

February 10, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Saucelito Irrigation District met this day in regular session. In accordance with the declared State of Emergency, including social distancing directives as a result of the threat of the COVID-19 virus, SID staff will be participating in this meeting remotely. There will not be a physical location for this meeting. Members of the public may participate in the meeting in the following ways: By joining the Zoom Meeting ID 868 9299 4657 and password 248465. The office is located at 20712 Avenue 120, Porterville, California.

CALL TO ORDER

President E. Merritt called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT: E. Merritt, Kisling, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
DIRECTORS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Keller, Engineer & Aubrey Mauritsen Attorney
Sean P. Geivet, Manager
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer
GUEST: Aaron Lewis – Water & Land Solutions
Jeevan Muhar - AEWS

TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS- The Board considers approval of Resolution 2022-2-02 remote teleconference meetings under AB 361.

M/S/U, Kisling, Demetriff - to adopt Resolution 2022-2-02 remote teleconference meetings under AB 361.

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

**RESOLUTION 2022-2-02
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION RE CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC TELECONFERENCING
LOCATIONS**

WHEREAS, as modified by Assembly Bill 361, *Government Code* § 54953(e)(1) permits local agencies to dispense with the requirements for teleconference locations contained in *Government Code* § 54953(b)(3) under the conditions specified herein;

WHEREAS, the Board has reconsidered the state of emergency issued by the State of California in connection with COVID-19, and has found that the declared state of emergency remains in effect;

WHEREAS, local and state officials continue to recommend and, in some cases, require, social distancing measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board shall, consistent with *Government Code 54953(e)(1)*, continue to operate without physical, public meeting or teleconference locations.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the Saucelito Irrigation District Board of Directors on this 10 day of February, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: E. Merritt, Kisling, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

_____/s/ Eric R. Merritt_____
Eric R. Merritt, President

ATTEST:

_____/s/ Diane M. Ennis_____
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary

Certificate of Secretary

I do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of Saucelito Irrigation District, a special district organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, and that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors thereof at a meeting thereof duly and regularly held on the 10 day of February, 2022, at which meeting a quorum of the said Board of Directors was at all times present and acting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in whole or any part thereof, and remains in force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this Certificate on this 10 day of February, 2022, in Porterville, California.

_____/s/Diane M. Ennis_____
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary

AGENDA – The Manager reported 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 January 13, 2021.

AYE: E. Merritt, Kisling, Demetriff M. Merritt & Noble

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

BILLS AND VOUCHERS

M/S/U, Kisling, M. Merritt - to authorize the Treasurer to pay all outstanding bills against the District as presented and to authorize the transfer of funds, as necessary.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Manager asked if anyone from the public wished to comment at this time. Having no one at this time, we will move on to the reports.

MONTHLY REPORTS

FINANCIAL – The Board reviewed the financial status of the District. Included in the review were the Suncrest accounts, Treasurer's, Collector's, Secretary's, and Local Agencies Investment Fund reports, Money Market Account Statement, Income Statement and Balance Sheets.

M/S/U, Kisling, Demetriff – to accept the Financial Statements and directed that they be placed on file.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – No report given.

OPERATIONS & WATER – Nick Keller gave a detailed water report to the Board that included SID's usage of 2781-acre feet in January. The USBR is expected to make its initial allocation on February 22, 2022. Included in the Board Packet is the Water Schedule. Discussion ensued.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager reported on the DCTRA wind down. FWA is working on the canal and the District should plan for the canal to be dewatered between November and January for the next three years. The Manager continues to forward the CEO updates from Jason Phillips, CEO, FWA. ACWA has nothing to report. Discussion ensued.

EASTERN TULE GSA – The Manager reported the approval of the subsidence plan; however, it could be modified. The 218 election is estimated to be at a cost of \$134 per acre. Discussion ensued.

Director M. Merritt left the meeting at 10:20 am.

EMPLOYEE MATTERS - The Manager reviewed with the Board his recommended adjusted salaries for the District employees. The Manager recommended employees' salary adjustments be retro-activated back to January with an increase of 7.4% COLA and step increases for employees that completes training. The employees earning a 5% step increase

are Brown and Banda. The Manager stated that it has been seven or eight years since the last review of how the district pay scale compares to other entities of comparable size and regions with the same job descriptions. The Manager will prepare an evaluation for next year's review. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Kisling, Demetriff – to accept the Manager's recommendation outlined in the Employee Salary Adjustment that includes the COLA 7.4% increase for all employees. Brown and Banda have earned a step with the completion of the required training.

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

BANKING POLICY – The Manager discussed some of the revisions to the Banking Policy. The Manager will email the Banking Policy draft to the Board following the meeting. Some of the changes that need to be addressed are Water Banks in close proximity to the canal. A MOOC Committee will be formed for wet and dry years. As part of the new policy the environmental work will need to be done by the District. This will eliminate the SEQA Study process for any new water bank applicants. Discussion ensued.

DCTRA PURCHASE – The Board reviewed the email from Eric Limas and the appraisal prepared by Dennis Schneider, MAI, SRA, GA-AG, to consider purchasing an additional percentage of ownership in the Basin-Road 208 & Deer Creek currently held by Porterville ID and Stone Correl ID. The Manager recommended the District purchase Porterville ID's percentage of 10.32% for an estimated cost of \$200,000.00. Leaving Stone Correl ID's share for two other districts that wish to invest in the Basin. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Kisling, Demetriff – to purchase the Porterville ID 10.32% ownership in the Basin-Road 208 and Deer Creek for up to \$200,000.00.

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

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:21 am.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION [Government Code Section 54956.9] (1 Case)

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] the City of Fresno, et al. v. United States of America, Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 16-1276L.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] *Friant Water Authority v. FLS Enterprises, LLC et al.*, Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. VCU287713.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] *Friant Water Authority v. Kyte & County Line Farms, LLC et al.* Tulare County Superior Court Case Number VCU288546

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS- The Board returned from Closed Session at 10:36 am. There was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

President E. Merritt adjourned the meeting at 10:43 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary