

May 9, 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 9:33 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: Nick Gatti – Renewable Resources

Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches

Douglas Jackson – Water & Land Solutions

Aaron Lewis - EIB

Robin Smith – Wonderful Citrus

**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 & Noble

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

## **BILLS AND VOUCHERS**

M/S/U, M Merritt, Noble - 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 at this time. Robin Smith from Wonderful Citrus introduced herself. Robin asked about diverting water to the Subsidence area and if the Board was reviewing any options. It was stated that a new Subsidence zone map would be out shortly. The Board moved on to the reports.

## MONTHLY REPORTS

**FINANCIAL** – The Board reviewed the financial status of the District. 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. The Treasurer reported the Income Statements and Balance Sheets for January and February will be ready to review next month. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demettriff, Noble – to accept the financial statements and direct that they be placed on file.

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**—The Manager reported that Ennis had asked for additional help in the office, and we are looking to hire someone part-time.

**OPERATIONS & WATER** – Nick Keller reviewed the water schedule report with the Board. It included 100% class 1, 5% class 2, carryover water, URF Water Tier 1 to 3, and uncontrolled season water. The district delivered 2366 acre-feet in April and transferred 300 acre-feet to PID to protect the water supply, which will be moved back in May. With the current water supply, the prorated allocation will be increased to 1.58 of an acre-foot per acre, which includes an additional .18 in recharge allocation. The district is recharging water for growers in the TBID/DCTRA pits; we could expect the flow to decrease as the pits become full. The contractor is still using the borrow pit, which will give us more capacity in the future. Keller reported he has been in contact with the office regarding the need to keep the daily flows at 240 acre-feet daily. Keller gave the Board an overview of the natural river flows at 7,000 with plans to go 10,000 for Sunday and Monday and the storage levels in Millerton. 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. FWA will be holding its annual meeting on May 13, 2024, for anyone who wants to attend. Keller updated the board on the Friant Kern Canal operations; they will decrease the flow in the canal to close off the old canal on both the north and south end to isolate the section within SID. It's expected to take five days. Discussion ensued.

**EASTERN TULE GSA**—The Manager reported that the ETGSA is working on land subsidence and enforcement. Saucelito ID will need to gather information on grower wells located within the district, which could require a policy. Aubrey Mauritson, the district's attorney, will review and prepare a draft for the board. There is a possibility that this information is being gathered by another agency, which the attorney will check on. Discussion ensued.

**2024 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS** – The Manager asked the Board to consider adopting the following Resolution.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
Saucelito Irrigation District

Resolution Ordering Even-Year Board of Directors)

Election; Consolidation of Elections; and)

Specifications of the Election Order )

**RESOLUTION**

**NO. 2024-05-02**

WHEREAS, California Elections Code requires a general district election be held in each District to choose a successor for each elective officer whose term will expire on the first Friday in December following the election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year; and

WHEREAS, other elections may be held in whole or in part of the territory of the District, and it is to the advantage of the district to consolidate pursuant to Elections Code Section 10400; and

WHEREAS, Elections Code Section 10520 requires each District involved in a general election to reimburse the county for the actual costs incurred by the county elections official in conducting the election for that District; and

WHEREAS, Elections Code Section 13307(3c) requires that before the nominating period opens, the governing body must determine whether a charge shall be levied against each candidate submitting a candidate's statement to be sent to the voters; and

WHEREAS, Elections Code Section 12112 requires the elections official of the principal county to publish a notice of the election once in a newspaper of general circulation in the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that an election be held within the territory included in this District on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024, for the purpose of electing members to the board of directors of said district in accordance with the following specifications :

**SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTION ORDER**

1. The Election shall be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of November 2024. The purpose of the election is to choose members of the Board of directors for the following

**seats** (list offices and terms):

Director Division No. 1 12/6/24 – 12/1/28  
Director Division No. 2 12/6/24 – 12/1/28  
Director Division No. 3 12/6/24 – 12/1/28

2. This governing Board hereby requests and consents to the consolidation of this election with other elections which may be held in whole or in part of the territory of the District, as provided in Elections Code 10400.
3. The District will reimburse the county for the actual cost incurred by the county elections official in conducting the general district election upon receipt of a bill stating the amount due as determined by the election's official.
4. The District has determined that the Candidate will pay for the Candidate's Statement. **(District or Candidate)**  
The Candidate's Statement will be limited to 200 words.
5. The District directs that the County Registrar of Voters of the principal county publish the notice of election in the following newspaper, which is a newspaper of general circulation that is regularly circulated in the territory: Porterville Recorder

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED upon motion of Director Demetriff, seconded by Director Noble, at a regular meeting on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024, by the following vote :

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

/s/ Diane M. Ennis  
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-05-01**—The Manager reviewed the Emergency Regulation Banking Policy Restrictions Due to Land Subsidence resolution with the board. Discussion ensued with the attorney sharing a map showing subsidence within SID is from .75 of a foot to 2 feet, and the Board decided to put the policy out for a 21-day public review & comments before the June 13 board meeting.

**EIR STUDY FOR GROUNDWATER BANKING POLICY PROGRAM**—The Manager reported that he hasn't asked Provost & Pritchard to move forward with the EIR study yet and the Thomas Harder & Company report makes up a big part of the EIR, Harder said the deep wells pumping is driving subsidence.

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION** [Government Code

**Section 54956.9] (3 Case)**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION:** [Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 4956.9(d)(2)(4)] Number of Potential Cases: One Approval of San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Joint Defense Agreement.

**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** (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc. v. Saucelito Irrigation District Tulare County Superior Court Case No. VCU301700.

**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 10:45 am.

**CLOSED SESSION ITEMS-** The Board returned from a Closed Session at 11:28 am. President Kisling stated there was no reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:24 am.

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Diane M. Ennis, Secretary