

February 9, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Saucelito Irrigation District met this day in a special 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 897 6294 7690 and password 503409. 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: E. Merritt, Kisling, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
DIRECTORS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Sean P. Geivet, Manager
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer
Nick Keller - Engineer
GUEST: Nick Galli – Renewable Resources
Kel Mitchell – Renewable Resources
Douglas Jackson – Land and Water
Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches
Patrick O'Connell - EKI Consultant

TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS- The Board considered approving Resolution 2023-2-02 for remote teleconference meetings under AB 361.

M/S/U, Noble, Demetriff - to adopt Resolution 2023-2-02 remote teleconference meetings under AB 361.

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

RESOLUTION 2023-2-02 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 9th day of February 2023, by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

/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, 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 February 9, 2023, 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 February 9, 2023, in Porterville, California.

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

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 Regular Board of Directors' meeting held on January 12, 2023, and Special Board Meeting on January 31, 2023.

AYE: E. Merritt, Kisling, 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 and to authorize the transfer of funds, as necessary.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling asked if anyone from the public wished to comment at this time. Having no one, the Board moved on to the reports.

MONTHLY REPORTS

FINANCIAL – The Board reviewed the financial status of the District. 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, along with the Income Statements and Balance Sheets.

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt – 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 – Nothing to report at this time.

OPERATIONS & WATER – Nick Keller gave a detailed water report, that including the announcement the uncontrolled flood releases would end at midnight on February 9, and the USBR announced Class 1 allocation went from 35% to 50%. The 50% Class 1 allocation will take our carryover up to 2,150-acre feet for the 2022 water year. LTRID emailed all shareholders that they increased the 2022 allocation per share from 23 acre-feet per share to 55 acre-feet per share to be used before February 28, 2022, resulting in 32 acre-feet per share increase. Nick Keller stated the District needs to run 120 to 130 cfs per day to meet the goal of 7,000 acre-feet for February deliveries. The USBR announced the 2023 WY allocation of 100% Class 1 and 20% Class 2 plus URF of 3,174 acre-feet. The canal will shut down completely from November 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024, for biannual maintenance. The ASO flight estimate is 2.3 million af for snow with a 1.8 to 1.9 million acre-feet runoff. Nick Keller also reviewed with the Board the water schedule. Also included in the packet are the Field Staff Report and Monthly Employee Safety Report. Discussion ensued.

The Manager informed the Board of a letter from Jason Philips, CEO of FWA, that went out to Board members serving on the ETGSA attacking the reporting of surface water from the districts. The Manager stated the Attorney drafted a response letter on behalf of TBID and asked if SID would also want to send a letter. President Kisling needs to respond to the letter he personally received.

M/S/U, Demetriff, E. Merritt – to have the Attorney draft a response letter to Jason Philips, CEO of FWA, from Saucelito ID, regarding how we count for our surface water in the ETGSA.

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

Old Deer Creek Water Bank – The Manager states the next step is to form an MOCP committee to review the findings report for Phase I, before the project can move forward to Phase II. The committee will consist of a five-person board: SID Director, a landowner that is not a banker, the Banker's representative from the ODCWB, a FWA representative, and a Tulare County representative. Once committee members have been determined, a meeting date will be set to review the Old Deer Creek Water Bank Phase I report before they can move forward to the next Phase II.

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff – nominated Jeff Noble to serve as SID's representative on the MOCP Committee to review the Old Deer Creek Water Bank.

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

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff – nominated all the remaining Board members to serve as SID's alternate in the event Noble cannot make the meeting on the MOCP Committee to review the Old Deer Creek Water Bank.

AYE: E. Merritt, Kisling, Demetriff, M. Merritt
NAY: None
ABSENT: Noble stepped out of the meeting.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager continued forwarding CEO updates from Jason Phillips, CEO of FWA. The Manager continues to forward the AECA newsletter to the Board members. The Manager announced that the DCTRA is done; just waiting for the finances to be wrapped up. Nick Keller stated there had been a few issues with the canal's construction. The design missed the Kyte County Line outlet that needed to be installed and asked for the direction of the placement of the outlet. The Board agreed it should be placed on the west side of the canal to allow the field staff access to the meter. The District's line will run underneath the canal with a shutoff valve on the east side for the grower to connect to. Nick Keller reviewed with the Board that the Pumping Plants will be bid on in June and July, with the installations in January and February. The recommendation is to allow two plants, A and B or C and D, to be under construction simultaneously. USBR is stating that the five days to install the plants is not enough time and is asking for ten days to two weeks to complete the installation. The Board agreed that the recommended time frame would work. Discussion ensued.

EASTERN TULE GSA – The Manager reported that the ETGSA is working moving forward. Discussion ensued.

BANKING POLICY - The Manager reported Thomas Harder and Company is working on the study for the Banking Policy.

2023 WATER RATE - The Manager and Nick Keller reviewed the numbers with the Board based on USBR allocation and the District's budget. The Manager's recommendation is to set the cost of water at \$ 80.00 for 2023. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt – to accept the recommendation and set the 2023 cost of water at \$80.00 per acre-foot.

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 6.3% COLA. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Noble, Demetriff – to accept Manager's recommendation outlined in the Employee Salary Adjustment, including the COLA 6.3% increase for all employees.

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

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 11:27 am.

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 – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION [Government Code Section 54956.9] (3 Case)

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS- The Board returned from Closed Session at 11:28 am. There was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary