

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD AUGUST 8, 2007**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California on August 8, 2007. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Board President Jeff Boswell.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

President Jeff Boswell  
Vice President Jeff Neely  
Eddie Niederfrank  
Tom Steffen  
Steven Balls

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

**STAFF PRESENT**

General Manager Gary Serrato  
Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura  
Watermaster Jim Irwin  
Chief Engineer Bill Stretch  
HR Director Regina Davis  
Controller DeAnn Hailey  
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Legal Counsel Alex Peltzer  
Reporter Don Wright

**REVIEW AGENDA**

No changes

**REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Staff requests an Equipment Committee meeting be scheduled to discuss future computer needs. A meeting was set for August 22 at 3:30 pm (prior to the next Board Meeting)

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

None

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**(Any Board Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.) [FPPC §87105]**

None stated

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2007**
- b. **July 2007 Check Register**
- c. **July 2007 Special Check Register**
- d. **July 2007 Payroll Register**
- e. **July 2007 Attorney Fees**
- f. **July 2007 Consultant Fees**
- g. **July 2007 Assessment Collections Report**
- h. **June 2007 Fund Statements**
- i. **June 2007 Treasurer’s Report**
- j. **June 2007 Deposits and Investments**

M/S/C/(Neely/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the Consent Calendar by an unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**380: WATER REPORT**

- a. **Current water conditions**

Watermaster Jim Irwin reviewed the current and projected water supply. As of August 7, Pine Flat release was 1,800 cfs. Current storage at Pine Flat is 236,943 acre-feet. Alta Irrigation District completed their 2007 water season this week. Hardship Run requests have been steady during the past couple of weeks.

**CHIEF ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Chief Engineer Bill Stretch reported on the following items:

- a. **Developer and Agency Project Schedule for 2007/08 Update**

**Developer Projects** – FID is currently processing approximately 15 Developer pipeline projects for the 2007-08 Maintenance Season. There are no projects in progress at this time with six being completed since April 1, 2007.

**Agency Projects** – FID is currently processing approximately ten Agency projects for the 2007-08 Maintenance Season. A Cal-Trans project was started today on the Mortensen Pipeline. One project has been completed since April 1, 2007.

- b. **Three-Year Maintenance Facility Upgrade Project for 2007/08**

Mr. Stretch gave the Board an update on the Maintenance and Facility Upgrade Plan (MFUP). Water deliveries have concluded for the 2007 season and a few projects have begun. Mr. Stretch plans on giving a Plan update to the Board once a month while the upgrades are taking place.

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**c. Running Horse Development and Kearney Basin Project Update**

A southern California developer has signed a letter of intent to purchase the Running Horse property. The company was reported to offer \$30 million for the golf course and residential properties. It is still too early to tell whether or not this will go through the bankruptcy foreclosure process. Staff continues to receive calls regarding the basin property.

**Other**

Trails-City of Fresno: Laurence Kimura and Bill Stretch met with Councilmember Henry T. Perea and several staff members including Georgeanne White from the Mayor's office regarding trails along the District's canals. The trail in question is known as the "Bankside Trail" which is proposed along the Herndon Canal from the Shields and Blackstone Avenues intersection to the Ashlan and West Avenues intersection. Staff discussed the three main issues which are preventing the project from moving forward – they are: 1) liability; 2) canal maintenance; and 3) ownership of the canal. City officials will meet internally before coming together again with the District. Mr. Peltzer gave a brief background on the agreement that was previously agreed upon about six months ago.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Assistant Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

**a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update**

There has not been much change in the project status since the last update. The crusher is in place and operating. There is still a significant amount of work to be done.

**b. Waldron Banking Project Update**

The contract with Steve Dovali Construction for the well equipping work continues. The electrical engineer is still waiting for the revised electrical submittals from the contractor. Arthur & Orum indicated that they have ordered the materials for the three wells to be drilled. Some materials have been delivered to the sites. Drilling is now scheduled to commence sometime in August. We are also still waiting for an updated construction schedule from the contractor.

**c. District Office Plan**

Staff has reviewed the revised office layout for the new office and Mr. Kimura will meet with S.I.M. Architects to discuss comments on the second version of the office floor plan. S.I.M. Architect will be requested to provide a revised layout and options for the exterior of the building in the near future.

**d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update**

Staff is transitioning from water season to maintenance-construction. Maintenance crews continue to be busy working on miscellaneous repairs and general maintenance. Backhoe and

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dump truck operators continue to work on removing some of the sand dredged from FID canals and spreading it along the Gould Canal. Equipment operators have also been filling gopher holes and repairing leaks along canal banks. The trash truck remains busy at the “hot” spots.

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

**KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION**

**Upper Kings River Water Forum**

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) has made it through congress and is now in appropriation. There is a provision in the Act for \$14 million that is dedicated for the Kings River Fishery Management Program – habitat restoration. Staff will keep the Board updated as warranted.

**FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY / FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY**

Pay-Go continues to be an issue and will not be addressed until Congress returns from their summer recess. Meetings have been scheduled with the NRDC and the Bureau of Reclamation to discuss this issue.

At the last Water and Policy Committee meeting, the Committee recommended the participation of the FWUA in the ACWA driven California Water Public Education Program. This program is designed to inform the public on water issues and needs. The FWUA Board approved its participation in this education program. The cost to the District will be \$36,000. Director Neely voted “No” on this issue.

**OTHER ISSUES**

Mr. Serrato met with the entire staff to update them on current activities of the District.

Laurence Kimura and Gary Serrato met with the City of Kerman’s City Manager and the City Engineer, Ron Manfredi and Gary Horn to discuss the water needs of the City of Kerman.

Assembly Bill 1489 (Huffman) is beginning to gain statewide support. Mr. Serrato has spoken to Assembly Member Juan Armbrula regarding his concerns about this bill. A rewrite of this bill is due out at the end of August. There are a number of issues in the bill which affect the recently adopted Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Director Boswell and Mr. Serrato attended a dinner for the *California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley*. This partnership is designed to address air quality, water issues, and transportation concerns. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 10. During the dinner, Mr. Serrato spoke to Ms. Pamela Creedon of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, located in Rancho Cordova, California. Mr. Serrato is working with Ms. Creedon to develop an outreach to update the general managers on new policies.

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The District received a resolution from LAFCO stating that the District last sphere of influence has been accepted.

JPIA notified the District was in compliance and that they found no deficiencies with the safety programs and procedures.

The District received an official notice from the City of Fresno that the Public Utilities Department is seeking to form their own special district which includes sewer, water, and trash.

Mr. Serrato announced that Laurence Kimura graduated from the Fresno Farm Bureau education program.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

None

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Director Neely** – almond harvesting has begun and the crop looks good this year.

**Director Niederfrank** – complemented Mr. Kimura on the breakdown of his report at the last meeting regarding the three-year plan. He did not receive any complaints this year on water deliveries and that water ran very smoothly. Director Niederfrank commented that there seems to be more sand in the pipelines.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:21 pm.

**Conference with Legal Counsel–Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)).** Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (G.C. §54956.9. Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to subdivision (b)): one potential case.

**Natural Resource Defense Council vs. Rodgers (Government Code Section 54956.9).** To conferred with counsel on pending litigation.

**Conference with Legal Counsel–Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)).** Conference with Legal Counsel on potential litigation. Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to subdivision (b): Van Volkinburg.

**REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session adjourned at 6:26 p.m. with President Boswell stating the Board of Directors had nothing to report from Closed Session.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary R. Serrato  
Board Secretary