

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LOWER SAN JOAQUIN LEVEE DISTRICT
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 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, March 11, 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: Sean Howard, George Park, Case Vlot, Stephen Shedhaey, and Bob Kelley. Director Breanne Vandenburg was absent. The following staff were present in the board room: Legal Counsel Lauren Layne, Secretary-Manager Shane Swartz, Superintendent Jody McClellon, and Office Administrator Raegan Huff. The guests in attendance in the board room were Richard Harriman, Frank Cozzi, Jeff Gilkey, Steve Rodriguez, and Lane Puckett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No corrections or additions.

BOARD MINUTES

Following a discussion regarding the previous Board minutes, the minutes of the Board's general meeting, held on February 11th, 2025, were approved on a motion by Director Park and seconded by Director Howard.

LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

Attorney Layne provided a brief update on recent legislative developments. She mentioned significant progress regarding CARB regulations related to the District's fleet of trucks weighing over 8,500 lbs. Attorney Layne mentioned that ACWA is investigating legislation to assess the possibility of expanding the emergency vehicle exception for public agencies. CARB has requested examples illustrating how the current wording of the regulation is

ineffective. Attorney Layne is actively working with CARB on this issue and is closely monitoring the situation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McClellon reported that he met with Cory Fugitani, the District's DWR levee inspector, to discuss four locations in Unit 22 that were rated unsatisfactory in the levee inspection report. He mentioned that he was able to convince Cory that two of the four locations showed no damage to the levee prism. However, the remaining two locations will require repairs by the District's maintenance crew to meet compliance standards.

Superintendent McClellon stated that Cory Fugitani started the spring inspections on Monday, March 10th, 2025.

Superintendent McClellon reported that the chemical applications on the levee slopes and roadway have been completed. The maintenance crew is currently applying chemicals around gates, structures, and levee turnouts and expects to complete these applications by March 14th.

Superintendent McClellon stated that the grading of the levee roadway is still ongoing; he expects to finish this project within the next two weeks.

Superintendent McClellon reported that a new gate was installed on the right bank of the Chowchilla Bypass Control Structure.

Superintendent McClellon stated that the newly budgeted welder trailer for this fiscal year has been equipped with all the necessary welding equipment and is currently being utilized to raise gates following last summer's re-graveling project.

Superintendent McClellon reported that the vertebrate control program is ongoing.

Superintendent McClellon stated that the locks at Sandy Mush have been changed. He also mentioned that he had ordered a new restricted key from Master Lock. However, when the locks arrived, they came with a standard key that could be easily duplicated. Superintendent McClellon stated that he has since reordered the locks with the correct key. Once those arrive, the District's maintenance crew will begin replacing the old locks at all major entry points with the new ones.

Superintendent McClellon reported that gate and fence repairs continue as needed.

ACTION ITEMS

Review and consider taking action to award bids for work pursuant to the Flood System Repair Project, Gravel Road Repair Unit 2.

S-M Swartz informed the Board that on February 20, 2025, Jeff Gilkey from Summers Engineering accepted bids for the FSRP gravel road repair project for the work on Unit 2. Three bids were received; the lowest bid was from F.S. Rod, Inc., with a bid amount of \$533,260. Jeff Gilkey was present in the Board room, and based on Summers Engineering's review, they recommend awarding the contract for Unit 2 to F.S. Rod for \$533,260. On a motion by Director Kelley and seconded by Director Park, the contract for Unit 2 was awarded to F.S. Rod, Inc.

Review and consider taking action to award bids for work pursuant to the Flood System Repair Project, Gravel Road Repair Units 17 & 18.

S-M Swartz informed the Board that on February 20, 2025, Jeff Gilkey from Summers Engineering also accepted bids for the FSRP gravel road repair project for the work on Units 17 and 18. Three bids were received; the lowest bid was from San Joaquin Sand and Gravel, with a bid amount of \$433,728. The District has worked with San Joaquin Sand and Gravel in the past, and based on Summers Engineering's review, they recommend awarding the contract for Units 17 and 18 to San Joaquin Sand and Gravel for \$433,728. On a motion by Director Howard and seconded by Director Vlot, the contract for Units 17 and 18 was awarded to San Joaquin Sand and Gravel.

District General Insurance 2025-2026: Frank Cozzi, Broker Stocking, and Cozzi.

S-M Swartz introduced Frank Cozzi, who provided an update on the 2025-2026 District general insurance policy. He presented a brief overview to inform the Board members and address any questions they had. After a discussion, the Board decided to approve the 2025-2026 quote of \$159,148.00 from Stocking and Cozzi and also agreed to allocate an additional \$6,000.00 to the general insurance budget. On a motion by Director Kelley, and seconded by Director Shehadey, the District's 2025-2026 general insurance policy was accepted.

SECRETARY-MANAGER’S REPORT

Flood Operations and District Updates

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

S-M Swartz stated that CCID has been assisting the District in clearing the San Joaquin River gates on Washington Road. This will benefit the District's DWR Structure summer inspection report.

S-M Swartz reported having a meeting with the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to discuss the Storm Damage Emergency Repair related to the 4 miles of plastic and wave wash protection along the Eastside Bypass. He stated that the engineering for this project is approximately 65% complete, and construction is planned to begin in the fall of 2026.

S-M Swartz mentioned that the encroachment permit from the Department of Water Resources for the installation of Ground Monitoring GNSS CORS Monuments is currently under review by the District's engineer, Scott Jacobson. DWR has hired the contractor Vericon to install these systems near the Bifurcation to monitor subsidence. The proposed location for the monitor is on the landward side of the left bank of the Chowchilla Bypass, 75 feet off the toe of the levee. S-M Swartz stated that once the review process is complete, he has requested Vericon to attend a Board meeting to provide further explanations about these systems.

S-M Swartz reported that the San Joaquin River Restoration Program visited the Bifurcation on March 4th to discuss a plan to start building a fish bypass on it.

DWR – Deferred Maintenance Program (DMP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on DWR’s Deferred Maintenance Program. S-M Swartz stated that Phase 2 of the DMP project, Package B, which includes the additional six pipe replacements, has begun. He also mentioned that Package C is in progress for five additional pipe replacements with planning for bid solicitation coming this summer; DWR fully funds all of these projects.

DWR – Flood Maintenance Assistance Program (FMAP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on DWR’s Flood Maintenance Assistance Program. S-M Swartz informed the Board that the finalized budget from DWR indicated that the FMAP program would not be funded in the 2025 calendar year. However, there is a possibility that funding may be restored in the 2026 calendar year, though this will not be confirmed until that time.

DWR – Flood System Repair Program (FSRP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on DWR’s Flood System Repair Program. He mentioned that the FSRP program is also not receiving funding in the DWR 2025 budget for new contracts. However, the District's current contract is secure; the funding issue only affects new contracts planned for the 2025 calendar year.

DWR – Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on DWR’s Regional Flood Management Plan. S-M Swartz stated that he is waiting for the updated contract from DWR to continue funding with the District.

BUDGET STATUS REPORT

Following a discussion on the claims present, on a motion by Director Vlot and seconded by Director Howard, the following claims were unanimously acknowledged and approved for payment.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Anthem Blue Cross | Employee Group Insurance | 10300 | \$11,398.50 |
| Alhambra | Household expense-supplies | 20900 | \$54.75 |
| Agri-Turf Distributng | Maintenance- structures, other | 21300 | \$428.20 |
| A&E Pressure Washers | Equipment | 83700 | \$6,620.17 |
| Baker Manock & Jensen | Professional services | 21800 | \$3,386.90 |
| Baker Supplies & Repairs | Maintenance- equipment, other | 21200 | \$15.23 |
| Big Creek Lumber | Maintenance- structures, other | 21300 | \$302.29 |
| CAL NET | Communications | 20600 | \$78.20 |
| CalMutuals | Memberships | 21500 | \$100.00 |
| CH2M Hill Engineers | Professional services | 21810 | \$6,120.00 |
| Cool World Enterprises | Communications | 20600 | \$337.00 |
| Copy Shipping Solutions | Office expenses/supplies | 21700 | \$48.37 |
| CoPower | Employee Group insurance | 10300 | \$87.40 |
| Dos Palos Well Drilling | Maintenance- structures, other | 21300 | \$145.00 |
| Drugtech Toxicology | Professional services | 21800 | \$44.00 |
| Elite Credit Card (Shane) | Tactacam, Parcel Quest | | \$2,834.27 |
| Elite Credit Card (Jody) | Maintenance equipment | | \$748.06 |
| Garton Tractor | Equipment | 83700 | \$7,604.52 |
| Garton Tractor | Maintenance- equipment, other | 21200 | \$44.92 |
| Gilton Waste | Household expense-supplies | 20900 | \$125.22 |
| Henry Miller Rec. (rent) | Office expenses/supplies | 21700 | \$1,508.00 |
| Henry Miller Rec. (propane) | Office expenses/supplies | 21700 | \$86.74 |
| Henry Miller Rec. (postage) | Office expenses/supplies | 21700 | \$8.69 |
| Humana | Employee Group insurance | 10300 | \$462.88 |
| Holt of CA | Maintenance- equipment, other | 21200 | \$1,471.01 |
| Jorgenson Company | Maintenance- structures, other | 21300 | \$1,845.91 |
| Justin's Tire and Auto | Maintenance- equipment, other | 21200 | \$113.79 |
| Kellogg Supply | Maintenance-equipment, other | 21200 | \$2,491.76 |
| Kimball Midwest | Maintenance- structures, other | 21300 | \$142.44 |
| Marfab Ag | Maintenance- equipment, other | 21200 | \$236.63 |
| Manuels Tire Service | Maintenance- equipment, other | 21200 | \$2,050.83 |
| NAPA Auto Parts | Maintenance-equipment, other | 21200 | \$42.93 |
| Office Supply Express | Office expenses/supplies | 21700 | \$56.08 |
| PG&E (Cathodic Protection) | Utilities | 22600 | \$29.52 |
| PG&E (Office) | Utilities | 22600 | \$80.29 |
| PG&E (Shop) | Utilities | 22600 | \$612.83 |
| Sparkletts | Household expense-supplies | 20900 | \$58.95 |
| Summers Engineering, Inc. | FSRP Expense | 22388 | \$6,396.35 |
| Summers Engineering, Inc. | DMP Expense | 22389 | \$1,612.91 |
| Summers Engineering, Inc. | Professional services | 21800 | \$2,395.59 |
| Target Specialty Products | Maintenance- structures, other | 21300 | \$28,359.08 |
| Tharp's Farm Supply | Maintenance- structures, other | 21300 | \$138.08 |
| Tharp's Farm Supply | Maintenance- equipment, other | 21200 | \$299.97 |
| Tucci Machine Shop | Maintenance- equipment, other | 21200 | \$17.13 |
| UniFirst | Clothing & Personal Supply | 20500 | \$228.97 |
| United Rentals | FSRP Expense | 22388 | \$6,149.07 |
| Valvoline | Maintenance- equipment, other | 21200 | \$96.56 |
| Verizon Connect | Communications | 20600 | \$819.60 |
| Verizon | Communications | 20600 | \$214.29 |
| Windecker | Transportation and Travel | 22500 | \$6,276.54 |
| | | | \$104,826.42 |

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lane Puckett attended the Board meeting and introduced himself as the President of the D&D Land and Water Duck Club, which is located on the San Joaquin River, northwest of the Mariposa Bypass Control Structure. Mr. Puckett stated that he received the District's cease and desist letter, which stated that the members of the duck club do not have authorization to use the State Plan of Flood Control Patrol Levee to access their property and must use their legal access route off Greenhouse Road. He claimed that since purchasing the property in 1984, it has been a landlocked property, with only access to the property being via the levee on Sandy Mush Road; he asserted that they do not have access to the parcels from Greenhouse Road. Attorney Layne then mentioned that she has been in contact with Mr. Puckett's attorney, who requested documentation of the District's agendas, board minutes from the last six months, and any other relevant public documents regarding this matter. Attorney Layne provided all the requested documents, including the Board minutes that were found from December 1993, when members of the D&D Land and Water duck club approached the Board requesting access to the levee, a request that was ultimately was denied. Attorney Layne emphasized that no one can prescribe against a public agency, but recommended that Mr. Puckett obtain the purchase and sale agreement to check if there is an easement documented that authorizes the members' use of the levee. Attorney Layne and the Board invited Mr. Puckett to attend the next Board meeting to present such necessary documentation for further discussion on the topic. Additionally, Mr. Puckett was reminded that they were not to access through the State Plan of Flood Control Patrol Levee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Catania declared the meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.



Shane Swartz, Secretary-Manager