

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JUNE 11, 2008**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California on June 11, 2008. Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Board President Jeff Boswell.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

President Jeff Boswell  
Vice President Jeff Neely (arrived at 5:07 pm)  
Eddie Niederfrank  
Steven Balls  
Tom Steffen

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

General Manager Gary Serrato  
Chief Engineer Bill Stretch  
Watermaster Jim Irwin  
Human Resources Director Regina Davis  
Controller DeAnn Hailey  
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

**OTHERS PRESENT**

City of Fresno Representative Lon Martin, Assistant Director of Public Utilities  
City of Fresno Representative Georgeann White  
San Luis Water District General Manager, Martin McIntyre  
San Luis Water District Board Member Mike Woods  
San Luis Water District Past Board Member Marvin Meyers  
Landowner Brett Mosekian  
Freelance Journalist Don Wright

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Mr. Serrato reported that Gary Sawyers will call in at 7 pm for Closed Session. Mr. Stretch requested that item 6 c. ii (Mr. Mosekian) be move to the beginning of the meeting, prior to the Water Conditions Report.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

Lon Martin and Georgeann White detailed the reasons that Mayor Alan Autry requested the District assist the Westside farmers. The combination of the driest winter/spring on record and the depleted water levels due to last year's drought conditions are forcing farmers to idle lands and abandon crops. The mayor is asking the District to consider authorizing the transfer of 6,000 acre-feet of Fresno's CVP water to Westlands Water District. The Board gave District Staff direction to work with the City of Fresno Staff, the Westlands Water District, and possibly a

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third party to draft an agreement. The proposed water would be a loan and the City would expect full water repayment from Westlands, including any costs associated with the “transfer”. General Manager, Gary Serrato expressed there are many Bureau of Reclamation requirements that will need to be addressed before any transfer can take place. Staff also needs to review how the transfer would affect Pine Flat operations..

**380: WATER REPORT**

**a. Current Water Conditions**

Mr. Irwin reviewed the water conditions report and the current and projected water supply. As of June 10, Pine Flat release was 5,882 cfs and storage was 508,422 acre-feet.

Temperatures will be in the low 100’s by the weekend; with demands increasing.

**REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

No changes at this time

**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]**

Director Niederfrank has a conflict with items 6 ii and iii

**CHIEF ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Chief Engineer reported on the following items:

Director Niederfrank left the room while the Board and Staff discussed item 6 c. ii.

**c.**

**ii. Discuss Brett Mosekian’s Request to Discharge and Convey Well Water into the Bier Canal No. 249 Located S/W of Clayton and Valentine Avenues**

Mr. Mosekian appeared before the Board on May 14 and requested to discharge well water into the District’s pipeline (Bier No. 249) located southwest of Clayton and Valentine Avenues. Mr. Mosekian is requesting to utilize the pipeline to transfer well water from one family owned property to another. Mr. Mosekian is drilling a new well on property #1 although property #2 has an existing well. That well is of poor quality and will most likely not make it through the summer. Both properties are approximately 18 acres and he will need to install approximately one-half mile of pipeline to connect the two parcels. Due to the cost involved with this project, Mr. Mosekian is requesting a five-year agreement as opposed to the three-year agreement that the Engineering Staff has developed. As part of the agreement, Mr. Mosekian will need to install a structure, upgrade the Bier headgate to handle the backpressure and to pay the necessary fees (including attorney fees) to draft the agreement.

**M/S/C/(Steffen/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve the request made by Mr. Mosekian to extend the agreement from three years to five by the following vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Steffen, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain Niederfrank)

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Director Niederfrank return to seat and the meeting resumed.

**380: WATER REPORT**

Staff introduced Mr. Martin McIntyre, General Manager of the San Luis Water District. **Background:** in November 2007 and January 2008, Mr. Serrato informed the Board that the City of Clovis would not be requesting water from the banking facility for the 2008 Water Season. Mr. Serrato was then given direction by the Board to proceed to market available water.

San Luis Water District has requested to purchase up to 5,000 acre-feet of water at \$300 per acre foot. James Irrigation District has offered to facilitate the transfer.

Growers are in crisis on the westside. The Bureau of Reclamation has just notified San Luis Water District that their deliveries will be cut in half (half acre per acre foot of water). Farmers are making decisions on which crops to keep and which to abandon.

Director Neely was concerned how the water would be transferred; the District's conveyance system is not set up to handle this amount of water. Mr. Serrato estimated that we could deliver between 1,500-2,000 acre-feet at this time.

**M/S/C/(Balls/Neely)** That Board of Directors approve the sale of up to 2,000 acre-feet of water from the Waldron Banking Facility to the San Luis Water District at \$300 per acre-foot plus pumping costs by the following vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Nays Steffen, Niederfrank, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2008**
- b. **May 2008 Check Register**
- c. **May 2008 Payroll Registers**
- d. **May 2008 Investment Account**
- e. **May 2008 COP Investment Account**
- f. **May 2008 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- g. **May 2008 Unpaid ISIP Assessment Report**

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

President Boswell suspended the open portion of the meeting at 6:45 pm and went into Closed Session.

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

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The Board concluded Closed Session at 7:40 pm and returned to Open Session.

**REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

President Boswell reported that there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

**CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Chief Engineer reported on the following items:

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

**Developer Projects** – Staff is currently processing ten Developer Pipeline projects for the 2008-09 Maintenance Season. No projects are in progress at this time.

**Agency Projects** – FID is currently processing six Agency projects for the 2008-09 Maintenance Season. No projects are taking place at this time.

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

Staff is currently preparing for the 2008-09 Maintenance Season. Staff is gathering data for next year's projects which includes surveying, gathering flow data from historical records and the Water System Operators. Mr. Stretch gave an update on the progress of the on-going Three-Year MFUP projects.

**c. i. Discuss USCID's Conference in Scottsdale, AZ on May 28-31 with a Theme of "Urbanization of Irrigated Land and Water Transfers"**

Mr. Stretch found the conference very informative. He was especially impressed with the networking of the different attendees and the vendors.

Director Niederfrank recused himself from the following item and stepped out of the room:

**iii. Discuss Pipeline Projects as Part of Three-Year Maintenance Facility Upgrade Project and Jointly Funded Projects with Landowners, Developers, and Agencies**

Mr. Stretch prepared a spreadsheet to indicate 18 pipeline projects which consist of replacing leaking pipelines. Mr. Stretch identified which projects have been completed, which projects will be completed, and which of the 18 projects remain unfunded. These projects have been tied to the three-year plan. Mr. Serrato stated that the Board could decide to fund some of the remaining projects utilizing monies in the Construction Fund.

After the discussion was completed, Director Niederfrank retook his seat in the Board Room.

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**d. Discuss Alternatives on the Tarpey East No. 100 and Sunnyside No. 501 Canals Located near Shields and Fowler Avenue and Impacts to Sam Pellisi and Other Landowners. Action Request 2008-25**

During the May 14 meeting, Staff discussed issues with the Tarpey East Canal No. 100 located N/W of Shields and Fowler Avenues. The canal system which consists mainly of pipeline has several leaks and one of the leaks impacts a rental home owned by Sam Pelessi. There is a concrete drive approach over the pipeline and water surfaces through a crack when the pipeline is pressurized. The parcel is located immediately north of FMFCD Basin BV. The pipe does not leak when it is not pressurized and at lower flowrates which is how it has been operated over the past few years. The pipeline in question is 49 years old and is 21 inch ASTM C-118 non-reinforced mortar jointed concrete pipe.

After Staff described the several options (1-6 at an expense ranging from \$81,000 to \$688,000 depending on the option and Option 7 no change), the Board opted for Option 7, which is to maintain the current operation of the system and not make any repairs. During operations, Staff will route recharge water to all three basins while leaving the inline gate open near Basin BV and therefore resulting in very little head pressure on the pipeline. The pipeline leak does not surface when the pipeline is operated in this manner and therefore does not negatively impact the landowners or FID. Staff recommends Option No. 7. It would be beneficial to continue discussions with FMFCD and the City of Fresno in the future and monitor the operations of the pipeline.

The Board gave Staff direction to choose Option No 7, and work with Flood Control and encourage them to work as quickly as possible to get their project completed, and in the interim, the District will work to not pressurize the line,

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Serrato and Mr. Stretch reported on the following:

**a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update**

Work at the site continues, but slowly. There has been no significant change in the project since the last report. A letter was sent to Mr. Erickson notifying him of the extension and FID's expectations during the extension. A significant amount of work still needs to be performed at the site.

**b. Waldron Banking Project Update**

Arthur & Orum well drilling work still has one well to complete. Arthur & Orum was on site to construct the inner liner. Test pumping and video taping of the well will still need to be performed.

A Notice of Award was sent to Vulcan Construction on May 30, 2008, for equipping the last three wells.

**c. District Office Plan**

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The plans and specifications for the storage buildings were advertised. The pre-bid walk through has taken place and the bid opening was May 27. Staff has reviewed the bids and provides a recommendation for Board action. Staff recommends the contract be awarded to BMY Construction and to authorize the General Manager to execute the contract and direct expenditures to be paid from the Construction Fund.

**M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Steffen)** That Board of Directors approve the acceptance of low bid by BMY Construction for the two metal buildings at \$534,999 by a unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update**

Maintenance crews are busy performing maintenance and repair activities. The Washington and Herndon Canals Magnacide spraying has been completed. Wind has hampered weed spraying. The trash truck has been going through the District as needed.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

**KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION**

**State Water Resources Control Board**

Mr. Serrato traveled to Sacramento along with Chris Kapheim, General Manager of the Alta Irrigation District, regarding the Proposition 50 funding. The State Board voted to accept their Staff's recommendation and award the grant funding to the Upper Kings.

Mr. Doug Stryd has agreed to the terms in the agreement and has signed and returned the agreement to the Kings River Watermaster. The agreement quantifies the amount of water Mr. Stryd can divert as a riparian pumper.

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

Jenny Buckman will not be retained as general counsel. Jenny is now working for a Northern California firm that could present conflict of interest issues.

**OTHER ISSUES**

Mr. Serrato met with the public works director from the City of Kerman and their engineer. The discussion centered on developing a conveyance agreement.

Staff continues to meet with Provost & Pritchard Engineering and Don Mills, General Manager of Kings County Water District to discuss a Kings County water banking project. Funds have been secured for the project and details are being worked out.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**a. Resolution 2008-11 Honoring Retiring District Employee for Years of Service**

Ms. Davis read the resolution honoring James Omstead's 39 years of loyal service. Mr. Omstead will be presented with his resolution at a small gathering on Friday, June 16.

**M/S/C/(Steffen/Niederfrank)** That Board of Directors approve Resolution 2008-11 for James Omstead's many years of service by roll call vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Steffen, Niederfrank, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**b. Equipment Committee Recommendations**

Mr. Kimura prepared a memorandum for the Directors outlining the recommendations of the Equipment Committee. It was recommended that nine pieces of equipment be set out for bids. Also, new computer equipment be purchased to maintain our established three-year rotation schedule. Staff was also directed to research the costs of new half-ton pickup trucks.

**M/S/C/(Steffen/Niederfrank)** That Board of Directors approve the purchase of computer equipment and to proceed with bids and specification for new heavy equipment by a unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**c. Property Damage Claim - Miranda**

Staff recommends paying the claim for damage to Mr. Miranda vines from spraying the canal banks. The amount claimed for damage is \$1,000.

**M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve paying Mr. Miranda's claim in the amount of \$1,000 by a unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**d. Property Damage Claim – Bee Yang**

Mr. Yang claims that three acres of Virginia Peas were flood. Staff recommends that the Board formally deny the claim so it may be forwarded to JPIA.

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors deny the claim submitted by Bee Yang and instructs Staff to forward the claim to JPIA for further investigation by a unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**e. December 2007 Fund Activity Summary (new)**

**f. December 2007 Fund Activity (final)**

**g. December 2007 Treasurer's Report (final)**

**h. December 2007 Cash on Hand (final)**

Controller DeAnn Hailey presented the above mention financial documents. Sampson & Sampson will attend the next regular meeting to provide the Board the 2007 audit report.

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M/S/C/(Balls/Neely) That Board of Directors approve the financial documents as presented by Staff by a unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**h. ACWA – Health Benefits Authority Joint Powers Agreement**

ACWA has received its formal tax designation with the IRS under Section 115. The HBA will now be dealing exclusively with public entities. A new amendment as well as the previous version of the agreement was mailed to the District for review. This amendment is subject to the ratification by the written consent of a majority of the agencies within 90 days of the Board's approval of the motion to amend the agreement. The District is a current member of the HBA plans.

M/S/C/(Steffen/Balls) That Board of Directors approve to ratify the amendment as presented by Staff by a unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Director Balls** – will be leaving for a conference in southern California on June 25 (next regularly scheduled board meeting). Director Balls will attend the first hour of the meeting for the auditor's report.

**Director Boswell** – asked if there is anyway to deliver reclaim water to the Westside. Staff will do some research and report back to the Board. Director Boswell suggested a planning committee for water banking facilities. This committee would work on current and future water banks. Two directors will be appointed to this committee when details have been worked out. Staff would like to see a farmer and a finance person on the committee.

**Director Niederfrank** – inquired about replacing the fence around the abandoned Running Horse property.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary R. Serrato  
Board Secretary