budget which was included in the body of the staff report, and will be presented to the SSJGSA Board of Directors for approval at

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their December 18 meeting.

Ms. Williams noted that the SSJGSA proposed 2025 budget had been increased from \$272,000.00 to \$361,000.00 to accommodate increases in technical consultants, legal fees, ESJGWA membership contributions, staff time, and banking fees. She stated that she was making efforts to coordinate a meeting with the financial institution to discuss the newly established banking fees. The Board recommended researching Umpqua Bank, an institution with experience dealing with government and/or public agencies.

Ms. Williams identified a significant update to the 2025 budget noting the formation of Fund 15, which will track all revenues and expenditures associated with Division 9. Historically, these amounts had been accounted for in Fund 10 (Irrigation). The new Fund 15 will ensure District compliance with Governmental Account Standards Board (GASB) requirements to separate restricted funds, and allow for a more effective tracking and allocation of costs directly associated with Division 9 services.

Ms. Williams provided detailed explanations of operating revenues, operating expenses, non-operating revenues, and capital contributions. Further explained was the 2025 projected budget for expenses including payroll taxes and benefits; health insurance rates; materials and supplies; maintenance, repairs and improvements; depreciations; utilities; general and administrative costs; the SSJGSA budget; and Tri-Dam distributions. Noted were probable increased expenses to consider regarding wages contingent on the California Consumer Price Index (CPI) Report to be published in December; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 1245) Union negotiations; chemical suppliers; and consultation services.

Ms. Williams added that Board approval, on October 22, for financial advisory services with PFM Financial Advisors LLC (PFM) will navigate future challenges; and prioritize breakeven profitability, enhancing cash reserves, financing strategic initiatives, and optimizing expenditure efficiency to ensure that SSJID remains well-positioned to meeting the evolving needs of the community and maintain fiscal health.

Ms. Williams commended the Finance Department, and acknowledged all the District Departments, for their work and collaboration in the 2025 budget process.

Board discussion included the Proposition 218 rate increase versus SSJID's irrigation and operations expenses, and the District's Organizational Design Review process which could require increased staffing for Board consideration in the future.

MOTION: A motion was made by Director Kamper and seconded by Director Roos to approve South San Joaquin Irrigation District Proposed 2025 Budget.

The motion passed 4 to 0 by the following vote:

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

It was announced that all remaining items on the Closed Session agenda would be discussed. The Board took a brief recess at 10:45 a.m. and convened to Closed Session at 11:00 a.m.

Item #14 – CLOSED SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 26, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE SSJID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board returned to Open Session at 2:58 p.m.

Item #15 – 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 #16 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

Danielle Barney, Clerk of the Board