

February 12, 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 P. Geivet, Manager
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer
Aubrey Mauritson - Attorney
Nick Keller – Engineer
Terren Brown – Assistant GSA Manager

GUEST: Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches

ZOOM Douglas Jackson - WCS
Parker Rous – Sunview Vineyard
Nick Gatti – Homer
Mike George – Sun Pacific
Adam Yoera – EKI
Alan Becker –
Ryo Takanaski –
WRMCO
Matt Scroggs -

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

MINUTES

M/S/U, Demetriff, E. Merritt – to approve the minutes from the adjourned Board of Directors' meeting held on January 15, 2025.

AYE: Kisling, Demetriff, E. Merritt, 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.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling invited public comments. President Kisling then indicated that, as there were no further comments, 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, as well as Income and Balance Sheets. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merrit - to ratify two checks paid in January and 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 – Staff informed the Board that the U.S. Postal Service has changed its mail handling procedures, and mail is now postmarked at the regional processing center rather than at the local post office. As a result, the postmark may not reflect the actual date a customer dropped off their payment at the post office. Given this change, staff asked whether the District should explore accepting credit card payments as an alternative. The Board directed staff to research credit card and ACH payment options and return with findings and recommendations at a future meeting.

OPERATIONS & WATER – Nick Keller reported that water usage for January totaled to 1,933 acre-feet. The Bureau terminated Class 2 water deliveries on February 3, unexpectedly, which resulted in approximately 1,037 acre-feet remaining undelivered. Keller indicated that this measure was likely undertaken to conserve the following year's Class 1 allocation. Discussion ensued. The Bureau is scheduled to announce the 2026 water allocation next week, on or around the 20th. Employee Safety Meeting notes and Monthly Field Staff reports are included within the board packet. Discussion ensued.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager continued forwarding the AECA newsletter to the Board members; FWA will be discussed in closed session.

EASTERN TULE GSA—The Manager reported that the TBID Board had approved payment for ETGSA staff through the end of February. The remaining steps include finalizing the Settlement agreement and completing the Final Audit.

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

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA) – President Kisling called the GSA meeting to order.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FORMATION:

STATUS REPORT OF GSA – The Manager reported that several documents from L & S pertaining to the GSP have been included in the board packet and will be distributed to the Stakeholders Committee. President Kisling presented an update on the Coordination Committee meeting he attended as the District's representative. The group expressed the necessity for a mitigation program addressing drinking water wells and emphasized the importance of subbasin monitoring, which had previously been funded by ETGSA. The Manager noted the continuing need to finance monitoring activities, which require reports reviewed by the State Board. A cost proposal has been prepared for the program, with Saucelito's projected costs ranging from \$3,600 to \$5,500. Discussion followed.

STAKEHOLDERS REPORT – The L & S Water Budget and Hydrogeologic reports have been approved for posting on the District's website. Keller indicated that the GSP is expected to be completed by the end of March.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE GSA MEETING

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

EMPLOYEE MATTERS - The Manager reviewed his recommended adjusted salaries for the District employees with the Board. The Manager recommended employees' salary adjustments be retro-activated back to January with an increase of 2.8% COLA. In addition, the Manager added a step to Zuniga and Banda, which have completed additional educational training. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt – to accept the Manager's recommendation outlined in the Employee Salary Adjustment, including the COLA 2.8% increase for all employees with Zuniga and Banda receiving a 5% step.

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

CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION – Consider becoming an associate member to take advantage of webinars for required training. Following the discussion, no action was taken.

AT & T – The board packet contained a proposal to switch the AT & T copper landline to Business Voice, requiring a 60-month equipment lease. After discussion, no action was taken, and staff were directed to investigate alternative solutions.

2026 BUDGET - The Board reviewed the 2026 proposed Budget with 2025 actual cost. The Budget is projected on a 75% Class 1 water allocation. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Noble, Demetriff - to adopt the proposed 2026 Budget.

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

APPROVED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET
SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

EXPENSES

	<u>FIXED</u>	<u>VARIABLE</u>
Water Purchases (75% Class 1)	\$	\$
5200 Cost of Service		364,264
Restoration Fund		214,946
Friant Surcharge		112,875
Trinity PUD		0
Water Purchases (SJRRP Recapture)		0
5203 Water Purchases (Other)		200,000
Capital Repayment		
Ground Water Recharge		
5235 Power for Pumping		100,000
<u>TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION</u>		
5315 Repair - Real Property	\$ 5,125	\$
5316 Repair - Distribution	20,750	2,608
5319 Repair - Motor Vehicles	500	528
5320 Repair - Equipment	1,050	
5325 Utilities	1,128	206
5328 Weed & Insect Control	800	290
5330 Supplies - Maintenance	0	404
5331 Supplies - Shop	500	220
5332 Supplies - Yard	250	325
5335 Oil & Grease - Pumping	1,025	142
5337 Gas & Oil - Vehicles	6,500	
5350 Engineering	0	
5355 Insurance	11,275	5,381
5365 Travel	50	
5398 Miscellaneous	0	
1550 Distribution System	0	
1570 Shop Equipment	0	
1650 Vehicles	30,000	14,021
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
6500 Directors Fees & Expenses	\$ 0	\$
6504 Salary Office	123,240	117,944
6507 OPEB Cost	41,000	221,891
6508 Contract Management	92,224	42,605
6509 Payroll Taxes	8,216	10,471
6510 Compensation Insurance	1,000	238

6511	Employee Retirement	8,000	13,854
6512	Medical - Employees	39,900	13,603
6513	Medical - Directors	77,900	11,310
6514	Medical - Retirees	17,800	25,340
6515	Repair - Real Property	2,563	1,578
6520	Repair - Equipment	4,613	7,036
6540	Utilities	4,613	
6541	Phone	3,075	7,336
6544	Office Supplies	3,588	1,415
6546	Notary Public	0	0
6549	Eastern Tule GSA	0	57,046
6550	Engineering	10,250	
6551	Legal Fees - District	15,375	183,776
6552	Legal Fees - Other	1,025	80,157
6553	Legal Fees - NRDC	0	0
6554	Accounting Fees	10,763	8,642
6555	Insurance	1,538	1,288
6557	Investment Counseling	0	
2281	BBAV Loan Principal	324,970	37,586
6558	BBAV Loan Interest	116,334	
1403	Capital Acquisitions - DCTRA	0	0
6559	TPD Agreement	0	
6560	Taxes & Licenses	500	
6561	Employee Training	500	
6564	Convention & Seminar	1,500	
6565	Travel	3,500	
6570	Legal Advertising	1,000	
	COP Cost		0
6578	NRDC		0
6580	Dues & Subscriptions	102,500	

EXPENSES

		<u>FIXED</u>	<u>VARIABLE</u>
	<u>ADMINISTRATION (cont.)</u>		
	Public Relations	308	
6598	Bank Charges	154	
	Real Property	0	4,640
	Office Equipment	0	
	CIP- Water Banking		4,141
	CIP- Water Billing		100,558
	CIP - GSA - GSP		169,464
5201	Friant O&M	270,627	164,223
5206	Friant O&M (FKC Capacity Correction Project)		

5204	SLDMWA	290,160	321,886
	SLDMWA JPP Rewind		
5210	CDTRA- Board of Equalization - State Water Rights Fee	38,080	42,887
5345	H ₂ O Conservation Plan	0	
5304	Labor	90,376	
6503	Temporary Employee		0
5305	Standby	3,300	
5309	Payroll Taxes	6,939	
5310	Compensation Insurance	6,000	
5311	Employee Retirement	5,600	
5312	Medical Insurance	25,000	
TOTALS		\$ 1,832,984	\$ 2,667,121

REVENUES

	Current Assessments (1)	\$ 96,559	\$
1232	Current Assessment (2) Standby	192,830	
	Supplemental Assessment (3)	1,633,068	
4005	Water Sales (4)		
	Water Sales - Resale		
4020	Water Sales - Wheeling		6,200
4760	FWA Water Refund		
4060	Water Acct Penalties		8,000
	Interest, Penalties, etc.	2,500	12,500
4760	Insurance Refund		4,500
	Non-Operating Revenue		
Totals		\$ 1,924,958	\$ 31,200

2026 Water Rate – No action was taken until USBR makes the 2026 water allocation.

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:44 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

- d. "Terra Bella Irrigation District et al. v. Friant Water Authority et al., Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. VCU327112."
- e. *NRDC v. Rogers*, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California (Sacramento Division), Case No. 88-CV-1658-JAM-GGH.

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 11:38 am.
President Kisling stated there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary