

October 9, 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 9:30 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:  
Mike George – Sun Pacific  
Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches  
Doug Jackson – Water and Land Solutions  
Adam Mendoza – Full Circle Farming  
Alan Becker – WRMCO  
David Evans – Full Circle Farming  
Aaron Lewis - EKI  
Nick Gatti - Homer

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

**MINUTES**

M/S/U, Demetriff, E. Merritt – to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Directors' meeting held on September 11, 2025.

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

**BILLS AND VOUCHERS**

M/S/U, Demetriff, Noble – to authorize the Treasurer to pay all outstanding bills against the District, including the 4-Creeks bill from September, following the meeting with 4-Creeks Don Tucker and Victor.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – President Kisling then asked if anyone from the public wished to comment. President Kisling stated that, if there are no further comments, we will 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, M. Merritt, Demetriff - 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** – A grower has submitted a request for to utilize recharge water in their new facility for testing purposes. Discussion ensued. It was determined that if a grower elects to recharge a portion of their regular prorated allocation, it will be recorded as SID irrigation water.

**OPERATIONS & WATER** – Nick Keller reported September water use was 2,032 acre-feet, below estimates. February's schedule allows for 1,938 acre-feet as carryover within USBR's 10% limit; projections are 1,920 acre-feet for October and 1,000 for November, though November may increase. The Board considered but did not approve allowing growers to carry over water balances into next year, pending policy revision. A letter will be sent in November advising growers to recharge excess water now for surface water credit. Employee Safety Meeting notes and Monthly Field Staff reports are included in the board packet. Discussion followed.

**STATUS OF AUTHORITIES** – The Manager continued forwarding the AECA newsletter to the Board members; FWA continues to work on the settlement issues, and is planning the annual meeting to be held in Paso Robles next month.

**EASTERN TULE GSA**—The Manager reported that the ETGSA remains operational. Wrapping up fourth quarter reporting of surface water and waiting for ET to be posted to growers' accounts.

President Kisling moved to adjourn the regular meeting, which will resume immediately following the GSA meeting.

## **GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (GSA) –**

President Kisling called the GSA meeting to order.

## **GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FORMATION –**

Except for the Status Report, there were no other items to report

## **STATUS REPORT -**

The Manager reported that Luhdorff & Scalmanini, Engineers, have fallen behind; however, the staff have completed their part for the draft GSP sections.

## **WATER YEAR 2026 SUSTAINABLE YIELD ALLOCATION –**

Stakeholders met to discuss transitional pumping credits but made no decision and will revisit the topic. The Manager noted that SID has recharge credit in its ETGSA account and will be transferred to SID-GSA, which could be allocated to growers in dry years. The projected amount is about one acre-foot per acre, possibly making transitional pumping credit unnecessary. The group also discussed differences with nearby areas that do not restrict transitional pumping.

## **PENALTY RATES FOR GROUNDWATER EXTRACTED IN EXCESS OF SUSTAINABLE YIELD – RESOLUTION 2025-10-1**

The Manager stated this is one more part for the GSA to stay compliant with the State Water Board and reviewed the Resolution with the Board and outlined the maximum penalty rate of \$500.00 per acre-foot, currently allowed under SGMA rules; any additional penalty rate would require a rate study. There is still the issue of the cost of purchasing water for replacing the groundwater aquifers. Discussion ensued.

Upon motion by Director Demetriff, seconded by Director Noble, the following Resolution was passed and adopted:

### **RESOLUTION 2025-10-1**

**of the**

### **SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

### **IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES FOR GROUNDWATER EXTRACTED IN EXCESS OF SUSTAINABLE YIELD**

WHEREAS, the Saucelito Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SID GSA”) elected to serve as a groundwater sustainability agency within its jurisdictional boundaries on or around February 13, 2025 pursuant to California Water Code Section 10723;

WHEREAS, SID GSA is drafting a groundwater sustainability plan (“GSP”) to adopt and submit to the Department of Water Resources pursuant to Water Code Section 10727;

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (“SGMA”) outlines various plans and management actions to be implemented through a GSP in order to reach sustainability by 2040;

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10726.4(a)(2) provides that a GSA is authorized to control groundwater extractions by limiting or regulating groundwater extractions;

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10732 provides that a GSA is authorized to impose a penalty up to five hundred dollars per acre foot on any landowner who extracts water in excess of the amount allocated to said landowner, in violation of a rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution adopted by a groundwater sustainability agency;

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2025, SID GSA adopted Rules and Regulations;

WHEREAS, Section 4.03 of SID GSA's Rules and Regulations provides each parcel of land within the SID GSA's boundaries will be allocated an annual volume of Sustainable Yield water;

WHEREAS, Section 4.03(d) of SID GSA's Rules and Regulations provides that for each acre-foot of water extracted in excess of the Sustainable Yield Allocation, landowners will be liable for the maximum penalty rate allowable under SGMA;

WHEREAS, SID GSA desires to establish the penalty rate to be imposed for groundwater extraction and consumptive use in excess of the Sustainable Yield Allocation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, SID GSA, by and through its Board of Directors, hereby imposes the following penalties for excessive groundwater extraction and consumptive use within the SID GSA boundaries:

- \$500 per acre foot of water extracted in excess of a landowner's Sustainable Yield Allocation

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Manager shall provide notice of the above-described penalty rates as required by Section 4.04 of SID GSA's Rules and Regulations.

This Resolution, and the penalty rate imposed herein, shall continue to be effective in perpetuity until modified or rescinded by formal resolution of the Board of Directors.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the SID GSA Board of Directors on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025, by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

/s/ Diane M. Ennis

Diane Ennis, Secretary

**Certificate of Secretary**

I do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Saucelito Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, a groundwater sustainability agency 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 Agency at a meeting thereof duly and regularly held at the Saucelito Irrigation District Office, 20712 Avenue 120, Porterville on the 9th day of October, 2025, at which meeting a quorum of the 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 signed this Certificate on this 9th day of October, 2025, at the Saucelito Irrigation District Office, 20712 Avenue 120, Porterville, California.

/s/ Diane M. Ennis

Diane Ennis, Secretary

### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE GSA MEETING**

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

**TRUCK** – The staff continues to explore other options for a new vehicle purchase.

**BUSINESS OFFICE** – Nick Keller discussed with the Board some options for enlarging the Board room and estimated the cost at \$200,000. The current facility remodel would require ADA compliance, along with other issues, including its age of over 60 years. The other option would be to tear down the existing building and rebuild it with a better layout for staff, offices, a conference room, a vault, and restrooms, with an estimated cost of 500,000 to 600,000 for a building that would last another 50 years plus. Discussion ensued

**BUSINESS OFFICE** – Nick Keller presented to the Board several proposals for expanding the Board room. He provided an estimated cost of \$200,000 for remodeling the current facility, which would require compliance with ADA standards as well as other concerns associated with the building's age. An alternative involves demolishing the existing building and constructing a new facility, specifically designed to enhance staff workflow and provide dedicated spaces for offices, a conference room, a vault, and restrooms. The estimated cost for this approach is between \$500,000 and \$600,000, with an anticipated lifespan exceeding 50 years. This option will require a RFP. Discussion ensued.

**CLOSED SESSION** – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 10:46 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 11:15 am.

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Diane M. Ennis, Secretary