

October 10, 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 9:31 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
Dennis Keller – Engineer
Aubrey Mauritson - Attorney

GUEST: Douglas Jackson – Water & Land Solutions
Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches
Nick Gatti - Homer
John Ocana
Aaron Lewis - EKI

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 September 12, 2024, and the special meeting on September 20, 2024.

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

BILLS AND VOUCHERS

M/S/U, Noble, 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: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling asked if anyone from the public wished to comment. Andrew Hart spoke for Booth Ranches. Andrew asked about the District's letter that was sent to the ETGSA giving up any future Tier 1 transitional pumping. Discussion ensued.

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 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 Board reviewed a proposal from OACYS Technology for a copier and mfp printer. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, M. Merritt - to accept the lease proposal pending staff review of the equipment.

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

OPERATIONS & WATER

The Manager reported to the board that water usage in September amounted to 2694 acre-feet. Dennis Keller provided an overview of storage levels in Millerton, including SCE operations and releases. It was noted that San Luis Reservoir is expected to provide 80,000 acre-feet from the drought pool to meet the needs of the Exchange Contractors. Discussion ensued. The board packet includes the Employee Safety Meeting report and the Monthly Field Staff Report for the Board's review.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager continued forwarding CEO updates from Jason Phillips, CEO of FWA when available, and the AECA newsletter to the Board members. The Manager reported that Nick Keller continues to work on the pumping stations and has bi-weekly meetings to discuss the pumping plants' design. Discussion ensued.

EASTERN TULE GSA—The Manager reported that the State Water Board is sending letters to growers with wells in the Tule Sub-basin, which is on probation. Dennis Keller spoke for the District at the hearing and is working to remove the District from probation. Keller noted that two other districts were not put on probation and aims to exempt Saucelito from fees and reporting requirements. The first step is to avoid adding more transitional pumping to growers' accounts with ETGSA. President Kisling stressed keeping options open for stability. Keller acknowledged the need for swift action to achieve the same status. Discussion ensued.

2024-2025 WATER YEAR – WATER POLICY – There is nothing to report today.

EIR Study for Groundwater Banking Policy Program

The Manager reported that he is meeting with P&P every two weeks throughout the process. He also mentioned that he and the staff have met with Kern-Tulare WD personnel to gather more information about their well monitoring program. They have agreed to share their documentation, and the field staff have been locating the wells within the District. Discussion ensued.

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:47 am

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 ITEMS

Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code 54957.1

“President Kisling reported that the board had authorized the initiation of litigation. Further information concerning said litigation will be provided upon request, according and subject to the terms of Government Code section 54957.1(a)(2).”

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:36 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary