

June 13, 2024

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 9:30 am.

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
DIRECTORS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Sean P. Geivet, Manager
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer
Aubrey Mauritson – Attorney
Nick Keller – Engineer

GUEST: Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches
Douglas Jackson – Water & Land Solutions
Susan Long – Tule Trust
Nick Gatti – Renewable Resources
Aaron Lewis - EIB
Adam Mendoza – Full Circle Farming
David Evans – Full Circle Farming
Terren Brown – Foreman

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

MINUTES

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt– to approve the minutes from the Regular Board of Directors' meeting held on April 9, 2024.

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

BILLS AND VOUCHERS

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

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

Director Noble arrived at 9:37 am.

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling stated that guest Susan Long, Executive Director for the Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust, had asked to make a presentation to the

board regarding new funding for the Land Fallowing Program of up to 25 million. The funds would pay growers to remove their orchards and fallow the land for up to five years. This is a point-based system for the funding; if the land is in the subsidence area, then it would score higher. The program would be 80% grant funding and 20% match funding, which would require a comment from the District. Susan stated that two other districts have signed on and committed to \$200,000 per year for the next five years. Applications have to be submitted prior to July 2, 2024, for this funding. Following the presentation, President Kisling asked if anyone else had anything for public comment. Andrew Hart asked about Booth Ranch's water bill. Secretary Ennis stated the issue had been corrected as requested. Susan Long and Andrew Hart left the meeting at 9:46 am. Adam Mendoza from Full Circle Farming stated he would like to read a letter that was addressed to the Board. It was stated that the letter had gone out to all board members prior to the meeting to allow them time to review the letter. President Kisling stated the letter made some very good points and would be further discussed during item 8 on the agenda. The Board moved on to 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 January Income and Balance Sheets. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, E. Merritt – 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—The Manager introduced Marisol Zuniga to the Board as our new temporary part-time help for the office. The Manager reported that he will be on vacation for next month's meeting, and Nick Keller will be filling in, but he still plans to log in via Zoom.

OPERATIONS & WATER – Nick Keller reviewed the water schedule report with the Board. It included 100% Class 1, 2% Class 2, and Uncontrolled Season Water. The district delivered 8281 acre-feet in May. With the current water supply, the prorated allocation will be increased to a total of 2.03 which includes the .18 of an acre-feet per acre. A notice will be sent to all the growers letting them know of the increase in allocation. Included in the board packet are the Employee Safety Meeting and Monthly Field Staff Report for the Board's review. Discussion ensued.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager continued forwarding CEO updates from Jason Phillips, CEO of FWA, and the AECA newsletter to the Board members. Keller updated the board on the pump stations. A meeting was held with Stantic and two different design concepts, a 42" and 60" pipe design were reviewed. During the meeting, the cost for the project and time frame for all the different steps were outlined and should be ready for bid by the end of the year. Keller asked that the pumping plant be located on district property. Keller stated the district delivered 80% of its water by gravity and 20% by pumping. The target is to get both plans ready for district approval prior to submitting them to Reclamation for review and approval. Once that

step is completed, it can go out to bid. The cost is still going to be in the millions of dollars but could come in 10's of millions less. Discussion ensued.

EASTERN TULE GSA—The Manager reported that the ETGSA just finished its 11 revisions to their rules and regs. Part of their revision will require meters for all wells. The ETGSA will also be conducting a well inventory program in the Land Subsidence zone. The Manager stated that SID would be conducting its own well inventory program. Discussion ensued.

2024-2025 WATER YEAR – WATER POLICY – The Manager reviewed with the Board some proposed changes to the water policy for next year. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed there was no need to act on this item today and asked to leave it on the agenda. President Kisling suggested a grower meeting to discuss the impact on growers, groundwater extraction, and well-metering. The Manager will be looking for approval in July to start having growers meeting to get the word out. The district will compile a list of companies approved to review, inspect, and calibrate well meters.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-05-01—The Manager reviewed the revised Emergency Regulation Banking Policy Restrictions Due to Land Subsidence resolution with the board, which has an expiration date at the end of September 2024. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Noble, Demetriff – to approve the Emergency Regulation Banking Policy Restrictions Due to Land Subsidence Resolution.

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

SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION 2024-06-01
EMERGENCY REGULATION
BANKING POLICY RESTRICTIONS DUE TO LAND SUBSIDENCE

WHEREAS, the Saucelito Irrigation District (District) has previously approved a Banking Policy dated June 14, 2018, for purposes of allowing landowners within the District to bank surface water supplies in the underground and extract those waters subject to certain conditions located within said policy and agreements with said landowners;

WHEREAS, the District is in the process of currently amending its Banking Policy (draft Banking Policy) and conducting new environmental review on the revised draft Banking Policy;

WHEREAS, the District has learned of alarming rates of subsidence especially along areas of the Friant-Kern Canal that may be exacerbated by the extraction of Recovered Water pursuant to the District's Banking Policy;

WHEREAS, the District desires to minimize or eliminate harmful impacts to the Friant-Kern Canal and also to reduce or eliminate subsidence within the, and surrounding boundaries of, the District;

WHEREAS, while the District continues its environmental review of the draft Banking Policy, it desires to put forth further restrictions on extraction of Recoverable Water near the Friant-Kern Canal.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Saucelito Irrigation District hereby resolve:

1. All extractions of Recoverable Water shall be restricted to one acre-foot per acre where Recoverable Water is extracted.
2. All extractions of District Transferred Recharge Water shall be restricted to one acre-foot per acre where Recoverable Water is extracted.
3. The foregoing restrictions shall remain in effect until September 30, 2024.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the Saucelito Irrigation District Board of Directors on this 13 day of June 2024, by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

_____/s/ Steven G. Kisling_____
Steven G. Kisling, President

ATTEST:

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

EIR STUDY FOR GROUNDWATER BANKING POLICY PROGRAM—The Manager reviewed with the Board the EIR study and stated the benefits out way not doing it. The EIR Study is needed to back up the Banking Policy model; once completed, it will help protect the District and Landowners. The district will have a Banking Policy and Banking Agreement. Discussion ensued, followed by the board concurred to move forward with the EIR study and to direct the Manager to contact Provost & Pritchard to get the EIR study started.

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 – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:54 am.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS- The Board returned from a Closed Session at 11:09 am. President Kisling stated there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary