

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MAY 21, 2013**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California, on May 21, 2013. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President Ryan Jacobsen.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Ryan Jacobsen
Vice President Steven Balls
George Porter
Gregory Beberian (arrived at 5:03 pm)

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jeff Neely

STAFF PRESENT

General Manager Gary Serrato
Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura
Assistant General Manager of Operations Bill Stretch
Watermaster Jim Irwin
Controller DeAnn Hailey
Human Resources Director September Singh
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

OTHERS PRESENT

Goldie Lewis – Representative from Granville Homes

REVIEW AGENDA

No changes.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

President Jacobsen reminded Board and Staff that the three Board of Equalization meetings will be held in June.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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 – April 16, 2013
- b. April 2013 Check Register
- c. April 2013 Payroll Registers

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- d. **April 2013 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- e. **April Investment Account**
- f. **Agency Pipeline Project – City of Fresno will Pipeline the Maupin Canal No. 118 Located Southwest of Nees and Willow Avenues in Accordance with Board Policy. Action Request 2013-05**
- g. **Developer Project – Granville Homes Tract 5550 to Deed Portion of Enterprise Canal Located Northeast Avenues in Accordance with Board Policy. Action Request 2013-04**

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

CONTROLLER’S REPORT

Ms. Hailey reviewed the following reports:

- a. **January to March 2013 Fund Statement**
- b. **January to March 2013 Notes to the Fund Statement**
- c. **January to March 2013 Treasurer’s Report**
- d. **January to March 2013 Deposits and Investments**

The Controller reported that the District is within the 2013 Budget. Temporary Agency costs are high due to using temporary personnel (during a transition period) to cover two full-time positions which have since been filled. The District received a sizeable check from JPIA as a rebate for lowering workers’ compensation claims. The other categories are within normal parameters.

Director Beberian requested Staff to perform a study on the cost and particulars of having FID crews perform the demolition of the old administration building.

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved the financial reports as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter; Nays – 0; Absent – Neely; Abstain – 0)

WATER REPORT

- a. **Current Water Conditions Report**

Watermaster Jim Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply information. As of May 20, Pine Flat release was 1,540 cfs with storage at 480,214 acre-feet. Pine Flat precipitation is at 55.2% of seasonal average and the snow sensors are no longer reporting due to lack of snow. Mr. Serrato stated that this year is close to being the driest year in recorded history.

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After reviewing the current runoff conditions, Staff presented a dry year combined with a hot spring routing which indicate requiring deliveries to be shut off to a portion of the District on or about July 15, so that the rest of the District can run until the end of July.

Mr. Serrato has met with the Consolidated Irrigation District (CID) General Manager to discuss CID's ability to backstop a portion of FID's TCP. Mr. Serrato has met and continues to meet with Steve Haugen, Watermaster of Kings River Water District, to review daily operations of the entire KRWA.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER - OPERATIONS REPORT / ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE (formerly known as the Chief Engineer's Report)

Assistant Manager of Operations Bill Stretch reported on the following items:

a. Developer and Agency Project Schedule Update for 2013-2014

Developer Projects –There is one project in progress and one completed project. The on-going project is the replacement of 620 feet of 21-inch PVC with 24-inch RGRCP on the Helm Colonial W. Branch at Nees and Peach avenues; and the completed project is King of Kings Housing Development is replacing 350 feet of 30-inch CIPCP with 30-inch RGRCP on the Braly Canal at California and Martin Luther King Blvd.

Agency Projects – There are no Agency projects currently taking place. There is however, a large fiber optic project by CVIN that will cross various FID facilities located within the County of Fresno, the City of Fresno, and the City of Clovis that will occur during the next few months. One of the requirements that the District imposed is that all borings take place 20 feet under the canal. A \$50,000 deposit check from CVIN has been received. The project is expected to be completed by the end of June.

High Speed Rail Update

Staff continues to meet with various consultants from the California High Speed Rail. A reimbursement check for Staff time is expected soon. Staff has also periodically met with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formally known as Fish and Game) to discuss permitting issues. CHSR is anticipating on awarding the "design-build" contract in June and breaking ground in July of 2013.

b. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2013-14

There are no projects in progress.

Mr. Stretch provided photographs that accompanied his report on projects that occurred this past year and various current FID Maintenance/Construction repairs and projects.

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c. FID Projects Update for 2013-14

American Colony No. 2 – long crested weir;

Adams Wasteway – long crested weir;

Nordstrom Pond – water in the regulation pond;

Nordstrom Pond Overpour Weir – off the American Colony System; and

Waldron Recovery Well #104 – the contractor completed the well drilling portion of the contract at the end of April. The well equipping portion of the project should start next week and be wrapped up by late July or early August.

d. General Maintenance Update for 2013-14

- Spray truck operators are on the G 1-16, Little Sandridge, Hopps Pond, Briggs, and Houghton;
- Spray tractor operators are on the Victoria Branch, Epstein, Bullard, and Marpin;
- Aquatic weed treatment during the next several weeks will occur on most of FID larger canals;
- Repair crews are working on pipeline repairs and filling in gopher holes;
- Repair crews improved canal banks on the Silvia Canal;
- Crews removed root intrusions from a pipeline on the Tracy No. 44; and
- Crews repaired canal seepage due to root intrusion on the W. Br. Of East Branch No. 5.

e. Discuss Potential Sale of Easement to PG&E to Jointly Use Portion of the Herndon Canal No. 39 Located North of McKinley and Millbrook Avenues

Item 8 e. is regarding negotiations with PG&E on the sale of an easement. This item will be discussed during closed session.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile

In late April, Staff submitted a draft work plan to the County of Fresno for the on-site use of the materials still on the property. The County is currently soliciting input from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Staff is waiting to hear back from the County.

b. District Office Plan

SIM Architects revised the draft plans for Phase C (removal of the old building, additional parking, improve Edgar Avenue street curb and gutter, and landscaping) and submitted them to the County of Fresno for Plan Review. Asbestos found in trace amounts in the putty around the windows was abated in April. PG&E has provided us a

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timeframe of mid-June for the removal of the transformers located in the old building's basement.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

Cloud Seeding

Mr. Serrato reported the discussions he had with the KRWA Watermaster on the possibility of cloud seeding through the end of July. After reviewing the cost and the projected increased water supply, it was decided that it would not be cost effective.

Pre-1914 Water Rights

The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights staff continues to work on the KRWA request. KRWA Watermaster Steve Haugen continues to provide the State Board staff with information as requested. The completion of the study is still on schedule for the end of August.

Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC)

Kings River Watermaster Steve Haugen informed the member districts that the FERC license will expire in 16 years. Even though there is significant time, the process to renew this license is a long and tedious one; hence, the reason for starting the discussion of the renewal process soon. Within the next five years, KRWA will start to work on an in-depth report. The FERC license is issued to both the KRWA and KRCD who owns and operates the Pine Flat Power Plant.

Energy Permits on the Kings River

A private power provider is trying to obtain permits on the Kings River at the Peoples and Gould Weirs. Staff is discussing this situation with District's legal counsel and KRWA Watermaster and is currently considering applying for its own application.

Snow Sensor Grant

KRWA is applying for a Department of Water Resources Grant to aid in the cost of repair/replace/upgrade of the aging snow sensor equipment on the Kings River water shed. Upgrades would include additional temperature gauges and depth of the snow measurements in each area.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ALLOCATION

The Bureau has officially announced another reduction of Friant's allocation to 45% Class I water.

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San Joaquin River Restoration Program

The Bureau of Reclamation continues to track water temperatures and its effect on the juvenile salmon that were released earlier this year.

Structure Survey

The Bureau of Reclamation is surveying different flow path options which include the relocation, to possibly downstream of the bifurcation structure that affects the Chowchilla By-Pass. The study will also include the construction of a by-pass structure around the Mendota Pool.

OTHER

Westlands Water District Area of Origin Application

Friant Board Members continue to meet with Westlands Board Members to explore ways that would allow for the Area of Origin application to be reassigned to Friant. As a condition of the reassignment of the application, Westlands is requiring that all recirculation water that is sold by Friant Districts be sold to Westlands Water District and not individual farmers within Westlands.

Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)

Mr. Serrato, Mr. Kimura, and Mr. Stretch attended the Spring 2013 ACWA Conference last week. Mr. Serrato stated there were some good workshops but the one he was most impressed with was the session on the adjudication of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. Also, Mr. Serrato was a participant in a panel discussion regarding the development and success of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plans.

Proposition 84 Funding

Fresno Irrigation District and the James Irrigation District have jointly applied for Proposition 84 Grant funding for the development of a Groundwater Re-charge Banking Project. A meeting with two James ID Board Members and two FID Board members (possibly Directors Jacobsen and Porter) will be arranged for May 30 to review and discuss the benefits of a partnership of the facility.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- a. **Resolution 2013-01 Substitution of District Representative to the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority**

This resolution will remove past Director Eddie Niederfrank from the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority Board and officially replace him with Director George Porter.

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2013-01 as presented by Staff by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter; Nays – 0; Absent – Neely; Abstain – 0)

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b. Workers' Compensation Update (informational)

Human Resources Director September Singh informed the Board that the District will now participate in direct "first-aid" medical bill payments where the District directly pays the medical facility that performed the service. First-aid treatment is strictly defined by the Department of Labor and determined by the medical professional taking care of the employee. Directly paying the medical facility will help keep workers' compensation rates down depending on the number of "first-aid" injuries experienced.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Beberian – inquired when a decision will be made for the end of water season and whether there should be two board meetings in July. Staff informed Director Beberian that a decision on the water situation will be made during the June's regular meeting and that a second meeting in July will not be necessary. Staff will also provide a copy of the Water Condition Report during the Board of Equalization meetings.

Director Balls – in early May he met with Ryan Jacobsen, Gary Serrato, and Gary Sawyers regarding the Conveyance Agreement.

Director Porter – attended a Midland Tractor event and was inundated with questions regarding when FID would be shutting off water. Director Porter attended the Kentucky Derby where they commented that a "little bit" of rain back there is three inches of rainfall.

ADJOURNMENT

Open Session adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:18 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)): Nielsen Avenue Property.

Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)). Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (G.C. §54956.9(a)); Applegate Johnston, Inc. vs. Fresno Irrigation District.

Government Code Section 54956.8 Real Property Transactions.

Negotiators: Gary R. Serrato-FID, Bill Stretch-FID, and the City of Clovis

Properties: APN 560-031-11 & 557-031-05, 39

Terms and Conditions: Negotiations of Purchase and Sale of Real Property

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Government Code Section 54956.8 Real Property Transactions.

Negotiators: Gary R. Serrato-FID, Bill Stretch-FID, and PG&E

Properties: Portion of Herndon Canal, North of McKinley & Millbrook

Terms and Conditions: Negotiations of Sale of Easement

CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned Closed Session at 7:53 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Jacobsen stated there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Open Session adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Secretary of the Board