

January 15, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Saucelito Irrigation District met this day in an adjourned 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, Demetriff, M. Merritt, Noble E. Merritt

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  
Douglas Jackson - WCS  
Andrew Koetsier - PGI

ZOOM

Nick Gatti – Homer  
Mike George – Sun Pacific  
Adam Yoera - EKI

**AGENDA** – The Manager reported that 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 December 11, 2025.

AYE: Kisling, Demetriff, E. Merritt & Noble

NAY: None

ABSENT: M. Merritt

### **BILLS AND VOUCHERS**

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Noble – 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, Noble, Demetriff - 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** – Nothing to report.

**OPERATIONS & WATER** – Nick Keller reported that water usage for December totaled 1,719 acre-feet, with the majority allocated for recharge. Recharge activities will continue in the basins. The Bureau has initiated Class 2 allocations, beginning on December 31 with a 10% allocation effective January 1, followed by an additional 5% allocation on January 8, which must be used within this month. As a result, each recipient was allocated 0.26 acre-foot per acre on Monday, available through the end of February, with the remaining portion of Class 1 designated for recharge. On February 1, the flood control diagram dramatically changed. The Bureau aims to release as much water as possible during January, subject to runoff conditions, in order to reserve storage capacity at Millerton Reservoir for summer water needs. There was further discussion regarding some growers who retained their Class 1 water supply from the summer into February, potentially limiting opportunities to utilize the newly available Class 2 water for the district. The Employee Safety Meeting notes and Monthly Field Staff reports are included in the board packet. Discussion followed.

**STATUS OF AUTHORITIES** – The Manager continued forwarding the AECA newsletter to the Board members; FWA is looking for a new CEO, and Jason Philips' last day is tomorrow, and there are six applicants who could be reviewed at the next FWA Board meeting.

**EASTERN TULE GSA**—The Manager stated that the ETGSA is in the final phase of operations and is expected to conclude by the end of February.

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** – No report given.

**STAKEHOLDERS REPORT** – Due to the cancellation of the December Stakeholders meeting, no report was given. The Board reviewed potential agenda items for this upcoming session, including the examination of Rules and Regulations, the GSA budget and collection tactics, the land following program, and the Marisol’s Well Monitoring report.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF WATER YEAR 2026 ALLOCATIONS** – The Manager referred the board to the 4-Creeks Memorandum, which establishes ET for SID at 0.95 acre-feet per acre and sets pumping at 0.27 for the 2026 water year only. The Manager noted that, upon completion of the GSP by L & S, future allocations may be subject to change. No action was required, as the memo is a technical document. Discussion ensued.

The Manager had an additional item, a proposal from Thomas Harder for a cost sharing plan for the work being done in the Tule Basin flow model, SID portion would be \$30,000.00 the Manager recommended the District pay its share. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Noble - to accept the Manager's recommendation to pay the SID portion of the Thomas Harder for the scope of work being done.

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

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE GSA MEETING**

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

**BUSINESS OFFICE** – Nothing to report.

**CALIFORNIA FARM WATER COALITION** – The Manager reviewed with the Board the request for support. The recommendation is to continue support in the form of an annual membership in CFWC.

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff – to support the California Farm Water Coalition and authorizing payment of \$ 3,199 for annual membership dues.

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

**2026-2027 WATER YEAR – WATER POLICY** – President Kisling reviewed the Water Policy Rules and Regulation and Application with the Board and pointed out the changes to the policy. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff – to accept the Water Policy Rules and Regulation and Application with the changes.

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

**2026 BUDGET** – The Board received a preliminary draft of the budget for review ahead of next month’s meeting. Actual costs from 2025 will be incorporated for consideration prior to final approval. For informational purposes only.

**2026 Water Rate** – No action is required at this time. The information provided was presented for informational purposes only.

**CLOSED SESSION** – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:48 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.

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Diane M. Ennis, Secretary