

February 13, 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 9:37 am.

### **ATTENDANCE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff & M. Merritt  
DIRECTORS ABSENT: Noble  
OTHERS PRESENT: Sean P. Geivet, Manager  
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Aubrey Mauritson - Attorney  
Nick Keller – Engineer

GUEST: Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches

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

### **MINUTES**

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff – to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Directors' meeting held on January 9, 2025, and the special meeting of January 28, 2025, with one correction of two Board members absent.

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

### **BILLS AND VOUCHERS**

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff - to authorize the Treasurer to pay all outstanding bills against the District as presented and to ratify payment to PNC Loan payment.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – President Kisling asked if anyone from the public wished to comment. A. Hart requested to speak. He suggested reconsidering the District's spending on the lawsuit between Saucelito ID, and Friant. President Kisling asked if Andrew agreed with FWA's decision to place the entire cost on SID. Hart believed Friant might negotiate. President Kisling mentioned previous resistance from Friant in discussions. The Manager added that Jason Phillips rejected the idea of negotiating. Discussion ensued. 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, Collector's, and Secretary's reports, and Income and Balance Sheets. Discussion ensued.

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

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**— An update was given to the board on the 2020 Chevy Colorado. Jose received a phone call on Thursday night following the January board meeting letting him know the truck was ready to be picked up. GM never got back to the District with a response regarding a course of action about the lemon law.

**OPERATIONS & WATER** – Nick Keller reported the water usage for January was 61 acre-feet and reviewed the water schedule report with the Board. Discussion ensued. The board packet includes the Employee Safety Meeting report and the Monthly Field Staff Report for the Board's review.

**STATUS OF AUTHORITIES** – The Manager continued forwarding CEO updates from Jason Phillips, CEO of FWA when available, and the AECA newsletter to the Board members. President Kisling stated he would not be able to attend the next FWA Board meeting and asked if someone could go in his place; Director M. Merritt will attend. Discussion ensued.

**EASTERN TULE GSA**—The Manager stated there wasn't anything to report.

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FORMATION: a) Status Report, b) Public Hearing to Elect to become GSA, c) Consider Approval of Election to become a GSA**  
President Kisling Opened Public Hearing at 10:01 a.m. to consider electing to become GSA. Public comment was from A. Hart, stating he felt it was a good idea for the District to become its own GSA.

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff - to adopt the resolution for the Saucelito Irrigation District to serve as a Groundwater Sustainable Agency pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, approval of GSA boundary map portion of the Tule Subbasin as depicted in map and file with Department of Water Resources.

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

Close Public Hearing to consider Elect to become GSA at 10:10 a.m.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ELECTING FOR SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT TO SERVE AS A GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
PURSUANT TO THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA"), California Water Code section 10720 et seq., which was signed into law on September 16, 2014, requires that each California groundwater basin or subbasin be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA"), or multiple GSAs, and that such management be implemented pursuant to an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") or multiple GSPs; and

WHEREAS, Saucelito Irrigation District ("SID") is a local agency as defined in Water Code Section 10721(n); and

WHEREAS, California Water Code Section 10723(a) authorizes any local agency overlying a groundwater subbasin to become a GSA for that basin; and

WHEREAS, SID's service area overlies the Tule Subbasin, as depicted by the map attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing was noticed in Visalia-Times Delta on January 23, 2025 and January 30, 2025, pursuant to Water Code Section 10723(b) and Government Code Section 6066; and

WHEREAS, SID held a public hearing on February 13, 2025, to consider forming a GSA; and

WHEREAS, after considering the GSA formation and hearing public testimony, the Board determined that it is in the best interest of SID, its landowners, and water users to serve as the GSA of the subbasin underlying its boundaries.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. SID elects to serve as the GSA of portions of the Tule Subbasin as depicted by the map attached hereto as Exhibit A, including future revisions approved by SID and the California Department of Water Resources, if any.
2. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Resolution, the General Manager shall submit a notice of intent to the California Department of Water Resources, pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8(a), and complete all necessary tasks related to this matter.
3. The General Manager shall, after complying with Water Code Section 10723.8, begin developing a GSP for the GSA;
4. The General Manager shall maintain a list of interested parties regarding the newly formed

GSA pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.4.

ADOPTED this 13th day of February, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff & M. Merritt
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Noble

/s/ Steven G. Kisling  
Steven G. Kisling, 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, an irrigation 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 of said District at a meeting thereof duly and regularly held at the office of the Saucelito Irrigation District on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025, at which meeting a quorum of 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 hereunto set my hand and the Seal of Saucelito Irrigation District this 13th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Diane M. Ennis  
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary  
Saucelito Irrigation District

**UNRELEASED RESTORATION FLOWS** – Reviewed and considered executing a Sale Agreement between USBR and SID for the Sale of Unreleased Restoration Flows. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, E. Merritt - to adopt the resolution to enter into a contract with USBR for Unreleased Restoration Flows.

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

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02-02**

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACT(S) FOR PURCHASE OF  
UNRELEASED RESTORATION FLOWS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND  
SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Stipulation of Settlement in *Natural Resources Defense Council, et. al., v. Kirk Rodgers, et. al.*, hereinafter referred to as Settlement, and the SJRRSA, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, hereinafter referred to as Contracting Officer, is directed to implement a program that releases Restoration Flows from Friant Dam; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with Paragraph 13(i) of the Settlement, if, for any reason, full Restoration Flows are not released in any year beginning January 1, 2014, the Contracting Officer shall release as much of the Restoration Flows as possible, in consultation with the Restoration Administrator, in light of then-existing channel capacity and without delaying completion of the Phase 1 improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contracting Officer, in consultation with the Restoration Administrator, shall use the amount of the Restoration Flows not released in any such year, hereinafter referred to as Unreleased Restoration Flows or URFs, by taking one or more of the steps prescribed in Paragraph 13(i) of the Settlement to best achieve the Restoration Goal, as determined by the Contracting Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, the District and the United States have entered into Contract No. 16-WC-20-4876, hereinafter referred to as Contract, for the delivery of Project Water; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contracting Officer has determined that it shall make available for delivery to the District URF's, as Project Water, pursuant to Article 3(f) of the Contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors has determined that it is the best interests of the District and its landowners that the District purchase and ensure delivery of all water available to the District pursuant to the terms of that certain contract entitled "Agreement Between The United States And Saucelito Irrigation District For Sale of Unreleased Restoration Flows".

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.

2. The President and Secretary are authorized to execute that certain contract entitled “Agreement Between The United States And Saucelito Irrigation District For Sale of Unreleased Restoration Flows” on behalf of the District subject to review by District Counsel.

**ALL THE FOREGOING**, being on motion of Director M. Merritt and seconded by Director Demetriff, was authorized by the following vote:

**AYES:** Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff and M. Merritt

**ASSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Noble

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that I am the Secretary of Saucelito Irrigation District and that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of said District at a meeting held on 13 day of February, 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present at all times and acting.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have set my hand and the seal of said District on this 13 day of February 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Diane M. Ennis\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane M. Ennis Secretary

**2025 BUDGET & WATER RATE** - The Manager mentioned that setting the budget and water rate was unnecessary until USBR has made a water allocation. Discussion followed.

**2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT**- The Board reviewed the audit completed by Joe Mastro of Cuttone and Mastro Certified Public Accountants. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Noble, Demetriff – To accept the 2023 audited Financial Statement and direct them to be placed on file.

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

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**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 2.3% COLA. In addition, the Manager added a step to Brown and Zuniga, 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 2.3% increase for all employees with Brown and Zuniga receiving a 5% step.

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

**NAY:** None

**ABSENT:** Noble

**CLOSED SESSION** – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:26 am

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

[Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (2), (4)] (one Case)

**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.

**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.

**CLOSED SESSION ITEMS-** The Board returned from a Closed Session at 11:02 pm. President Kisling stated there was no reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:15 pm.

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Diane M. Ennis, Secretary