

August 13, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Saucelito Irrigation District met this day in regular session. The office is located at 20712 Avenue 120, Porterville, California.

CALL TO ORDER

President Kisling called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
DIRECTORS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Sean Geivet, Manager
Nick Keller, Engineer/Assistant General Manager
Aubrey Mauritson - Attorney
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer
Terren Brown – SID GSA Assistant General Manager

GUEST:

Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches
Anl Gupta – K & G Ranches

ZOOM

Brenna Galloway – Ruddell, Bixler, Mauritson, Evans, Fox & Buss
Douglas Jackson – WCS
Nick Gatti - Homer
Adam Yoera – EKI
Lisa Hanson –
Mike Miller –
Adam Medoza – Full Circle Farming

AGENDA – The Manager reported that the agenda is in order and has been posted as required.

MINUTES

M/S/U, Demetriff, Noble – to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Directors' meeting held on July 9, 2026, with one deletion correction.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

BILLS AND VOUCHERS

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Noble – to authorize the Treasurer to pay all outstanding bills against the District. Discussion followed.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling invited public comments. Anl Gupta expressed concerns about the water restrictions the State of California is trying to impose on growers and noted that a contingent of over 5000 Eastern Indian growers is willing to travel to Sacramento to express their concerns about the water issues. President Kisling thanked Mr. Gupta. With no further comments, President Kisling said the meeting would proceed to the monthly reports.

MONTHLY REPORTS

FINANCIAL—The Board reviewed the District's financial status. Included in the review were the Citizens Business Bank account check register from the prior month, Local Agencies Investment Fund reports, Money Market Account Statement, Treasurer's, Collector's, and Secretary's Reports; next month, the Income and Balance Sheets report will be included. The committee also ratified the payment to Sparling Interments for parts. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, Noble - to accept the financial statements and direct that they be placed on file.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – The Board reviewed information included in their packet for a new internet service and telephone options. Discussion ensued. The board agrees to move forward with Starlink internet and allow office staff to use their discretion in making the change. Discussion followed.

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt – To .

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

OPERATIONS & WATER – Nick Keller reported that July water usage totaled 5,574 acre-feet, slightly below the August schedule of 5,600 acre-feet. Booth will bring in 100 acre-feet from Lewis Creek, and additional Poplar Ditch water will need to be scheduled. Marisol was invited to provide an update on growers pumping groundwater. The Board discussed preparing a monthly groundwater pumping report to compare groundwater use with surface water deliveries. Discussion ensued.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager continues forwarding the AECA newsletter and FWA's CEO reports from Johnny Amaral to the Board members. Keller gave an update on the District's new pumping plants and outlined the time frame for construction; groundbreaking will start mid-August. Discussion ensued.

2025 EMPLOYEE PENSION FUND AUDIT- The Board reviewed the audit completed by Cuttone & Mastro Certified Public Accountants.

M/S/U, M. Merritt & Noble – To accept the 2025 Employees' Money Purchase Pension Plan Financial Statement and directed them to be placed on file.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT- The Board reviewed the audit completed by Joe Mastro of Cuttone and Mastro Certified Public Accountants. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, E. Merritt – To accept the 2024 audited financial statements and direct them to be placed on file.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION - The Board set the date and time for the Board of Equalization to meet.

M/S/U, Noble, M. Merritt – to set the Board of Equalization meeting for September 10, 2026, to start at 9:30 a.m. in the SID Boardroom.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

President Kisling moved to adjourn the meeting, which will resume immediately following the GSA meeting.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY –

President Kisling called the GSA meeting to order.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FORMATION:

STATUS REPORT -

The Manager reported that this was the first meeting the Board has had since the State Board's meeting on July 16, 2026, with the Tule Basin Manager and Board President to discuss their expectations for the Tule Basin. The Friant Subsidence Management Plan must be completed by December to avoid implementing an interim plan. SID has partnered with L & S, who have developed an outline of a plan. The GSA Managers along the canal have met to address this issue and are scheduled to meet again next Thursday. The Managers are collaborating to formulate a comprehensive plan by December.

Manager Geivet has prepared a draft recharge policy for SID, proposing a 10% leave behind on recharge water that can be extracted only from the upper aquifer and allowing up to 20% of the total account to be used in any given year.

COMMITTEE REPORT –

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE – Met on July 29, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. to review the draft GSP and PMA. The next meeting is the third Wednesday in September.

SUBBASIN POLICY COMMITTEE –

President Kisling reported that he continues to attend the Subbasin Policy Committee meetings held on the first and third Mondays of each month. The drinking water and water quality plans have been sent to various partners, such as Self-Help, for review and redlining, if needed, before submitting to the State Board, hopefully by the first of September. Discussion ensued.

SUBBASIN MANAGERS' MEETING – Nothing to report. The Manager noted that the Managers are meeting twice a month.

LUHDORF & SCALMANINI REPORTS – The Manager stated they are now working on the Friant Kern Canal Subsidence plan from the technical standpoint and layout date gap and meeting with Thomas Harder to gather information.

LAND IQ CONTRACT – The Manager stated that Land IQ has a scope of work that ET performs daily; they are willing to come out and conduct a demonstration for staff. The Manager recommended proceeding with Land IQ. Keller mentioned that an annual report must be prepared, including ET information, and submitted to the State Board. Land IQ has improved since its inception. President Kisling outlined the two documents from Land IQ. A discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, E. Merritt – To authorize the Manager to sign the contracts with Land IQ for ET monitoring.

AYE:	Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY:	None
ABSENT:	None

DRAFT GSP – The Stakeholder Committee will review and be allowed to comment on the draft GSP before the next meeting.

GSA BUDGET – Keller explained that some billing items were still being adjusted for the GSA budget.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE GSA MEETING

President Kisling adjourned the GSA meeting and reconvened it as the regular Board meeting.

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 11:08 am.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

[Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (2), (3)] (one Case)

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1))

- a. ***Terra Bella Irrigation District et al. v. Haaland et al.***, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Case No. 1:25-CV-00112-EPG
- b. ***NRDC v. Rogers***, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California (Sacramento Division), Case No. 88-CV-1658-JAM-GGH

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS – (Gov Code. Sec. 54956.8)

Property: Tulare County Assessor's Parcel Nos. 319-130-007, 319-130-012, 319-130-013.

Agency negotiator: Nick Keller and/or Aubrey Mauritson.

Negotiating parties: Bradley Bickers on behalf of Hronis Ranch, LLC; Hronis Capital Assets LP; and creditors

Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS - The Board returned from a Closed Session at 11:40 am. President Kisling stated there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:41 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary