

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JUNE 17, 2014**

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 17, 2014. Meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Board President Ryan Jacobsen.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Ryan Jacobsen
Vice President Steven Balls
George Porter
Gregory Beberian
Jerry Prieto, Jr.

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

General Manager Gary Serrato
Assistant General Manager Bill Stretch
Chief Engineer – Special Projects Laurence Kimura
Watermaster Jim Irwin
Controller DeAnn Hailey
Director of Human Resources September Singh
Staff Engineer Felix Vaquilar
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

OTHERS PRESENT

Water Safety Council Representative Cristel Tufenkjian
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Representative Brian Ehlers
Landowner Jack Suran

REVIEW AGENDA

Mr. Serrato stated there are no changes to the agenda.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

No changes for future meetings at this time.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Tufenkjian spoke on behalf of the Water Safety Council. The Council provides public training and education to prevent water related injuries and deaths. She thanked FID for its monetary and staff contributions to the Council and the program. President Jacobsen was presented with a plaque for the District's 2013 Sponsorship.

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 Special Board Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2014**
- b. **May 2014 Check Register**
- c. **May 2014 Payroll Registers**
- d. **May 2014 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- e. **May 2014 Investment Account**

Director Prieto informed Staff that his Director's report from the May 13 meeting did not reflect what he had said about drip irrigation practices and asked that item 5 a. be pulled from the Consent Calendar so a revision of his report could be discussed.

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

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

Controller DeAnn Hailey reviewed the following financial reports:

- a. **May 2014 Fund Statements**
- b. **May 2014 Notes to the Fund Statements**
- c. **April and May 2014 Treasurer's Report**
- d. **April and May 2014 Deposits and Investments**

Ms. Hailey presented the May Fund Statements. It was reported that income was slightly over budget. Ms. Hailey pointed out the electrical charges for running pumps/motors on the canal banks in answer to a question posed by Director Beberian. It was also reported that the remainder of the budget is within margin. Hardship and Reclaim Water incomes are higher than budgeted. Fresno County sent the District its second check for the collection of assessments for the 2014 year. Only about three percent (3%) is still owed to the District for this year's assessments. Employees continue to withdraw small amounts of their PTO (personal time off) from the unfunded liability account.

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

WATER REPORT

- a. **Current Water Conditions Report**

Mr. Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply information. As of June 16, Pine Flat release was 2,837 cfs with storage at 409,596 acre-feet. FID's storage is 145,566. The pre-project for the Kings River is at 1,000 cfs. FID's entitlement of the pre-

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project is 611 cfs. Predictions are still calling for weak El Nino conditions this winter. FID is obligated for delivery of fishery management water during the month of September.

b. Discussion/Update of 2014 Irrigation Season (Action Item)

Mr. Serrato stated that by going into the Temperature Control Pool, the District will be able to extend the irrigation season from six weeks to eight weeks. FID would be required to pay back the water with its first entitlement (usually occurs in December). It was stated at the KRWA meeting that Pine Flat would be allowed to draw down to 85,000 acre-feet. PG&E is contractually obligated to release water into Pine Flat from the upper stream reservoirs owned and operated by PG&E. Staff believes that the District will gain enough water entitlement to continue water deliveries until the end of July. Staff recommended that the Board approve extending deliveries through the end of July.

M/S/C/(Porter/Beberian) That the Board of Directors approved extending the 2014 Irrigation Season until July 31 which will make it a two-month run, by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

CONSENT CALENDAR (continued)

a. Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2014

The Directors reviewed the amended minutes and approved the revision.

M/S/C/(Balls/Prieto) That the Board of Directors approved the May 13, 2014 Board of Directors' Special meeting minutes with the revised portion of Director Prieto's report by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

CHIEF ENGINEERS and SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORTS

Chief Engineer – Special Projects Laurence Kimura reported on the following items:

a. Developer and Agency Project Schedule Update for 2014-2015

Developer Projects – The Engineering Department continues to review plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2014-15 Maintenance Season. There are no Developer projects occurring at this time. Three projects were completed between April 1, 2013, and March 31, 2014. There are no projects occurring at this time and none are expected to start until after the 2014 Irrigation Season.

Agency Projects – The Engineering Department continues to review plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2014-15 Maintenance Season. Four projects were completed during April 1, 2013, and March 31, 2014. The one on-going project in progress is the FMFCD's construction of the Dry Creek Extension Basin located

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northwest of Annadale and Brawley avenues, which includes improving the Fanning Canal by replacing 600 feet of open channel and old Cast-in-Place Concrete Pipe (CIPCP) with 36-inch Rubber Gasketed Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RGRCP). FMFCD's contractor started construction in late April and completed the initial section in late May. The final portion of the project will be completed after the irrigation season with a 60-inch pipe that will be connected from the basin to Dry Creek Canal.

City of Clovis Terminus Park – (S/W Shepherd and Sunnyside avenues) construction of the park continues, including the building of a rock wall / entrance.

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) EDA Grant

Mr. Kimura reminded the Board that Staff brought before them during the December 2013 meeting a letter in support of FMFCD's request for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. FMFCD will act as the lead applicant with FID, County of Fresno, and the City of Fresno acting as co-applicants. The project will include street improvements, replacement of 1,700 feet of the North Central Canal pipeline, and basin tie-ins in the south Fresno area. FMFCD was recently notified that the project was selected through competitive review to continue forward for potential funding.

Director Beberian inquired if every FMFCD's basin was connected to one of FID's canals. Staff informed the Director that not all basins are connected and that FMFCD does have the ability to move some water on their own from certain basins. Director Beberian's concern is where the water will go when it does start to rain again. Mr. Serrato responded that FID will capture as much water as possible and place in its banking facilities.

Agency / Utility Crossings

There are numerous utility (cable, fiber optics, storm drains, sewer, etc.) crossings that bore under various FID facilities. Typically these sorts of crossings occur during the maintenance season.

California High Speed Rail Update (CHSR)

Staff and legal counsel continue to work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and CHSR on jurisdiction of the Herndon Canal due to its connection to the San Joaquin River. FID strongly objects to the CDFW's jurisdictional claim over the Herndon canal. Based on the most recent discussions with CHSR, the District has decided to re-engage in the design process.

b. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2014-15

- **Fresno Canal** – N/W Belmont and Academy – The contractor has finished installing a lift pump for a landowner to help lift water from the Fresno canal.
- **Miscellaneous** – Landowners continue to work on new turnouts, conversion from flood irrigation to low-flow irrigation, and pipeline projects.

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c. FID Projects Update for 2014-15

Mr. Kimura provided a summary of the projects completed prior to the irrigation season including basins, pipelines, regulating and measurement structures, and two miscellaneous projects.

d. Adoption of Mitigated Declaration for Routine Maintenance Along Portion of Big Dry Creek and Fancher Canal – Resolution 2014-07

The District plans on conducting routine channel maintenance work on portions of the Big Dry Creek and Fancher canals. Since the Big Dry Creek and Fancher canals are considered natural channels, the District performed an initial study and determined that a mitigated negative declaration was required under CEQA regulations. The documents were created and made available for public review from April 18 to June 6, 2014. The documents were also posted at the State Clearinghouse so the District could obtain a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Pursuant to CEQA, a mitigated negative declaration was prepared for the project and it showed that no significant environmental impacts will occur. Mr. Ehlers from Provost & Pritchard Consulting appeared at the meeting to answer questions from the Board. Director Prieto inquired if Staff has consulted the Army Corp of Engineers and if they have not, suggested they do so. Mr. Kimura and Mr. Ehlers stated that Staff will consult with the Corp prior to work being done. Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution 2014-07.

M/S/C/(Porter/Prieto) That the Board of Directors approved adoption of Resolution 2014-07 as presented by Staff by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

e. Lampee West Branch No. 34 Landowner Pipeline Project – George Weis

Staff Engineer Felix Vaquilar presented to the Board a proposed pipeline project at the N/W corner of South and Brawley avenues on FID's Lampee West Branch No. 34. The project consists of the substitution of approximately 1,900-feet of open canal with 30-inch pipe. Landowner George Weis plans on developing his 40 acres (currently a vineyard) into an almond orchard. Mr. Vaquilar displayed slides of the property in its current state along with slides of the proposed layout of the pipeline and the orchard. Total cost for the project is estimated at \$207,000. After several meeting with Mr. Weis, it was agreed the cost would be divided as follows (providing the Board approves the project): FID's portion will be \$152,000 (\$119,500 in materials or "out of pocket") and Mr. Weis' portion will be \$40,000 in monetary contributions plus \$15,000 for in-kind labor/equipment. Historically, this canal is known for frequent ditch breaks (typically twice a month) due to sandy soils, rodent activity, high banks, and water fluctuations. Benefits to piping the canal are the elimination of ditch breaks, costs of repairs, and disruptions to the other users on that canal, and reduced maintenance costs. Staff recommends entering into an agreement with Mr. Weis and move forward with the project as presented.

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The Board discussed the pros and cons of the project and the cost share contributions. All Members were in agreement that this project is needed but stated different opinions on how the cost of the project should be divided up between the District and landowner.

Mr. Vaquilar stated that if the project is approved, Mr. Weis will be required to pay \$12,000 to cover the costs of surveying/engineering/legal work by August 15. The remainder of his payment will be due no later than December 5, 2014, and must be paid before any materials are ordered or the start of the project. Mr. Weis plans to remove his current vineyard in late October and prepare/plant the orchard in the early spring of 2015.

M/S/C/(Porter/Balls) That the Board of Directors approved the Lampee West Branch No. 34 project as presented in Engineers' Action Request 2014-04 by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

Break

A break was taken from 6:55 – 7:13 p.m. - during which time no District business was discussed.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager's Bill Stretch reported on the following:

a. Operations and Maintenance

- WSO's have only been transitioned into the Water Department for the last several weeks due to the late start of irrigation season. Challenges have been the high flows at the beginning of the season, debris/trash/weeds in the canals, and removing the debris piles at bridges/culverts/trash racks;
- Crews have been very active in repairing leaks due to an increase in rodent activity because of the late start of irrigation season - which caused a higher than average number of seeping issues and breaches along the canals;
- Spray crews have made a number of applications of aquatic herbicide (Magnacide) in various canals;
- The Fancher Canal (N/W Kings Canyon & Clovis and N/W Church & Clovis) has suffered from deferred maintenance over the last several years due to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife restricting the District's ability to perform maintenance on the canal. This year with the warm weather and the delay in starting water, the canal experienced a significant weed infestation (Monkey Weed). Hand crews worked to remove the weeds and algae with rakes and the assistance of backhoes;
- A sub-contractor was hired to remove a culvert blockage on the South Perrin at Adams Avenue. It appeared that carpet padding was dumped into the canal and caused the culvert to get plugged;
- Crews continue to repair structures throughout the District including the one on the Maupin Canal at Willow and Nees;

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- Crews performed confined space practices while entering the Maupin Pipeline. This practice is performed throughout the District whenever crews enter a confined space that is taller than a couple of feet;
- Crews have applied Magnacide H on the Lower Dry Creek Canal and the inside slopes of basins and also sprayed for terrestrial weeds on the Washington Colony Canal as well as taking care of weed control in other parts of the District;
- Homeless encampments occasionally pop up and crews are busy cleaning up such areas – one such encampment was on Herndon Canal (between Fruit & West);
- FID's Safety Officer went on-site at the Carter Pipeline replacement project and held an unannounced confined space rescue drill. The crews performed very well and followed the proper protocols as they had been trained; and
- Prior to the water season, a representative from PG & E came in and provided training to the field employees on the dangers of electrical and gas lines.

Capital Improvement Projects

- **Pursell Pond Expansion** – Crews have completed basin expansion which included realigning the Washington Colony North Branch pipeline. The southwest portion of the basin was lowered and the percolation rate has shown an increase;
- **Carter Pipeline Replacement** – Crews have completed the pipeline project;
- **Oleander North Branch** – Crews constructed two long-crested weirs located near S/W Clayton and Chestnut. These weirs deliver better flows and improves service to the growers; and
- **Thompson Canal** – The repairs performed to the Thompson Canal continue to hold. Measurements were taken before the start of water season and will be compared to ones taken after water deliveries are complete. JPIA has settled one of the bridge disputes and continues to work on the other two.

b. Aquatic Pesticides

The State Implementation Plan application submitted by FID was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on May 20. Crews applied the first copper application on May 21 followed up by a Magnacide application in late May.

c. Equipment

Per direction from the Board, Staff disposed of a 2001 Chevrolet C1500 pickup at auction. The truck sold for \$2,300.

d. Southwest Groundwater Banking Project Update

Staff reported that the District received a letter on June 9 from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) stating that the District's application was rated one of the highest projects and anticipates awarding FID a \$1 million dollar grant. This grant is on top of the DWR grant of \$3.4 million dollar. Staff continues working on the sub-grantee

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agreement with the Kings Basin Water Authority and the purchasing of property for the recharge basins.

e. Sunnyside/Shepherd Terminus Park Update

Per Clovis' request, FID granted them an extension to enter into escrow for the exchange of property (property to be exchanged for the Sunnyside and Shepherd parcel). The City of Clovis is pursuing several potential parcels as viable options but is running into zoning issues with Fresno County.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

The lower river units are planning a coordinated run which will begin on July 1. The exception is the Corcoran Irrigation District which has already started water deliveries to its growers. It was reported at the recent KRWA meeting that the River is experiencing 35% channel losses down to the People's Weir.

Watermaster Steve Haugen from KRWA reported that the Temperature Control Pool (TCP) will drop down to 85,000 acre-feet by the end of September.

Mr. Serrato updated the Board on the Pre-1914 water discussion that took place at the most recent KRWA meeting.

A temperature profile within the TCP was conducted that showed it can vary from 10 degrees Celsius on the bottom to 25 degrees Celsius on the top. KRWA is working with the power plant to blend the water and target 19 degrees Celsius at the Fresno Weir.

Approximately 6,000 "Curtailment Notices" (the cutback of water use) have been sent out by the State Water Resources Control Board to water users north of the Delta. At this time it does not appear the KRWA will be affected.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

H.R. 3964 (Valadao) S. 2198 (Feinstein) Bills

Both bills have moved out of each house and on to committees; however, it is unclear exactly who will sit on the committees. The Valadao bill is considered to be a long-term fix while the Feinstein bill is considered a short-term fix. Friant has offered language to help with the development of the bills. Friant's response letter was included in the Board's packet.

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OTHER

Groundwater Legislation

Staff anticipates groundwater legislation will be brought before the Assembly and Senate by the end of August 2014. Two proposals AB1739 (Dickinson) and SB1168 (Pavley) are the bills most likely to come out of the Assembly and Senate. ACWA is very opposed to SB1168. The Dickinson bill has the endorsement of ACWA Groundwater Committee. Staff believes that a groundwater bill will include groundwater metering of pumps, usage reporting and groundwater sustainability. The Governor's office is working with others to develop a groundwater bill that will be submitted to the legislature for consideration.

Fresno State Water Scoping Workshop

Mr. Serrato participated in a workshop panel hosted by Fresno State and the City of Fresno. It was attended by a number of other individuals associated in the water industry. A number of water related issues affecting the region including water supply, water quality, surface water treatment, water reuse, and drought impacts were reviewed. Part of the program also discussed the introduction of "Blue Tech" which is the development of a water technology center at the Fresno State Campus.

City of Fresno

A new public utilities director, Thomas Esquada, has been hired by the City of Fresno. Mr. Esquada is originally from the valley but has spent many years on the east coast. Once Mr. Esquada has settled in, a meeting will be scheduled with the City and the District.

Mr. Serrato met with City Manager Bruce Rudd to discuss the conveyance agreement, City storage space, and other relative issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Discussion of Water Bond Measures; Possible Action on Henry Perea Request for Fresno Irrigation District Letter of Support

Mr. Serrato discussed the water bond with a number of people including Senator Cannella (Senate SB927) who is co-sponsoring AB2686 (Perea). As it stands now, there may not be a consensus to move a revised water bond bill out of either House. The fallback position being discussed is to move forward with the original 2009 Water Bond bill for the November 2014 election. Staff's recommendation is to hold off on a letter of support for Assembly Member Henry Perea's bill.

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b. Resolution to Enter into Warren Act Agreement – Resolution 2014-08

The Bureau of Reclamation informed the District that a resolution is needed if it is to provide the temporary conveyance of non-project water pursuant to the Warren Act of 1911. Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution 2014-08.

M/S/C/(Porter/Balls) That the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2014-08 by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – Beberian; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Beberian – none.

Director Balls – none.

Director Jacobsen – stated that the start of the second season of the PBS show that he hosts, Valley Gold, will start tomorrow night.

Director Porter – none.

Director Prieto – none.

Open Session concluded at 8:24 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

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

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.

Government Code Section 54956.7. Conference with Labor Negotiators Regarding Terms and Conditions of Employment with Represented Bargaining Groups.

CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned Closed Session at 8:49 p.m.

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REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Jacobsen stated that the Board had nothing to report from Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Secretary of the Board