

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD FEBRUARY 13, 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 February 13, 2008. 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  
Steven Balls  
Tom Steffen

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Independent Reporter Don Wright  
Del Mar Elementary School Representative Mr. Roberto Contreras  
Del Mar Elementary School Representative Mr. Isaias Zuniga  
Del Mar Elementary School Representative Mr. Jose Castro

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Staff requests to move item 9 c. to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate Mr. Isaias Zuniga, Mr. Roberto Contreras, and Mr. Jose Castro's schedule.

The District's legal council will be available by telephone, if needed.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

- c. **Mr. Isaias Zuniga and Mr. Jose Castro – fencing of canal at Shields and Blackstone**

Mr. Serrato previously met with representatives from Del Mar Elementary School to discuss their concerns of the open canal in the area of Blackstone and Shields Avenues. The representatives from the school wanted to present their concerns in person to the Board. They

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are requesting that portion of the canal be fenced due to the proximity to the elementary school. The area they are proposing to be fenced is approximately 1,010 feet in length.

After considerable discussion, Director Boswell suggested meeting with the Fresno School District and the City of Fresno for an alternate route to school instead of walking along Blackstone Avenue. Staff will schedule a meeting with Del Mar Elementary School officials and City of Fresno.

**REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Same as posted

**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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. **Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes – January 30, 2008**
- b. **January 2008 Check Register – Timberline**
- c. **January 2008 Check Register – INCODE**
- d. **January 2008 Special Check Register**
- e. **January 2008 Payroll Register**
- f. **January 2008 Attorney Fees**
- g. **January 2008 Consultant Fees**
- h. **January 2008 Assessment Collection Report**
- i. **Request for Correction of Charges (2003-1; 2003-2; 2006-3; 2006-4; 2004-5; 2005-6; 2006-7; 2007-8; 2008-9)**
- j. **Canal Abandonment – Abandon Portion of the Beard Canal No. 442 as part of Covington Property Holdings Located S/W Whitesbridge and Goldenrod Avenues. (This is a Standard Canal Abandonment Agreement.) Board Action Request No. 2008-07**

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve the Consent Calendar with the corrected spelling of Sam “Polessi” to Palesi by a unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**380: WATER REPORT**

- a. **Current Water Conditions**

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Watermaster Jim Irwin reviewed the current and projected water supply. As of February 12, Pine Flat release was 106 cfs and storage was 293,739 acre feet. No precipitation is expected until late next week.

Mr. Irwin reviewed the different projections for the start of water season. After some discussion, it was decided to start on March 1 with the payback to the 30 day ditches; followed by March 16 with the 15 day ditches.

**M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Steffen)** That Board of Directors approve the start of the 2008 water season on March 1 to the 30 day ditches and March 16 to the 15 day ditches by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Chief Engineer reported on the following items:

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

**Developer Projects** – Staff has processed 25 Developer pipeline projects for the 2007-08 Maintenance Season. Currently there are two projects in progress. These projects impact the following canals: 1) Central Canal located northeast of Church and Peach Avenues, and 2) H-Ditch located northeast of Bullard and Figarden Loop. Nine projects have been completed since April 1, 2007.

**Agency Projects** – FID is currently processing approximately ten Agency projects for the 2007-08 Maintenance Season with four projects being completed since April 2007. The one current project impacts the Mortensen Pipeline as part of Caltrans 180 West project where several sections of the pipeline are being replaced near Valentine and Brawley Avenues.

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

Mr. Stretch provided the Board an update on the Maintenance and Facility Upgrade Plan (MFUP). A slide presentation shows the progress of current projects.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

**a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update**

Work at the site continues to be slow but steady. A fair amount of what appears to be finished product is stacked at the site.

**b. Waldron Banking Project Update**

The contract with Steve Dovali Construction for the well equipping work continues. Dovali Construction and their electrical subcontractor are essentially finished with the punch list items

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except for the lighting work that will not occur until the parts are received and installed later this month. Another letter was mailed giving them until March 3 to complete the project.

Arthur & Orum well drilling work is almost complete. The last well was developed and tested and found a significant amount of sand was being pumped. This problem is being addressed.

**c. District Office Plan**

Staff is currently working with SIM Architects on the site plan and storage buildings. Documents are being prepared for the submittal of the site plan. Staff is also working through the process with Anderson-Clayton Corporation for the purchase of a strip of land to the south of the proposed office location.

**d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update**

Maintenance personnel are preparing for a March 1<sup>st</sup> start date. Heavy equipment operators are busy dredging and hauling sand for the Central Canal. Equipment operators are also performing grading work on the Gould Canal and are currently working west of Minnewawa. Spraying activities were initiated in the southern part of the District along the Perrin, Lampe, and Central systems. The trash truck is working on the Houghton and Herndon systems.

Mr. Kimura attended a weed conference held in Monterey, CA. Mr. Kimura came away with some very good information and found the conference to be worthwhile.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

**KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION**

Staff will be meeting with the KRWA Watermaster on Friday to discuss the upcoming water season and Exhibit "D" Flows.

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

This item will be discussed during Closed Session.

**OTHER ISSUES**

**California Water Crisis Forum**

Mr. Serrato attended this meeting in Fresno. There were many water officials who participated, and he thought it was very informative.

**Waterways Newsletter**

The latest issue of the Waterways focusing on the new office facility, snow pack, and three year plan is at the printers and will be mailed within the next week or so. The newsletter is scheduled to be mailed to landowner with five acres and above.

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**Congressman Devin Nunes**

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Congressman Devin Nunes on the topic of *Keeping the Valley Alive – An Update on the Water Crisis Affecting the San Joaquin River*. It will be held on Wednesday, March 20.

**Meeting with Congressman Jim Costa**

Congressman Costa invited a number of water officials to participate in a roundtable discussion concerning water issues affecting the Valley. Topics of discussion included the current California Water Bond, Integrated Regional Water Management Plans, and the San Joaquin River Settlement.

**Groundwater Banking Facility / City of Clovis**

Gary Sawyers and Gary Serrato met with the City of Clovis staff and their city attorney. In general, it was a more productive meeting with several of the bigger issues being settled. Another meeting is scheduled for next week.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**a. Directors and Staff Participation at the Annual KRWA Dinner – March 21, 2008**

Staff recommends allowing Directors and Management Staff to attend the Dinner with their spouses.

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve attending the KRWA annual dinner for Directors, Staff and their Spouses by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**b. Request for Overnight Stay for Two District Employees – SDRMA Safety/Claims Education Day, Sacramento, CA March 25, 2008**

Staff is requesting approval for a one-night stay for two employees to attend the SDRMA Safety/Claims Education Day on March 25, 2008. The District will receive two points toward the discount of the District's Workers' Compensation premiums. There is no cost to attend this seminar.

**M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Neely)** That Board of Directors approve the one night stay by two employees to attend the SDRMA Safety/Educational Day by an unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**d. January 2008 Investment Account**

**e. January 2008 COP Investment Account (walk in)**

Ms. Hailey updated the Board on the District's investment accounts and requested the Board adopt these accounts as presented by Staff.

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**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve the January 2008 Investment Account as presented by Staff by an unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve the January 2008 COP Investment Account as presented by Staff by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Director Neely** – received a pre-recorded telephone call from Representative Devin Nunes explaining his position on the San Joaquin River Settlement. His opposition to the settlement stems from his belief that the settlement is unfair to the valley. He would like to see a more equitable arrangement.

**Director Steffen** – met with landowner, Nick Koretoff, to discuss canal easements.

**Director Niederfrank** – inquired about the scheduling of the water systems operators and water deliveries to the waste water treatment plant.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board adjourned the open meeting at 7:15 pm. After a short recess, the Board went into Closed Session at 7:40 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))

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

**Government Code Section 54956.8 Real Property Transactions.**

Negotiators: Laurence Kimura and Queensland Cotton/Anderson Clayton Corp.

Properties: Portion of APN 487-042-19S (.2 acres)

Terms and Conditions: Update

**REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with President Boswell stating there was nothing to report.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary R. Serrato  
Board Secretary