

August 14, 2025

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

CALL TO ORDER

President Kisling called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

ATTENDANCE

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

GUEST:

Mike George – Sun Pacific
Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches
Doug Jackson – Water and Land Solutions
Adam Mendoza – Full Circle Farming
Parker Rous – Sunview Vineyards
Adam Yoerg - EKI
Nick Gatti - Homer
John Ocana – Homer

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

MINUTES

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt – to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Directors' meeting held on July 10, 2025.

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

BILLS AND VOUCHERS

M/S/U, Noble, E. Merritt - to authorize the Treasurer to pay all outstanding bills against the District as presented.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling opened the public comment by pointing out a nice article he had read in the July/August issue of Irrigation Leader magazine about the Daisy J

Hudson Scholarship program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. President Kisling then asked if anyone from the public wished to comment. With no public input, President Kisling stated that if there are no further comments, we will move on to the monthly reports.

MONTHLY REPORTS

FINANCIAL—The Board reviewed the District's financial status. Included in the review were the Citizens Business Bank accounts check register from the prior month, Local Agencies Investment Fund reports, Money Market Account Statement, Treasurer's, Collector's, and Secretary's reports, Income and Balance Sheets. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, E. Merritt - 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— No report given.

OPERATIONS & WATER – Nick Keller reported July water usage at 6,273 acre-feet, with 37% remaining for the water year. The schedule shows no carryover for next year after moving February water to July; November is set at 1201, which may be high. The board packet includes Employee Safety Meeting and Monthly Field Staff reports. Discussion followed.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager continued forwarding the AECA newsletter to the Board members; FWA continues to watch the levels in the reservoir and canal operations. Jason is working on the settlement.

EASTERN TULE GSA—The Manager reported that the ETGSA remains operational. The identified white area has entered into a Joint Powers Agreement and intends to establish its own GSA.

President Kisling moved to adjourn the regular meeting that will resume immediately following the GSA meeting.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA) –

President Kisling called the GSA meeting to order.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FORMATION: a) Status Report, b) Discussion of and Consider Approval of Rules and Regulations , c) Discussion of and Consider Approval of Bylaws d) Discussion of and Consider Appointment of Committee Members to the Stakeholder Committee

BYLAWS -

The Manager reported that Attorney Aubrey Mauritsen has completed the Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations for review by the Board. The first item to consider is the Bylaws, which define the Board members, attendance, and formation of the advisory committee, and that will guide the process and operation of the GSA. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff – To approve the Bylaws as presented.

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

The next item is the appointment of a non-voting GSA Board member to serve as Chair of the committee responsible for conducting meetings, along with the selection of a Vice Chair to act in the Chair's absence for the Stakeholder Committee.

M/S/U, Noble, Demetriff – to appoint Director Kisling Chair and M. Merritt as Vice Chair to the Stakeholders Committee.

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

STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE -

The Board needs to formally appoint the members selected at the last board meeting to the Stakeholders Committee. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Noble – To approve nine of the ten applicants that applied for the Stakeholders Committee to be voting members of the committee, with the exception of Andrew Hart, who withdrew from the committee.

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

RULES AND REGULATIONS -

The Board reviewed two versions of the Rules and Regulations: the Groundwater Allocation version, which achieves immediate sustainability, and the ET version, which is insufficient for exiting probation. The Manager recommended adopting the Groundwater Allocation version to help the growers avoid probationary reporting requirements and fees. After discussion, the Board decided to forward both versions to the Stakeholders Committee for their input before making a final decision in a special meeting to be held next week. The Manager also reminded the Board that SID must submit an exemption request to the State Water Board by September 1, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE GSA MEETING

President Kisling adjourned the meeting of the GSA resumed with the regular Board meeting.

2024 EMPLOYEE PENSION FUND AUDIT- The Board reviewed the audit completed by Cuttone & Mastro Certified Public Accountants.

M/S/U, Demetriff, E. Merritt – To accept the 2024 Employees' Money Purchase Pension Plan Financial Statement and directed them to be placed on file.

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

TRUCK – The Board reviewed and considered authorizing the purchase of a new vehicle.

M/S/U, Noble, M. Merritt – to increase the budget for a new vehicle purchase to \$40,000. and allow staff to purchase a new truck.

AYE: E. Merritt, Kisling, 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, M. Merritt, Noble – to set the Board of Equalization meeting for September 11, 2025, to start at 9:30 a.m. in the SID Board room.

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

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:57 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. *Porterville Irrigation District et al. v. Friant Water Authority et al.*, Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. VCU314672.
- b. *Terra Bella Irrigation District et al. v. Friant Water Authority et al.*, Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. 317284
- c. *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

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Friant Water Authority v. Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency,
Tulare County Superior Court Case No. VCU306343.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS - The Board returned from a Closed Session at 11:14 am.
President Kisling stated there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary