

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LOWER SAN JOAQUIN LEVEE DISTRICT**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025

Pursuant to the Call of the Chairman, a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lower San Joaquin Levee District was held in the office of the San Luis Canal Company at 11704 W Henry Miller Avenue, Dos Palos, Merced County, California, on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at the hour of 8:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Catania presided over the meeting and called it to order, with the following Directors present in the boardroom: Sean Howard, Breanne Vandenberg, Steve Shehadey, and Bob Kelley. Directors Case Vlot and George Park were absent. The following staff were present in the boardroom: Legal Counsel Lauren Layne, Secretary-Manager Shane Swartz, Superintendent Jody McClellon, and Office Administrator Raegan Huff. The guests in attendance in the boardroom were Hossein Aghazeynali and Darrell Chism.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Vandenberg led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRECTIONS OF ADDITIONS

No corrections or additions.

BOARD MINUTES

Following a discussion regarding the previous Board minutes, the minutes of the Board's general meeting, held on September 9, 2025, were approved on a motion by Director Shehadey and seconded by Director Vandenberg.

PRESENTATION

Hossein Aghazeynali from the Department of Water Resources was present in the Board room to give a presentation to brief the Board on the proposed construction of three new CDEC measurement stations on Ash Slough, Brenda Slough, and Chowchilla Canal Bypass near Road 9 in Madera County.

LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

Attorney Layne provided a brief update on the current developments that occurred during the legislative session, focusing on several State Assembly Bills: AB1413, AB293, AB1416,

AB929, AB1705, AB1466, AB1319, SB707, and SB697. AB1413 is a Groundwater Adjudication Bill that was held and ordered inactive. AB1466 requires that a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) determine sustainable yield, and this bill has progressed and has been signed by the Governor. SB707 amends the Brown Act to introduce new telephone-conferencing requirements, which may require Board meetings to use an actual phone line. AB1146 is regarding dams and reservoirs, and this Bill has been held and ordered inactive. AB1075 relates to fire protection and privately contracted fire prevention services, and this bill has been signed by the Governor and is progressing. AB929 pertains to charging wetlands and waterfowl clubs under SGMA, and it has been ordered inactive. AB1319 is related to the California Endangered Species Act and was signed by the Governor. AB293 pertains to GSA transparency, which mandates that links to Form 700s be available on the GSA's website, and this Bill was signed by the Governor. SB697 pertains to the determination of water rights in a stream system and was signed by the Governor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McClellon reported that on September 26th, the District had Bettencourt Flying Service apply herbicide in the Bypass, downstream of Washington Road. About 3.75 quarts per acre of Aquamaster were applied to control the growth of tree saplings.

Superintendent McClellon stated that sapling tree removal continues in the Bypass, downstream of the El Nido crossing.

Superintendent McClellon reported that the mowing of levee slopes and roadways has been completed for this year.

Superintendent McClellon stated that the removal of posts and debris from the right-of-way throughout the District has been completed.

Superintendent McClellon reported that cattle rut repairs have begun, downstream of Sandy Mush Road. These repairs will continue through the winter, weather permitting.

Superintendent McClellon reported that the generator in the control room at the Bifurcation is experiencing a "no start" issue. A Cummins technician inspected the unit and has ordered the necessary parts for repairs.

Superintendent McClellon stated that bollards were placed in front of the new carport in the District shop yard.

Superintendent McClellon reported that the gravelling of the levee roadways between Avenue 12 and Avenue 14 was scheduled to begin on October 14th; however, the start date has been delayed due to weather conditions. Superintendent McClellon also stated that the work will commence as soon as the weather improves, and that the District is receiving assistance from two landowners- Richie Iest and Britz Farms, who are providing water for dust control and compaction purposes.

Superintendent McClellon stated that the rodent control program is ongoing, utilizing Diphacinone bait and carbon monoxide machines.

Superintendent McClellon reported that gate and fence repairs are ongoing, and several in the District will be replaced.

ACTION ITEMS

2025 California Department of Water Resources Structure Inspections for the District

S-M Swartz presented the 2025 DWR Structure Inspection Report to the Board for review and consideration. A total of seventeen structures within the District were inspected. Sixteen of these structures received an ‘A’ rating, indicating they are acceptable. The only structure that received an ‘M’ rating, meaning it is minimally acceptable, was the Sand Slough Structure. Sand Slough Structure repair is still in talks with DWR. Following a discussion, on a motion by Director Kelley and seconded by Director Shehadey, the 2025 DWR Structure Inspection Report was accepted.

1. Ash Slough Drop Structure No. 1 – Overall Rating A
2. Ash Slough Drop Structure No. 2 – Overall Rating A
3. Ash Slough Drop Structure No. 3 – Overall Rating A
4. Ash Slough Drop Structure No. 4 – Overall Rating A
5. Bear Creek Diversion Structure – Overall Rating A
6. Chowchilla Canal Bypass Control Structure – Overall Rating A
7. Eastside Bypass Control Structure – Overall Rating A
8. Eastside Bypass Drop Structure No. 1 – Overall Rating A
9. Eastside Bypass Drop Structure No. 2 – Overall Rating A
10. Fresno River Drainage Structure – Overall Rating A
11. Mariposa Bypass Control Structure – Overall Rating A
12. Mariposa Bypass Drop Structure – Overall Rating A
13. Owens Creek Control Structure – Overall Rating A
14. Owens Creek Overflow Structure – Overall Rating A
15. San Joaquin River Bypass Control Structure – Overall Rating A
16. San Joaquin River Structure – Overall Rating A
17. Sand Slough Structure – Overall Rating M

District Employee Health Coverage Renewal: Review and consider taking action

S-M Swartz presented to the Board the renewal rates for the District’s employees starting December 1, 2025. Under the current policy, the District pays 100% of the coverage for employees and their spouses' elected medical and dental plans, but there is no coverage for other dependents. The current medical plan the District is enrolled in is the Anthem Gold 1500, with a monthly premium of \$10,976.30, and the renewal premium will increase to \$12,401.93. For dental coverage, the District is enrolled in Humana Dental, with a monthly premium of \$399.26 that increases to \$439.13 upon renewal. The estimated total cost of coverage for 2026 is \$154,092.41, which exceeds the approved healthcare budget line item by \$4,902.41. District staff requested approval for the renewal rates of Anthem Gold 1500 and Humana Dental, as well as an increase in the budget to \$155,000 from \$150,000. After discussion, on a motion by Director Kelley and seconded by Director Shehadey, the Board approved the renewal rates for medical and dental coverage and increased the budget to \$155,000.

<u>ANTHEM GOLD 1500</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Renewal</u>
Total Monthly Premium	\$10,976.30	\$12,401.93
Total Annual Premium	\$131,715.60	\$148,823.16
Annual Difference		<i>\$17,107.56 – 13%</i>

<u>HUMANA DENTAL</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Renewal</u>
Total Monthly Premium	\$399.26	\$439.13
Total Annual Premium	\$4,791.12	\$5,269.56
Annual Difference		<i>\$478.44 – 10%</i>

Flood System Repair Project Grant In-Kind Funds – Fixed Asset Purchase: Review and consider taking action.

S-M Swartz presented the 2024 FSRP-1 Re-gravel Levee Patrol Road Project budget review to the Board. Under the current DWR contract, the District is required to contribute a 5% cost share of the total project budget, which amounts to \$230,338.65 from the \$4,606,733.00 total budget. To date, the total project costs have reached \$3,609,175.40, leaving \$997,597.70 remaining in the budget. Below is the up-to-date District Cost Summary for the Levee Patrol Road Project.

Overall FSRP Funding Agreement Budget and Local Cost Share

	Total Budget	Project Costs thru Invoice 2	Remaining Balances
State Share (95%)	\$4,376,434.35	\$3,437,309.81	\$939,124.54
Local Share (5%)	\$230,338.65	\$171,865.49	\$58,473.16
Totals	\$4,606,773.00	\$3,609,175.30	\$997,597.70

Summary of District Costs by Month

Month	District Labor	District Equipment	Totals
Jul 24	\$21,936.36	\$21,025.50	\$42,961.86
Aug 24	\$40,471.28	\$41,208.88	\$81,680.16
Sep 24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oct 24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nov 24	\$19,826.54	\$20,249.23	\$40,075.77
Dec 24	\$18,732.02	\$20,869.18	\$39,601.20
Jan 25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Feb 25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mar 25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Apr 25	\$27,199.79	\$27,916.32	\$55,116.11
May 25	\$15,797.33	\$13,570.81	\$29,368.14
Jun 25	\$25,638.82	\$24,164.24	\$49,803.05
Jul 25	\$70,300.82	\$50,226.56	\$120,527.38
Aug 25	\$52,172.82	\$34,508.48	\$86,681.30
Totals	\$292,075.78	\$253,739.19	\$545,814.97

Summary of District Costs by Month

Local costs thru Invoice 2	\$171,865.49
Remainder of local costs included on invoice 3	\$58,743.16
Cost Share excess (billed as direct project cost)	\$315,206.32

District staff requests approval to allocate funds from DWR that exceed the 5% local cost share toward purchasing a list of necessary items, with any surplus directed to the FSRP savings account. The current amount from this project that exceeds the 5% District cost share is \$315,206.32. Following a discussion, on a motion by Director Kelley and seconded by Director Shehadey, the FSRP in-kind funds were accepted.

1. Adding Direct Injector System to current spray trailer: \$34,000
2. Utility spray vehicle replacement (2) – Channel Spraying: \$ 40,500
3. Connex Storage Containers: \$13,000
4. Connex Storage Container Cover 40’x40’: \$29,000
5. Helicopter Direct Spray Application ESB: \$10,000
6. Road Grader Tires: \$5,000
7. Loader tires: \$8,5000
8. Shop Yard Maintenance Bldg Doors: \$20,000
9. Bait Stations (100) - \$4,500
10. Diphacinone Bait: \$9,1600
11. Fence Pipe Posts - \$2,000
12. Fence materials (fence, gates, wire) \$13,000
13. Registered Locks: \$6,650
14. Security Chain: \$7,400

SECRETARY-MANAGER’S REPORT

S-M Swartz presented current updates on flood operations and Friant Dam flows.

DWR – Deferred Maintenance Program (DMP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on DWR’s Deferred Maintenance Program. He mentioned that District Engineer Scott Jacobson and Wood Bros., Inc. were working together on the Deadman Creek Drain Structures project. Scott Jacobson has accepted drawings and bids, and DWR has approved the additional work to be completed by the end of the year. S-M Swartz

also mentioned that the CIPP pipe project is still ongoing, with approximately eight more pipes to complete.

DWR – Flood Maintenance Assistance Program (FMAP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on DWR’s Flood Maintenance Assistance Program. S-M Swartz stated that there is no update on the FMAP program and that it will not be funded for the 2026 calendar year.

DWR – Flood System Repair Program (FSRP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on DWR’s Flood System Repair Program, Levee Erosion Project. S-M Swartz stated that for the FSRP Erosion project, all of the necessary permits have been sent to CDFW and the Water Board for the three erosion sites on the Eastside Bypass. Construction for this project is projected to start in the summer of 2026.

S-M Swartz provided an update on the DWR’s Flood System Repair Programs, Patrol Road Project. As of September 1st, the project has completed 45 miles of patrol road repairs. An additional 10 miles have been approved by DWR staff to complete since we still have funds under our current agreement for this type of work. The work will be on the left bank of the Chowchilla Canal Bypass between Firebaugh Blvd to Road 9 in Madera County.

BUDGET STATUS REPORT

Following a discussion of the claims presented on a motion by Director Kelley, seconded by Director Shehadey, the following claims were unanimously acknowledged and approved for payment.

Anthem Blue Cross	Employee Group Insurance	10300	\$10,976.30
Associates Lock & Safe	FSRP Expense	22388	\$6,649.69
Baker Manock & Jensen	Professional services	21800	\$15,708.05
CDFW	CDFW Permits #1-3	22388	\$19,019.75
Central Valley Water Board	Water Board Permit Fee	22388	\$23,277.00
CAL NET	Communications	20600	\$197.24
Copy Shipping Solutions	Office expenses/supplies	21700	\$89.70
Cool World Enterprises	Communications	20600	\$337.00
CoPower	Employee Group insurance	10300	\$87.40
Drugtech Toxicology	Professional services	21800	\$44.00
Elite Credit Card (Shane)	ParcelQuest, Tactacam, Grainger		\$2,122.79
Elite Credit Card (Jody)	Walmart		\$168.67
Garton Tractor	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$1,542.82
Gilton Waste	Household expense-supplies	20900	\$152.07
Henry Miller Rec. (rent)	Office expenses/supplies	21700	\$1,537.00
HCL Machine Works	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$120.88
Humana	Employee Group Insurance	10300	\$399.26
JS West & Co.	Utilities	22600	\$1,117.69
Kellogg Supply	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$493.74
Kellogg Supply	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$156.31
KSN Engineering	FSRP Expense	22388	\$30,782.74
Kimball Midwest	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$505.46
McElvany Inc.	FSRP Expense	22388	\$1,455.00
Merced County Depart of Ag	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$9,160.00
Municipal Maintenance Equipment	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$1,952.37
Napa Auto Parts	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$229.85
N&S Tractor	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$395.60
PG&E (Office)	Utilities	22600	\$259.45
PG&E (Shop)	Utilities	22600	\$675.17
PG&E (Protection)	Utilities	22600	\$14.76
PG&E (Structures)	Utilities	22600	\$229.64
PG&E (Indiana House)	Utilities	22600	\$387.55
PSG Fencing	Structures and Improvements	83600	\$23,350.00
Primo Brands (LD office)	Household expense-supplies	20900	\$40.96
Primo Brands (Shop)	Household expense-supplies	20900	\$68.93
Price Ford of Turlock	Equipment	83700	\$55,302.11
Raegan Huff	Transportation and Travel	22500	\$302.40
San Joaquin Air Pollution District	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$46.20
Shane Swartz	RFMP Expense	22387	\$942.37
Shane Swartz	Communications	22600	\$1,020.16
Summers Engineering, Inc.	FSRP Expense- Gravel	22388	\$10,438.68
Summers Engineering, Inc.	DMP Expense	22389	\$7,601.13
Summers Engineering, Inc.	Professional services	21800	\$1,472.60
Tharp's Farm Supply	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$433.32
Tucci Machine Shop	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$184.96
Tucci Machine Shop	FSRP Expense	22388	\$3,702.29
UniFirst	Clothing & Personal Supply	20500	\$428.64
Valvoline	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$193.12
Verizon Connect	Communications	20600	\$273.20
Verizon	Communications	20600	\$176.79
WestAir Gases	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$205.68
Windecker	Transportation and Travel	22500	\$2,257.85
Zenith	Workmen's Comp. Insurance	10360	\$2,848.00

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Catania declared the meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.



Shane Swartz, Secretary-Manager