

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
LOWER SAN JOAQUIN LEVEE DISTRICT  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 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, January 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 board room: George Park, Case Vlot, and Bob Kelley. Directors Sean Howard, Breanne Vandenburg, and Steve Shehadey were 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 Gustavo Carranza and Reggie Hill.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Vlot 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 November 12, 2024, were approved on a motion by Director Park and seconded by Director Vlot.

**LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT**

Attorney Layne provided an update on State Assembly Bills AB1234 and AB1825. These bills require all public officials and designated employees to complete mandatory Ethics and Sexual Harassment training every two years. Attorney Layne mentioned that her office will hold training sessions on January 29<sup>th</sup> for the AB1234 training and on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, for the AB1825 training for anyone needing to complete either session.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McClellon reported that the FSRP Graveling Project 1 had ended, and roughly 24.5 miles of the levees patrol roads were regaveled. The District had graveled unit 1 from mile marker 0.00 at River Road to mile marker 9.00 at Highway 165. Unit 22 from mile marker 0.00 to 5.50, unit 6 from mile maker 1.50 to 9.50, and unit 5 from mile marker 11.50 to 15.70

Superintendent McClellon stated that three new gates have been installed: two located at Highway 140 (upstream and downstream) and one on the left bank of the river structure at the Bifurcation.

Superintendent McClellon reported that after a recent break-in, new hasps and locks have been installed on the doors of the Bifurcation structure building.

Superintendent McClellon stated that the clearing of flap gate channels and removal of unpermitted modifications from the corrugated metal pipes for the DMP project has been completed.

Superintendent McClellon reported that the spraying of the levee slopes has begun. The District maintenance employees are using the same chemical mixture as last year, which consists of Vastlan and Milestone. He also mentioned that the spraying of the roadway will begin on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent McClellon stated that the vertebrate control program is ongoing, the District maintenance employees are currently using the PERC machine to exterminate rodents in their burrows.

Superintendent McClellon reported that grading and compacting of the levee roadway is ongoing and will continue through the end of January.

Superintendent McClellon stated that the new Lincoln Ranger 260MPX portable welder, approved in this year's fiscal budget, has been purchased.

Superintendent McClellon reported that the new F250 pickup truck, approved in this year's fiscal budget, has arrived and is being used as needed.

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

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **FMAP O&M Resolution 734-24. Review and Consider taking action.**

S-M Swartz presented to the Board Resolution 734-24 for review and consideration. This resolution authorizes the District to file a Notice of Exemption with Merced County for the Flood Maintenance Assistance Program. Following a discussion, on a motion by Director Kelley and seconded by Director Park, the Resolution was adopted.

**LOWER SAN JOAQUIN LEVEE DISTRICT  
DOS PALOS, CA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 734-24**

A. **WHEREAS**, the Lower San Joaquin Levee District (the “District”), is a special act district formed pursuant to the Lower San Joaquin Levee District Act, codified in the California Water Code Appendix, Chapter 75, and is a duly organized and existing political subdivision of the State of California; and

B. **WHEREAS**, the District has all powers necessary or convenient to carry out fully its powers and purposes (California Water Code Appendix §75-10 and §75-7); and

C. **WHEREAS**, the District applied for funding through the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Flood Maintenance Assistance Program (“FMAP”) Application; and

D. **WHEREAS**, the District is authorized to proceed under FMAP, subject to compliance with the provisions in the FMAP Application.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Lower San Joaquin Levee District as follows:

1. The Board of Directors (“Board”) hereby finds and declares that the above Recitals are deemed true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

2. **RESOLVED**, all Operations and Maintenance levee planning and work, including the work described in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Flood Maintenance Assistance Program (FMAP) Application, fall within the categorical exemptions to the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR Sections 15262, 15301, 15302 and 15304.

3. **RESOLVED FURTHER**, the proposed work will not have a material adverse effect upon the environment.

4. **RESOLVED FURTHER**, that said work does not constitute an exception to the exemptions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

5. **RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the District Engineer, President, Secretary and Jacobs Engineering Inc. are each authorized to file with the County Clerk a “Notice of Exemption” pursuant to California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15262, 15301, 15302 and 15304.

6. The Board hereby finds and determines that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its approval and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Lower San Joaquin Levee District on the 14 day of January, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: 4  
NOES: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 03

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Catania, Chair  
Lower San Joaquin Levee District

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shane Swartz, Secretary-General Manager  
Lower San Joaquin Levee District

## 2024 Fall DWR Levee Inspection Report

S-M Swartz presented the 2024 Fall DWR Levee Inspection Report to the Board for review. After reviewing all of the levee inspections and discussing the matter, the 2024 DWR Fall Levee Inspection Report was accepted on a motion by Director Kelley and seconded by Director Vlot.

## **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 mentioned that the District is currently reviewing two encroachment permits. The first is from the Department of Water Resources for the installation of Ground Monitoring GNSS CORS Monuments. The second is from Modesto Properties for the construction of a flow meter structure on the levee roadway.

### Discuss District Office Options

S-M Swartz presented a property for sale in Dos Palos, California, to the Board at the November 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, and after a discussion, he was advised to do further research. After conducting further research, it was determined that the property was not located within the boundaries of the District's benefit assessment zone, and it was not in the District's best interest to make the purchase. Following a discussion, S-M Swartz was advised to look for properties within the District's boundaries and report back to the Board when a potential office building is found.

### DWR – Deferred Maintenance Program (DMP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on the DWR's Deferred Maintenance Program. S-M Swartz stated that phase one of the DMP projects has been completed. He also mentioned that the District is waiting for the secondary DMP contract for the six additional pipe replacements, the contractor is predicting to start the project by February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### DWR – Flood Maintenance Assistance Program (FMAP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on DWR's Flood Maintenance Assistance Program. S-M Swartz mentioned that there is a possibility this program may be removed from the DWR budget, the District is waiting for the finalized budget from DWR and will provide an update when further information is available.

