

July 9, 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: Nick Keller, Engineer/Assistant General Manager
Aubrey Mauritson - Attorney
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer
Terren Brown – SID GSA Assistant General Manager

GUEST:
Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches
Andrew Koetsier - PGI
John Bison – Greenleaf Ag

ZOOM
Brenna Galloway – Ruddell, Bixler, Mauritson, Evans, Fox & Buss
Douglas Jackson - WCS
John Ocana -
Adam Yoera – 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 June 11, 2026, with one small correction.

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

BILLS AND VOUCHERS

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff – to authorize the Treasurer to pay all outstanding bills against the District including the PNC Loan payment prior to August 1, 2026. Discussion followed.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling invited public comments.

- Presentation from John Bison (Greenleaf Ag) has been treating invasive golden mussel spread for about ten districts in Kern County:
 - Proliferation is rapid and repopulates every two months; can fill gravity boxes, causes severe clogs, and grows faster than quagga mussels.
 - End users (growers) expected to see impacts.
 - Recommends early detection and awareness to develop treatment programs.
 - Offer made for a future five-minute presentation to the board.
 - Discussions on risks during El Niño increasing the spread due to more water movement and flow restrictions is a possibility.

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, next month the Income and Balance Sheets report will be included. 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 – Nick Keller spoke with Don Tucker, who requested a District letter of support for a WaterSMART grant application submitted by LTRID as the lead agency. LTRID is requesting up to \$400,000, with a required 50/50 funding match. The Board agreed to send a letter of support to the USBR for LTRID's WaterSMART grant application.

Staff informed the Board that the remaining water allocation letters had not been sent and requested directions. Under the District's Water Policy, growers must notify the District by July 15 if they intend to keep the remaining water balance on their account and must pay for it by August 1, 2026. After discussion, the Board agreed to extend both the notification deadline and payment due date to September 1, with letters to be sent immediately. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff, - - to approve extending the deadline to September 1 for notifying the District whether the remaining allocation will be kept and for paying the balance owed on the account. This modification applies to this year only.

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

OPERATIONS & WATER – Nick Keller reported that June water usage totaled 4,937 acre-feet. He also stated that he secured an additional 900-plus acre-feet of wet water under a 3-to-1 agreement, with the Class 2 water to be returned in a wet year within seven years. Keller recommended increasing the District's water allocation from 1.2 to 1.3 acre-feet per acre due to the additional water supply.

M/S/U, Demetriff, Noble, - to accept Keller's recommendation to increase the water allocation from 1.2 to 1.3 acre-feet per acre.

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

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – President Kisling mentioned the Manager continues forwarding the AECA newsletter and FWA's CEO reports from Johnny Amaral to the Board members. Keller gave an update on the district's new pumping plant and outlined the time frame for construction groundbreaking will start mid-August. Discussion ensued.

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

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY –

President Kisling called the GSA meeting to order.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FORMATION:

STATUS REPORT - No report given.

COMMITTEE REPORT –

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE – No stakeholders' meeting in June. Next meeting will be held on July 29, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

SUBBASIN POLICY COMMITTEE –

President Kisling reported that he continues to attend the Subbasin Policy Committee meetings held on the first and third Mondays of each month. Discussion included the July 16 State Water Board meeting in Visalia. The State Board has hired a consultant to collect the names and position titles of all the Tule Basin GSAs. As for the meeting itself, there are only a few details made available. The committee also discussed Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) subsidence. Kisling noted that the policy group has outstanding questions and hopes the technical team has the documentation needed to address them. Tule East has contracted with Land IQ and is moving forward with a Proposition 26 process to fund administrative costs, followed by a Proposition 218 election for land-based assessments. Discussion ensued.

SUBBASIN MANAGERS' MEETING – Nothing to report.

LUHDORF & SCALMANINI REPORTS - Keller stated the target date for the GSP report is due by July 15. The PMA was sent on the first of the month.

GSA BUDGET – Keller stated that a full budget could be ready by August once he reviews the GSP.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE GSA MEETING

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

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:30 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. ***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**
- b. ***NRDC v. Rogers*, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California (Sacramento Division), Case No. 88-CV-1658-JAM-GGH**

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS – (Gov Code. Sec. 54956.8)

Property: Tulare County Assessor's Parcel Nos. 319-130-007, 319-130-012, 319-130-013.

Agency negotiator: Nick Keller and/or Aubrey Mauritson.

Negotiating parties: Bradley Bickers on behalf of Hronis Ranch, LLC; Hronis Capital Assets LP, and creditors

Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS - The Board returned from a Closed Session at 11:42 am. President Kisling stated there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:43 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary