

May 8, 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: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Sean P. Geivet, Manager
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer
Aubrey Mauritsen - Attorney
Nick Keller – Engineer

GUEST:

Mike George – Sun Pacific
Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches
Douglas Jackson – Water & Land Solutions
Adam Yoerg - EKI
Nick Gatti – Homer

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 April 10, 2025.

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 as presented.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling asked if anyone from the public wished to comment. With no public input, President Kisling stated that if there are no further comments, 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's, Collector's, and Secretary's reports, Income and Balance Sheets. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, Noble - 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— No report was given.

OPERATIONS & WATER – Nick Keller reported April's water usage was 2327 acre-feet, including carryover water used in the DCTRA basin. He reviewed the water schedule with the Board. The USBR released two blocks of URF water, to be delivered by April 30 and May 18, 2025. Another block of URF water is expected, costing \$170 per acre-foot or up to three percent of class 2 water. The board packet includes the Employee Safety Meeting report and Monthly Field Staff Report for review.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager continued forwarding the AECA newsletter to the Board members; Jason Philips of FWA hasn't been putting out a report. FWA will be holding its annual meeting on May 29, 2025.

EASTERN TULE GSA—The Manager stated they were operational.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FORMATION: a) Status Report on formation, b) Discussion of GSA Meeting Time and Location, c) Discussion of Bylaws update to include GSA specifics, d) Discussion of the formation of stakeholder committee, e) Discussion of Development of Rules and Regulations, f) Consider Approval of Scope of Work from Luhdorff & Scalmanini.

The Manager reported that as of May 28, 2028, the District will operate as its own GSA. The water budget has been finalized and is available on the District website. The Manager noted that the Board had received, in their packet, an introductory letter to establish the stakeholder GSP committee along with an application for the GSP Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Board's review. After discussion, the Board agreed to send the information to all growers and landowners, giving them until June 30, 2025, to submit their applications for the stakeholder committee.

The Board reviewed the GSA draft Rules and Regulations. The Manager noted that the attorney is currently working on them, including the SID well monitoring program.

The Board reviewed a proposal from Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, which had prepared a Scope of Services, Budget, and Schedule for the development of a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). The primary goal is to develop a GSP that will exempt SID from reporting and groundwater extraction fees imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt - to approve the Scope of Work proposal from Luhdorff & Scalmanini for a total cost of \$ 183,216.

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

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. *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

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 11:11 am.
President Kisling stated there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:12 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary