

January 9, 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 9:31 am.

ATTENDANCE

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

GUEST: Douglas Jackson – Water & Land Solutions
Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches
Susan Long – Tule Trust
Nick Gatti – Homer
Parker Rous – Sunview Vineyards
Lisa Hansen McEwen – SJV Water
Aaron Lewis - EKI

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

MINUTES

M/S/U, Noble, Demetriff – to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Directors' meeting held on December 10, 2024, with the correction to Cross Valley Water for a permanent contract.

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

BILLS AND VOUCHERS

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling asked if anyone from the public wished to comment. Susan Long asked to give a short presentation to the board about the Sustainable Agriculture Lands Conservation SALC program. Following the presentation, Susan asked if there were any

questions. Discussion ensued. President Kisling stated that if there are no further comment 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, 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— An update on the District's 2020 Chevy Colorado was provided. A complaint under the Lemon Law has been filed with GM, and the requested information has been submitted. We are awaiting a final response from GM.

OPERATIONS & WATER - The Manager reported the water usage for December was 0 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. Discussion ensued.

EASTERN TULE GSA—The Manager reported that the ETGSA has postponed their meeting for today. Discussion ensued.

2024-2025 WATER YEAR – WATER POLICY – There were no reports for this period. The Board packet included draft rules and regulations for the Board to review before next month. It was requested that these draft rules and regulations be posted on the District's website. The Manager reported ongoing work on well registration and monitoring. A discussion followed.

2025-2026 WATER YEAR POLICY – The Manager reviewed the Water Policy with the Board and pointed out the addition of Groundwater Extraction section to the policy. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, Noble - to accept the Water Policy and schedule a public meeting to allow the growers to comment on the Policy change before the next board meeting.

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

EIR Study for Groundwater Banking Policy Program – No report given.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY – The Manager stated he is waiting for the water budget to be completed and has given a nod to staff to start working on the formation of a GSA. The Board reviewed a map of the district boundaries, and it was pointed out there is a 19+ acre parcel missing from the map. A discussion followed.

2025 BUDGET – The Manager reviewed the budget with the Board. Discussion ensued.

2025 Water Rate – The Manager mentioned that setting the rate was unnecessary until the budget is approved. Discussion followed.

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:42 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 11:12 pm. President Kisling reported the board unanimously approved the initiation of litigation. The details will be disclosed once filed.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:13 pm.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary