

March 12, 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, Demetriff, & M. Merritt
DIRECTORS ABSENT: E. Merritt & Noble
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

ZOOM Douglas Jackson - WCS
Parker Rous – Sunview Vineyard
Nick Gatti – Homer
Mike George – Sun Pacific
Adam Yoera – EKI
Matt Scroggs -

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 February 12, 2025 with one spelling correction.

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

BILLS AND VOUCHERS

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

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

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, Demetriff, M. Merritt - to ratify two checks paid in January and to accept the financial statements and direct that they be placed on file.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Staff advised the Board of a recent water application that was submitted late and was incomplete. Pursuant to established rules and regulations, the Board must review such applications and determine whether to approve or deny them. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt – to accept the late applications and assess a late application fee.

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

OPERATIONS & WATER – Nick Keller reported February water usage totaled 2,600 acre-feet: 920 acre-feet to the San Luis Drought Pool, and 1,700 acre-feet were delivered as surface water, resulting in an 81 acre-foot Class 1 carryover. Usage rates approached 100% of Class 1 and 23.7% of Class 2 allocations for the 2025/26 WY. Keller noted that the Bureau's 100% Class 1 allocation projection may prove unrealistic unless additional storms occur. Warm conditions caused recent dry snow to melt below 8,000 feet. Keller recommended an allocation rate of 0.9 acre-feet per acre. Employee Safety Meeting records and Monthly Field Staff reports were included in the board packet. Discussion ensued.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager continued forwarding the AECA newsletter to the Board members; Johnny Amaral has been doing a good job getting the CEO reports out for FWA which the Manager has been forwarding.

EASTERN TULE GSA —The Manager reported that the TBID Board will handle the financial matters for the Eastern Tule GSA until the winddown process is complete, including carrying out the final audit.

President Kisling moved to adjourn the adjourned 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 OF GSA - The Manager stated that the District is still expecting the final reports from L&S. Staff are being pressed to finalize the GSP. The Coordination Committee recently met and agreed that the subbasin should be managed under a single GSP. The Manager stated that it would be beneficial for the committee to present its coordinated approach to the State Board in order to demonstrate the Tule Subbasin’s commitment to effective management. Other topics included the mitigation of domestic well mitigation in partnership with a Self-Help Organization, and the next Stakeholder Meeting, which will cover the GSA budget, funding options, and a report on Basinsafe. Further discussion followed.

STAKEHOLDERS REPORT – The L & S Water Budget and Hydrogeologic reports have been approved for posting on the District’s website. Keller indicated that the GSP is expected to be completed by the end of March.

CONTINUING GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT RESOLUTION – The Manager asked Aubrey Mauritson, the attorney, to walk through the resolution for the board. Discussion followed

M/S/U, M. Merritt, Demetriff – to accept the resolution.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-001

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CONTINUING GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Saucelito Irrigation District (“District”) has served as a member agency of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency, a joint powers authority (“ETGSA”), since approximately 2017, and currently remains a member of ETGSA;

WHEREAS, prior to the Tule Subbasin Probationary Hearing on September 17, 2024, eight GSAs were deemed exclusive by the Department of Water Resources within the Tule Subbasin;

WHEREAS, the Final Staff Report for the Tule Subbasin Probationary Hearing reviewed six GSPs submitted by the Tule Subbasin in 2022 for purposes of evaluating probationary status;

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2024, ETGSA adopted a 2024 Amended GSP, along with the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement;

WHEREAS, the District adopted the ETGSA 2024 Amended GSP and the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement at the August 28, 2024 ETGSA special meeting;

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2024, Alpaugh Irrigation District GSA adopted a 2024 Amended GSP, along with the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement;

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2024, Pixley Irrigation District GSA adopted a 2024 Amended GSP, along with the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement;

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2024, Lower Tule River Irrigation District GSA adopted a 2024 Amended GSP, along with the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement;

WHEREAS, the County of Tulare GSA jurisdictional area was and is covered by the Tri-County Water Authority GSA and GSP(s);

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2024, the Kern-Tulare Water District GSA - Tulare adopted a 2024 Amended GSP, along with the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement;

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2024, the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District GSA adopted a 2024 Amended GSP but did not adopt the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement, instead relying on the prior—and now outdated—2022 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement previously adopted by all GSAs within the Subbasin;

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2024, Tri-County Water Authority GSA circulated a draft 2024 Amended GSP and the draft 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement and set a public hearing on August 26, 2024 to adopt the drafts. Because Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District GSA refused to adopt the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement, Tri-County Water Authority GSA canceled its public hearing scheduled for August 26, 2024. Tri-County Water Authority GSA continues to work collaboratively with the balance of the Tule Subbasin and had previously agreed upon presenting to its board the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement;

WHEREAS, all GSAs within the Tule Subbasin either adopted, or recommended to their respective board, to approve the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement, except Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District;

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2025, the District elected to serve as a groundwater sustainability agency for the area within its jurisdictional boundaries;

WHEREAS, the District is in the process of adopting a new GSP that builds off of and supplements ETGSA's 2024 Amended GSP to suit the change in jurisdictional boundaries occasioned by the District's election to serve as its own GSA, and anticipates submission of that draft amended GSP by the end of March, 2026 for public review and comment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,

Until the GSP is adopted by the District, the District will continue to follow and implement the ETGSA 2024 Amended GSP and the 2024 Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement as it pertains to its jurisdictional boundaries, including all specifically-identified quantitative thresholds, procedures, and methods prescribed in both of those documents.

ADOPTED this 12 day of March, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Kisling, Demetriff, and M. Merritt

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: E. Merritt, Noble

Attest:

/s/ Diane M. Ennis

Diane Ennis, Secretary

/s/ Steven G. Kisling

Steve Kisling, President

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of Saucelito Irrigation District, an irrigation 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 of said District at a meeting thereof duly and regularly held at the office of the Saucelito Irrigation District on the 12 day of March, 2026, at which meeting a quorum of 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 hereunto set my hand and the Seal of Saucelito Irrigation District this 12 day of March, 2026.

/s/ Diane M. Ennis

Diane Ennis, Secretary

Saucelito Irrigation District

ADJOURNMENT OF THE GSA MEETING

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

2026 WATER RATE – Keller presented to the board a proposed water rate of \$152.00, based on the budget and the 2026 water allocation. He noted that SID maintains one of the lowest water rates in the area. Discussion followed.

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt – to accept the proposed water rate of \$152.00 per acre-foot for the 2026 water year.

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

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:29 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 11:04 am.

President Kisling reported the following. The Board unanimously approved the Stipulation as presented in closed session and authorized the execution of the same provided no material or substantive changes are made thereto.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:11 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary