

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 14, 2014**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in special session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California, on January 14, 2014. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President Ryan Jacobsen.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

President Ryan Jacobsen  
Vice President Steven Balls  
Jeff Neely  
George Porter  
Gregory Beberian

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

None

**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**

None

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Mr. Serrato stated there were no changes to the agenda. Also, Closed Session will not be held since there is nothing new to report. During the Water Operations portion of the meeting, Mr. Irwin will review the forecast and Mr. Serrato will follow-up with Friant and Kings River conditions.

**REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

President Jacobsen noted that the regularly scheduled meeting for next week will be cancelled and today's special meeting is being held in its place.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

No presentations.

**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 – December 17, 2013**
- b. **December 2013 Check Register**
- c. **December 2013 Payroll Registers**
- d. **December 2013 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- e. **December 2013 Investment Account**

President Jacobsen stated that the amended minutes that were handed out replaces the minutes that were included in the Board packet (item 6 e. was revised).

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

**CONTROLLER’S REPORT**

Controller DeAnn Hailey reviewed the following financial reports:

**a. 2013 Maturities Report**

Ms. Hailey presented the real gains and losses for the 2013 Investment Account. The report shows a gain of \$31,484.60 and no losses.

**b. Utilities Usage and Cost Analysis 2010-2013**

Ms. Hailey reviewed the utility comparison costs for the new and old administrative offices from 2010 to 2013. During part of 2012 and 2013, it should be noted that the District was paying utilities for both buildings.

- Electrical use                      Kilowatt hours saved 12,000 – 21,000
- Gas use                                5,000 therms saved
- Water use and cost                5,000 HCF saved
- Water and sewer cost            \$7,700 reduction

Total savings is approximately \$16,000 per year.

The Controller is preparing the December’s Fund Statements, Notes to Fund Statements, Treasurer’s Report, and Deposit and Investments in preparation for when the auditors will be visiting at the end of February. Once the auditors complete their audited financial reports, Ms. Hailey will present the Fund Statements and other accounting reports to the Board.

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**WATER REPORT**

**a. Current Water Conditions Report**

Watermaster Jim Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply information. As of January 13, Pine Flat release was 179 cfs with storage at 174,213 acre-feet. The pre-project for the Kings River is at 174 cfs with FID's entitlement of 86 cfs. KRWA made an irrigation run for stone fruit orchards that will conclude at the end of the week. Precipitation is at 38.8% of normal. Temperatures are expected to rise with the possibility of setting a record high – no storms are expected in the near future. The weather pattern that we have been experiencing the last couple of years is very similar to the weather pattern of 1976/1977.

Mr. Serrato talked about the effects that the drought conditions are having on the Friant Water Authority and the Kings River Water Association. The Bureau of Reclamation is working on its first forecast. Because of lack of snow pack and the low water levels in the northern reservoirs, it was reported at the last Friant meeting there is a good chance that a zero allocation for Friant Contractors could occur for the first time ever. Kings River Exhibit "C" Flows will still be required this year down the Kings River.

**Break**

A short break was taken from 5:32 - 5:45 p.m.; during which time no District business was discussed.

**WATER REPORT - continued**

**a. Current Water Conditions Report (continued)**

Mr. Serrato continued to explain how the current drought conditions will affect the San Joaquin Valley and California as a whole. Should the Governor declare a "State of Emergency due to drought", the Delta could increase their pumping which would increase water to the west side of Fresno County. However, there may be a call of Friant water to meet the demands from the Exchange Contractors of up to 200,000 acre-feet.

Staff expects to have a recommendation during the March or possibly April Directors' meeting for the start-up of the 2014 Water Season.

District Staff is scheduled to meet with the Cities of Clovis and Fresno to discuss water delivery for 2014. Staff will notify the Cities that the District will not be able to provide recharge water this year but will deliver water to their surface water treatment plants.

Staff will be meeting with farmers at a "Coffee Shop" talk in Easton next week. A meeting will also be scheduled for the Kerman area and possibly the east side area. The Waterways Newsletter will be written and mailed in February.

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Mr. Serrato, along with a few community and agency leaders, was invited to sit down with Governor Brown for a roundtable discussion covering water and other issues critical to the Central Valley.

**b. Overnight Stay for Four Employees to Attend ITRC Training from February 25-27, 2014 San Luis Obispo, CA**

Staff recommends sending four employees (two from the Engineering Department and two from the Water Department) to attend a three-day workshop at Cal Poly's Irrigation Training & Research Center (ITRC) in San Luis Obispo. Rates are \$30 per day / per employee.

**M/S/C/(Porter/Balls)** That the Board of Directors approved sending four employees to the Cal Poly ITRC training in February by unanimous vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Neely; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

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

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

Mr. Stretch requested that item 8 e. be taken out-of-order and heard first.

**e. Resolution for Grant Application – USBR WaterSMART Water, Energy and Efficiency Grant and Contribute Matching Funds to the Southwest Groundwater Banking Facility and Lower Creek Canal No. 77 Canal Improvement Project. Resolution 2014-01**

During the last Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved applying for the USBR WaterSMART Grant of up to one million dollars. Staff recommends approving Resolution 2014-01. The cost for Provost & Pritchard Consulting to prepare the application is between \$10,000 – 15,000.

**M/S/C/(Balls/Porter)** That the Board of Directors approved applying for the USBR WaterSMART Grant as described in Resolution 2014-01 by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Neely; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

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

**Developer Projects** – the project on the Jefferson Canal at Barstow and Leonard avenues will be completed once the covers and trashrack are installed. The District has started to require and install ladders (over the last few years) inside of the District's structures.

**Agency Projects** – the City of Fresno is working on two projects along Herndon Avenue. One project is between Brawley and Valentine where almost 2,000 feet of open canal was replaced with 54" RGRCP. This project has been completed. The other

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project on Herndon Avenue is between Blythe and Brawley. The project includes piping 230 feet of open channel on the Bullard canal with 60-inch RGRCP and also piping 20 feet of open channel on the Radin-Kamp canal with 24-inch RGRCP. A by-pass channel was prepared by the contractor as a precaution; however, with the lack of rain it was not needed. The project is under construction and expected to be completed by the end of January.

**City of Fresno** – will install sewer and water mains that will impact several of the District’s canals. Boring under the Houghton Canal has already occurred once.

Staff is working with the City (road maintenance agency) on a slope lining repair under a bridge on the Herndon Canal at Parkway Drive (north of Shaw Avenue). As the maintaining agency, the City is responsible for fixing the slope lining under the bridge.

**Sebastian/Kertel** – will install fiber optic utilities that will impact several of the District’s canals. Borings under the canals are taking place starting with the Bullard Canal.

**California High Speed Rail Update (CHSR)**

Staff continues to meet with CHSR authority representatives approximately every two weeks. Staff’s main concern at this time is the CHSR’s design for the Herndon Canal. The design is being re-worked by staff of both agencies. Agreements between TPZP and the District are still being negotiated.

**b. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2013-14**

Recently, a bridge was constructed near Olive and McCall avenues at the sole cost to the landowner; the District did not share in any of the costs.

Staff has completed a draft of the stricter criteria for Policy No. 108. Mr. Stretch will be reviewing the updates to the policy with the general manager and assistant general manager and plans to bring it before the Directors at either the February or March Board Meeting.

**c. FID Projects Update for 2013-14**

- **Waldron Recovery Well #104: Equipping** – PG&E is installing poles and will then energize the site. SCADA Integrator will install the monitoring equipment once power is established.
- **Boswell Banking Facility – N/E North and Bishop** – the widening of the north levee and adding rip-rap to the corners is completed.

**Capital Improvement Projects**

- **The Waldron Lambrecht Banking Facility** - has experienced seepage along the south levee of Cell #4 (S/W Shaw and Goldenrod). A new interior levee will be constructed to eliminate seepage into an adjacent property;

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- **Fairview Canal** - a pipeline replacement project along Bethel has been completed. The next phase along McKinley has been delayed (utilities need to be identified and plans need to be adjusted); optimistically in a week or two;
- **Madera Avenue Canal** - crews realigned and replaced approximately 200 feet of pipe (N/W Belmont and Madera avenues); this project has been completed;
- **Washington North Branch Canal** - crews are realigning a portion of open canal with a 30-inch PVC pipeline around the future basin expansion of the Pursell Pond (S/W Jefferson and Cedar avenues). The west and east cells will be combined into one cell. Installation will include three 60-inch standpipes and a 30-inch PVC pipe; and
- **Central Canal (at the headgate)** – a liner improvement project has been completed. Crews will install a trash deflector where the liner was installed to keep debris from backing up.

**d. General Maintenance Update for 2013-14**

- Brushing crews are taking care of trimming trees along the Washington Main Line Canal, Perrin West Branch Canal, and oleanders on the Fancher Canal;
- Crews replaced a wooden footbridge with a metal catwalk;
- Heavy equipment operators have been grading on the Kennedy-Owens, sloping on the Lampee West Branch Canal; and dredging on Lower Dry Creek Canal;
- Repair crews are taking care of gate, liner, and pipeline projects;
- Crews cleaned up a homeless camp on the Herndon Canal; and
- A report was given on confined space entry permit report (127 confined space entries with 0 reports of hazardous atmospheres).

Mr. Stretch presented a summary of the cost for improvements to the Thompson Canal located southwest of Dakota and Jameson avenues. The project took 2,891 man-hours and a cost of \$113,892 out of which \$14,405 was out-of-pocket expenses; the remaining amount was District labor, engineering time, and use of District equipment.

**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

**a. District Office Plan**

Phase C of the office plan project continues. The curb and gutter work on Edgar Avenue has been completed. Installation and/or construct of electrical conduits, wrought iron fencing, building entrance canopy, curbing, and finish grading for parking are taking place. Mr. Kimura showed a variety of slides on the progress on the project.

**b. Aquatic Pesticides**

The aquatic pesticide application is still at the State. The State's public notice period ended on December 26, 2013. Staff has not heard if there were any comments.

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**c. Equipment Update**

The recently ordered compressor has been received and installed. The new bucket for the excavator has arrived. Director Jacobsen directed Staff to have the new compressor inspected by Fresno County. Mr. Kimura mentioned that Staff plans on taking the old compressor to auction – the Directors had no objection.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

**KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION**

**Pre-1914 Water Rights**

An External Issues Committee meeting will be held on January 28. Discussion will center on what the report means to the individual districts.

**Sacramento Roundtable**

Mr. Serrato participated in a roundtable discussion hosted by the Department of Food and Agriculture. Mr. Serrato spoke on drought preparedness and acceleration of transfers and exchanges.

**Governor Brown Visits Fresno**

Mr. Serrato was invited to attend a roundtable discussion with Governor Jerry Brown on Monday, January 13. Several representatives from other water districts, landowners, and government agencies attended the meeting. Discussions included whether the Governor is going to call for a declaration of drought emergency, Delta pumping, and the restoration of the San Joaquin River.

**FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**

There was no further information regarding Friant issues.

**OTHER**

**California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**

Mr. Serrato has been appointed to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. They meet on a quarterly basis throughout the valley. This is a four-year appointment.

**Miscellaneous**

Mr. Serrato stated that the District received a letter from JPIA recognizing FID for their excellent safety record. The District's Safety Manager, David Burrow, was instrumental in seeing that all employees stay safe.

There will be a public hearing on January 22 in Sacramento hosted by the State Water Resources Control Board regarding putting together a groundwater concept paper.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

None

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Director Beberian** – none

**Director Balls** – none

**Director Jacobsen** – reminded the Directors that the annual Statement of Economic Interest Forms (700 Forms) are once again due. Stated that the “Coffee Shop Talk” in Easton will be on Friday of next week and Supervisor Phil Larson will be one of the attendees.

**Director Porter** – none

**Director Neely** – planted grain in December but only the stands by his house have sprouted.

**CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session held.

**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 – Pending Litigation (G.C. §54956.9(a)); Fresno Irrigation District vs. SIM Architect.

**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.

**Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)).** Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation (G.C. §54956.9(a)): Jeremy Hobensack vs. Fresno Irrigation District.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato  
Secretary of the Board