

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 25, 2009**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California on March 25, 2009. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Board President Jeff Boswell.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Jeff Boswell
Vice President Jeff Neely
Steven Balls
George Porter

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Ryan Jacobsen

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

None

REVIEW AGENDA

No changes

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

None

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 Regular Board Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2009**

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M/S/C/(Balls/Neely) That Board of Directors approve the Consent Calendar by the following vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Porter; Nays 0; Absent Jacobsen; Abstain 0)

380: WATER REPORT

a. Current Water Conditions

Watermaster Jim Irwin reviewed the current and projected water supply and snow pack information. As of March 24, Pine Flat release was 673 cfs and storage was 339,489 acre-feet. Pine Flat precipitation is 70.6% of normal. Mr. Irwin stated that the Friant Class I water allocation had been increased to 65%. Staff is preparing to begin water deliveries to the 30 day canals.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chief Engineer Bill Stretch reported on the following items:

a. Developer and Agency Project Schedule for 2008/09 Update

Developer Projects – A few projects are being processed at a slow rate. There are no projects in progress at this time.

Agency Projects – Staff is processing several Agency projects for the 2009-10 Maintenance Season.

b. Three-Year Maintenance and Facility Upgrade Project for 2008/09

Mr. Stretch reviewed the progress of the three-year projects. Most projects are winding down in anticipation of the April 1 start of water season. Projects for next maintenance season are being discussed.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update

Conditions on the site remain much as they did at the last Board meeting. A meeting took place between, Staff, Alex Peltzer (FID's legal representative), Mr. Erickson, and his legal counsel. Mr. Erickson has discontinued the hauling of materials to the site. Staff plans to schedule a meeting with the City of Fresno in the near future.

b. Waldron Banking Project Update

The project is essentially complete with Staff waiting for reimbursement from the State.

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c. District Office Plan

Contractor work crews are abating the asbestos in the annex building, including the floor tiles, roof tiles, and the putty around the windows. Completion is expected by April 10. Additional asbestos found in the building during the abatement process has increased the cost by an additional \$6,700.

d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update

- Crews are winding down on the winter maintenance projects
- Heavy Equipment Operators are rebuilding the bank on the Houghton Canal
- Brushing crews are working on the Fresno and Mill canals
- Staff is working on removing the homeless camp discussed earlier with officers from the Fresno Police Department.
- Crews are spraying as the weather permits
- The trash truck is busy in the southern area of the south central canals

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

2009-2010 Budget

The KRWA budget for 2009-2010 was adopted by the Executive Committee. The increase in this year's budget amounts to 1.2%. Since there was no carry-over from prior year, the District's assessment will actually be increased by 23% or an additional \$37,735 for the year.

Ag Waiver Discharge

Dave Orth, General Manager of the Kings River Conservation District reported that the South San Joaquin Valley Water Coalition received a notice of violation. The Regional Water Quality Control Board is requesting that more monitoring sites be established within the rivers and in some irrigation canals. The Coalition continues to discuss these issues with the Board in hopes of resolving their concerns.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY / FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY

The House has passed the S.22 – Omnibus Land bill and the bill has made its way to the President's desk for his signature. Once the bill is signed by the President, Friant Districts are required to convert their current contract into 9(D) contracts – Conversion to 9 (d) contracts would require FID to pay off the capital component of the current contract. FID's estimated capital component cost of the Central Valley Project is \$4 million. Because of the unstable bond market, the cost of borrowing monies to pay off the capital component is unfavorable at this time. Talks on the contracts conversions and possible new legislation to address this issue will be discussed at the next Friant meeting.

Tim Quin, Executive Director of ACWA, will be addressing the Friant board at tomorrow's meeting.

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OTHER ISSUES

Waterways Newsletter

The newsletter has been printed and mailed to landowners of five-acres and above.

Water Meters

Lon Martin, Assistant Director of Public Utilities, will update the Board on the progress of water meter installation in the City of Fresno during the second meeting in April.

Meetings with State Officials

Mr. Serrato continues to meet and talk with local state representatives regarding area water issues.

Meeting with Council Woman Cynthia Sterling

Mr. Serrato and Mr. Kimura will meet with Council Woman Sterling later this week to discuss the Nielson Avenue property.

Grower Meeting

An area growers meeting has been set to occur on Friday at the facilities of Mickey Kenneson, a grower in the west side of the District. FID staff (including Gary Serrato, Laurence Kimura, Jim Irwin, and Bill Stretch) will be providing information as well as answering the growers questions and concerns.

Stimulus Package

Staff continues to pursue funds from the stimulus package by talking to legislators and attending meetings regarding this issue. The District's three-year plan has been submitted for consideration of funding.

Proposition 50 and 13

The State of California recently sold bonds to meet a wide variety of obligations. A portion of the Bond monies were designated to continue to fund grant funding under proposition 50. Staff is working with State Officials to continue to provide funding for the completion of projects granted under proposition 13.

Kings County Water District

The "pump testing" study has been completed on the Kings County Groundwater Bank. FID will be receiving a copy of the report. The initial report does not indicate any negative impacts to surrounding wells within the facility. The wells fully recovered within five days. A special Board meeting to discuss the proposed banking facility will be scheduled at a later date.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Revision of Policy 130-528 (requires Board approval)

Staff explained the changes to the policy that includes reimbursable items and updated government regulations. Directors suggested that five days is not long enough to turn in receipts

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from business trips and suggest ten business days. After much discussion, it was decided to table this action item for the next meeting so that Staff can make the appropriate changes.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Boswell – commented on a story published in the San Francisco Chronicle concerning the dangers of seismic activity and its affects on the Delta conveyance systems as well as the San Francisco water supply.

CLOSED SESSION

Staff went into Closed Session at 7:10 p.m.

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

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)): KRWA.

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)): Nielsen Avenue Property

Government Code Section 54956.8 Real Property Transactions.

Negotiators: Laurence Kimura and Ardismae Brooks

Properties: Portion of APN 334-320-05

Terms and Conditions: Update

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session concluded at 8:00 p.m.

President Boswell stated that there was no action to report from Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Board Secretary