DWR – Flood System Repair Program (FSRP) Update

S-M Swartz provided an update on DWR's Flood System Repair Program. S-M Swartz reported that the graveling project has concluded, resulting in approximately 24.5 miles of levees being re-graveled. The District will be re-soliciting bids for gravel work on Units 2, 17, and 18. With assistance from District Engineer Scott Jacobson and Jeff Gilkey, the contract is expected to be awarded in March to begin work on this project.

**BUDGET STATUS REPORT**

Following a discussion on the claims present, on a motion by Director Vlot and seconded by Director Kelley, the following claims for November and December 2024 were unanimously acknowledged and approved for payment.

Anthem Blue Cross	Employee Group Insurance	10300	\$10,228.67
Alhambra	Household expense-supplies	20900	\$44.56
Baker Manock & Jensen	Professional services	21800	\$2,958.06
California Embroidery	Clothing & Personal Supply	20500	\$1,092.93
CAL NET	Communications	20600	\$78.20
Cintas	Professional services	21800	\$88.74
Cool World Enterprises	Communications	20600	\$337.00
CoPower	Employee Group insurance	10300	\$78.80
Cummins Sales and Service	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$4,893.67
Drugtech Toxicology	Professional services	21800	\$44.00
Elite Credit Card (Shane)	Merced Co. Permit, Parcel Quest		\$3,505.60
Garton Tractor	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$1,096.02
Garton Tractor	LSJLD Grant FMAP	22385	\$58,078.92
Gilton Waste	Household expense-supplies	20900	\$125.22
Henry Miller Rec. (rent)	Office expenses/supplies	21700	\$1,508.00
Humana	Employee Group insurance	10300	\$370.60
Jake Pafford	Clothing & Personal Supply	20500	\$250.00
Justin's Tire and Auto	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$317.91
Kellogg Supply	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$688.44
Kimball Midwest	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$543.00
Merced County Enviro. Health	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$1,424.00
Morgan White Group	Employee Group insurance	10300	
NAPA Auto Parts	Maintenance-equipment, other	21200	\$536.15
N&S Tractor	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$4,024.13
PG&E (cathodic protection)	Utilities	22600	\$14.76
PG&E (Office)	Utilities	22600	\$65.45
PG&E (Structures)	Utilities	22600	\$221.75
PG&E (Shop)	Utilities	22600	\$406.05
Santos Ford	Maintenance-equipment, other	21200	\$192.26
Sparkletts	Household expense-supplies	20900	\$8.49
Shane Swartz	Communications	20600	\$216.69
Shane Swartz	Transportation and Travel	22500	\$485.40
Shane Swartz	Household expense-supplies	20900	\$85.26
Summers Engineering, Inc.	DMP Expense	22389	\$2,787.55
Summers Engineering, Inc.	FSRP Expense	22388	\$9,835.86
Summers Engineering, Inc.	Professional services	21800	\$549.50
Tharp's Farm Supply	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$92.75
United Rentals	FSRP Expense	22388	\$6,679.93
Valvoline	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$191.82
Verizon Connect	Communications	20600	\$295.76
Verizon	Communications	20600	\$210.59
Westside Water Conditioning	Structures and Improvements	83600	\$3,975.00
Windecker	Transportation and Travel	22500	\$13,528.45
Zenith	Workmen's Comp. Insurance	10360	\$2,785.00
			\$134,940.94

Alhambra	Household expense-supplies	20900	\$44.56
Arnulfo Fernandez	Clothing & Personal Supply	20500	\$214.99
Baker Manock & Jensen	Professional services	21800	\$2,913.59
Baker Supplies & Repairs	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$76.73
CAL NET	Communications	20600	\$78.20
Cool World Enterprises	Communications	20600	\$337.00
CoPower	Employee Group insurance	10300	\$78.80
Cummins Sales and Service	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$872.21
Drugtech Toxicology	Professional services	21800	\$44.00
Elite Credit Card (Shane)	Tactacam, Parcel Quest		\$209.00
Elite Credit Card (Jody)	Maintenance equip., locks		\$1,216.45
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	\$39.25
Humana	Employee Group insurance	10300	\$399.26
Holt of CA	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$1,025.31
Holt of CA	FSRP Expense	22388	\$6,912.43
Kellogg Supply	Small tools & instruments	22200	\$339.43
Kimball Midwest	Maintenance- structures, other	21300	\$815.21
KSN Engineering	FSRP Expense	22388	\$16,272.40
Linde Gas & Equipment	Equipment	83700	\$7,849.12
Manuels Tire Service	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$60.00
NAPA Auto Parts	Maintenance-equipment, other	21200	\$175.30
PG&E (cathodic protection)	Utilities	22600	\$14.76
PG&E (Office)	Utilities	22600	\$68.84
PG&E (Structures)	Utilities	22600	\$300.57
PG&E (Shop)	Utilities	22600	\$514.51
Safe-T-Light	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$111.95
Sparkletts	Household expense-supplies	20900	\$68.44
Summers Engineering, Inc.	DMP Expense	22389	\$1,521.75
Summers Engineering, Inc.	Professional services	21800	\$6,027.60
Valvoline	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$119.67
Verizon Connect	Communications	20600	\$273.20
Verizon	Communications	20600	\$210.59
WestAir Gases	Maintenance- equipment, other	21200	\$13.88
Windecker	Transportation and Travel	22500	\$3,608.95
Zenith	Workmen's Comp. Insurance	10360	\$2,785.00
			\$57,246.17

**OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Catania declared the meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.



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Shane Swartz, Secretary-Manager