

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

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 17, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 Laurence Kimura  
Watermaster Jim Irwin  
Controller DeAnn Hailey  
Director of Human Resources September Singh  
Staff Engineer Adam Claes  
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Maricopa Orchards Representative Jeremy Mehling  
Maricopa Orchards Representative Jon Reiter  
Harlan Ranch Representative Shawn Stevenson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President Jacobsen opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Mr. Serrato stated that Mr. Ramirez from Fresno County will not give his Groundwater Sustainability Act presentation (item 12 f.) due to a conflict in his schedule. Staff will try and reschedule Mr. Ramirez for the March meeting.

**REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

President Jacobsen stated there were no changes at this time to any future meetings.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Stevenson (a farmer in the Round Mountain Annex Area) stated how appreciative the Harlan Ranch Company was to receive water last year. Mr. Stevenson stated that during a normal season, Harlan Ranch farms 1,200 acres. During the past four years, 400 acres of mostly citrus have been removed because of the lack of water. Several

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wells on the property are under performing due to declining groundwater levels. The ranch practices water management by using low volume irrigation, meters, and soil moisture sensors which has significantly helped to conserve water. Even with all the conservation practices, the ranch is still in need of additional water. Without the water, additional orchards will need to be pushed out. Mr. Stevenson is asking that the District help with any water that can be provided in 2015. The water provided last year was through the San Joaquin River Restoration program which Fresno Irrigation District helped the Bureau of Reclamation facilitate.

**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 Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2015**
- b. **Approval of Equipment Committee Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2015**
- c. **January 2015 Check Report**
- d. **January 2015 Payroll Registers**
- e. **January 2015 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- f. **January 2015 Investment Account**

President Jacobsen pulled item 6 a. for further discussion.

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

President Jacobsen stated that the vote taken for vice president should list the outcome of each vote by each Director. Staff stated that it will make the corrections to the minutes.

**M/S/C/(Balls/Prieto)** That the Board of Directors approved item 6 a. on the Consent Calendar with the correction reflecting the vice-president vote by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr. Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**CONTROLLER'S REPORT**

Ms. Hailey stated the Accounting Department is still preparing for the auditors who will be onsite during the first week of March.

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**a. Nielsen Shop and Surrounding Properties**

The tenant that leases the property that once housed the old FID shop has expressed an interest in purchasing the property and possibly two surrounding properties (approximately 28.5 acres total). Should the Board decide to sell the property, a public bid or sale would need to be conducted. President Jacobsen inquired to Staff if there was a cost effective way to obtain an appraisal. Staff stated that comparison appraisals would be gathered. Staff is not making a recommendation but did say there are no current plans for the property. The tenants did request to go to a month-to-month lease if the District does decide to sell the properties. Staff received direction to obtain comparison appraisal value on the three properties and to check with the County Health Department on any conditions that would be imposed with the sale of the property.

**b. Nielsen Firehouse**

The current tenant is requesting a one-year extension at the current rate. The tenant has performed several improvements on the building (at no or very reasonable cost to the District). The Board decided to wait until the next Board meeting before making a decision. The current lease will expire at the end of April 2015. President Jacobsen requested Staff prepare a cost comparison of lease payments on similar properties in the area.

**c. Board Compensation Calculation**

Ms. Hailey explained the new compensation rate that could be taken by the Directors (currently receiving \$150 per meeting per day with option to increase to \$211.07). The calculations are based on Water Code Section 20202. Staff was asked to bring the compensation schedule before the Board each time the \$50 threshold is met. The last time the threshold was reached, the Board voted not to take an increase. The Board also decided at this time not to increase their compensation.

**M/S/C/(Prieto/Porter)** That the Board of Directors voted not to increase their compensation and have it remain at \$150 per meeting per day by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**d. Policy 110-510 – Required Communication Device Access Update**

Ms. Hailey explained the need to update Policy 110-510 stemming from a lawsuit where employees were not reimbursed for business expenses when using their personal communication devices. Ms. Hailey stated that this affects only a small number of District employees. Ms. Hailey also stated it is more cost effective for the District to reimburse employees for use of personal communication devices rather than purchase District devices for the small number of affected personnel.

Director Prieto stated he would prefer the policy pertain to the employees and to remove the Directors - President Jacobsen concurred. President Jacobsen directed Staff to

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include an employee roster of who is eligible for reimbursement. Director Prieto also suggested including staff's title or group (i.e. supervisor, support staff, etc.) Staff will include the additional information into the policy.

**M/S/C/(Beberian/Balls)** That the Board of Directors denied the revisions to Policy 110-510 as written by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Nays – Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

President Jacobsen directed that Staff make the discussed changes and include the information requested by the Board and then bring it back to the March Board of Directors meeting for further discussion.

**WATER REPORT**

**a. Current Water Conditions Report**

Mr. Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply and the routing information. As of February 16, Pine Flat release was 175 cfs with storage at 149,668 acre-feet. Pre-Project for the Kings River is 628 cfs and FID's entitlement is 248 cfs. Pine Flat Precipitation currently is 6.98 inches 58.7% of average. FID has returned the water utilized from the Temperature Control Pool (TCP) of 14,200 acre-feet and it will be required to remain at that level. Currently snow levels on the Kings River Watershed are 17.3% of the April 1 average. KRWA will be conducting a snow survey next week. January 2015 was one of the driest Januarys on record. Mr. Irwin reviewed routing information using a 40% and 50% water year projection.

**b. Start of Reclaim Water Deliveries**

Mr. Irwin stated when the District does not run water during the month of March, the District offers reclaim water deliveries to the landowners on the southwest side of the District. Staff recommends keeping the price the same as last year to cover FID's cost (\$50 for 2 cfs per day and \$100 for 4 cfs per day). Director Porter suggested starting the water as soon as tomorrow (Wednesday, February 18).

Mr. Serrato stated that Staff met with the cities of Fresno and Clovis to review the Agreement. The City of Fresno wants to utilize the returned water at the Waste Water Treatment Plant which is contrary to the agreement. The Agreement requires the returned water be utilized on the east side of the District.

**M/S/C/(Porter/Beberian)** That the Board of Directors approved the start of reclaim water as soon as Staff can be ready and charge the same amount as last year (\$50 for 2 cfs per day and \$100 for 4 cfs per day) by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

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**c. Start of Fig Run Water Deliveries**

Staff reported that there are only three landowners (comprising approximately 85 acres) who still have irrigated fig orchards within the District. Normally the District diverts water to the fig orchards with Kings River Fishery Flow water; however, this year the District does not have any water to provide. Staff's recommendation is to wait and see if there are any significant storms next month which could allow for water to be delivered to the fig growers. It is the Board's recommendation and direction to delay consideration of the Fig run until next month unless circumstances change considerably prior to the March Board meeting.

**M/S/C/(Porter/Prieto)** That the Board of Directors voted to delay the authorization to deliver water for the Fig Run until the next regular board meeting unless circumstances change and Staff can deliver water by using storm water runoff by the following vote. (Ayes –Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – Beberian)

**d. Annex Areas Water Supply**

Staff requested authorization from the Board to write a letter to the Annex Area growers stating that the District does not have water to provide them at this time. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has yet to make an announcement on the allocation of water for the upcoming year. The Board gave Staff direction to write a letter to the Annex Area growers informing them that currently there is no water to be delivered this year but that the District will continue to look for other options.

**CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**a. Developer Projects Update 2014-15**

The Engineering Department continues to review plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2014-15 Maintenance Season. There are eight projects in progress at this time and Staff anticipates several other projects to commence this month (five more currently planned). During the last month, Staff responded to 19 Developer Review Notices and one Utility Search Request.

**b. Agency Projects Update 2014-15**

The Engineering Department continues to review plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2014-15 Maintenance Season. There is one project in progress at this time.

**Agency / Utility Crossings**

There are numerous utility crossings (cable, fiber optics, storm drains, sewer, etc.) being reviewed for boring or construction under various FID facilities.

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**c. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2014-15**

There are four landowner projects in progress. Staff is currently giving the landowners another 30 days to complete their projects.

**d. Other Activities**

Additional Activities

- Monthly groundwater levels were measured as part of the banking facility monitoring plan;
- Cost estimates are being made for winter maintenance projects;
- Engineering Staff is currently assisting or working on ten maintenance projects; and
- Several surveys were performed for project designs.

Mr. Kimura provided slides on the following projects:

- Gow Canal (at S/E Shields and Fowler) – substitution of 2,600-feet of open channel with 24-inch RGRCP. Pipe is being outfitted with a product called MacWrap which will help to guard against root intrusion;
- Gow Canal (at S/E Shields and Fowler) – construction of 48-inch Outlet Stand and 48-inch Surge Chamber;
- North Central Canal (S/W North and Orange) – replace approximately 550-feet of 42-inch cast-in-place with 42-inch RGRCP;
- North Central Canal (S/W North and Orange) – installation of 42-inch RGRCP and 72-inch Surge Chamber;
- North Central Canal (S/W North and Orange) – installation of 60-inch RGRCP and 72-inch Surge Chamber;
- Herndon West Basin (N/W Ashlan and Lake) – FID crews constructed a 16-foot tall box structure and raised the sides of the basin. Grates are being installed and additional fill was brought in from adjacent properties;
- Maupin Canal (S/W Nees and Willow) – relocation and replacement of 1,200-feet of existing 30-inch CIP with 30-inch RGRCP (gates and grates are being installed);
- Jefferson Canal (S/E Barstow and DeWolf) – substitute 1,200-feet of 48-inch RGRCP for open channel. There was also construction of 60-inch Inlet Bathtub Structure, 60-inch Turnout Box Structure, and a 60-inch Surge Chamber. The project is in the final stages of completion;
- Reyburn Canal (S/W Bullard and DeWolf) – replacement of 670-feet of 20-inch mortar joint pipe with 21-inch RGRCP and construction of 48-inch Surge Chamber;
- Thompson Canal (N/W Shields and Jameson) – construction of landowners' bridges;

President Jacobsen stated that even though the area desperately needs the rain, it was impressive to see all the projects that crews, Staff, and Directors were able to

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accomplish during the dry weather. Director Porter stated the engineering and quality of workmanship is great.

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

There is not much activity occurring at this time with the High Speed Rail project. Mr. Kimura did provide an update on the project that will impact approximately 19 FID facilities (24 separate crossing) (under two separate segments). The first segment involves Madera south to Fresno (12 facilities) and the second segment involves Fresno to the Kern County line (7 facilities). The Victoria No. 42, Victoria No. 43, and Tracy No 44 are impacted by the State Route 99 relocation project. Atwater, Chowchilla, Fresno, and Bakersfield are all vying for the chance to be awarded a heavy maintenance facility in their town. Mr. Kimura provided slides showing the following:

- CHSRA awarded TPZP the first segment contract (Madera to Fresno) on August 20, 2013;
- CHSRA awarded Dragados/Flatiron/Shimmick the second segment contract (Fresno – American Avenue to Kern County line) on January 13, 2015;
- Project is proceeding at a slower speed than expected due partly to the lawsuits filed;
- In October 2014 the State Supreme Court decided not to review the Tos/Fukuda/Kings County case;
- Utility Agreement with Caltrans was executed on November 18, 2014
- The Reimbursement Agreement Extension is currently being reviewed between Staff and CHRSA;
- Staff will review the Task Order Agreement(s) with TPZP once the Reimbursement Agreement extension is finalized with the CHRSA;
- State Water Resources Board approved the 401 certification permit in March 2014. California Department of Fish and Wildlife claimed jurisdiction to Dry Creek and Herndon canals. FID strongly objected but the matter was resolved when CDFW agreed to provide a written acknowledgement that the CHSRA permit would not set precedence for future work – FID re-engaged in the design process in May 2014 and acknowledgement was received from CDFW in November 2014;
- TPZP indicates construction may start in mid-2015 due to considerable engineering and design work still to be done;
- Herndon Canal crossing discussions have resumed with an agreement being signed between BNSF and CHSRA;
- January 2015 – Staff met with CHRSA’s real estate representatives for the Segment 2 portion to discuss FID’s requirements;
- February 2015 – Caltrans provided FID an initial plan set for the State Route 99 relocation (realignment is anticipated to start in June 2015). FID’s facilities relocation are to take place around January 2016; and
- February 2015 – CHSRA received authorization to move forward with property acquisition using eminent domain procedures.

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**f. PG&E Central Valley Power Connect - Update**

Mr. Kimura provided updated information on a new electric transmission line that will be located in the Central Valley:

- Transmission line to connect Gates Substation (east of Coalinga) to Gregg Substation (northwest of Fresno);
- The new line is necessary to ensure a reliable energy future for the Central Valley's growing communities;
- Once the project has been approved by the PUC, construction could start in 2019 and be completed by 2020;
- The project will generate nearly \$3 million in local tax revenues during construction, \$1.6 million annually once the project is complete, and \$50 million in economic impact to the region;
- Proposed CVPC Facility types be considered: 230kV lattice tower design and/or 230kV monopole design;
- FID is primarily impacted along two corridors but has identified approximately 29 potential impact sites as a result of the proposed project;
- Impacts vary from open channel canals and pipelines to banking facilities; and
- Final corridor(s) to be determined.

**g. City of Fresno Southeast Surface Water Treatment Facility – Update**

Staff Engineer Adam Claes presented an update on the City of Fresno's future water treatment plant that will now be built since the City's Proposition 218 Election passed earlier this month.

- New 80 MGD (125 cfs) surface water treatment facility (SWTF) in southeast Fresno (Belmont and Armstrong). Facility will operate year round;
- Conveyance facility to bring water to SWTF;
- Goal is to maximize water supply from FID and reduce groundwater pumping;
- Between 2012 – 2104 FID Staff met with staff from the City to review project requirements, selecting water quality sampling points along Fresno Canal, and assist with cultural resources study and history of FID facilities;
- Starting in January 2015 FID Staff began to meet regularly with City staff and consultants;
- City's options were to either use the Fresno and Mill canals (would require extensive channel improvement to increase capacity) or construct a 13-mile, 72-inch pipeline from immediately downstream of Fresno Headgates at Kings River (faster, easier, but more expensive);
- April 2014 City staff informed FID they will move forward with pipeline option;
- Each component cannot exceed the City's previously-approved estimated cost;

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- Pipeline turnout/check structure and 13-mile pipeline:
  - \$75 million total
  - Turnout-site improvements: \$1.5 - \$2 million;
- Total “Recharge Fresno” project cost: \$429 million;
- May 2015 – draft schematic design;
- April 2016 – design complete;
- May through June 2016 – bid and award construction contract;
- August 2016 through April 2018 – construction; and
- All work within Fresno Canal must occur November 2016 through February 2017.

Directors and Staff took a short break from 6:07 – 6:18 p.m.; during which time no District business was discussed.

**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT**

**a. Maintenance and Construction Update**

Mr. Stretch reported the maintenance and construction work that continues to take place District-wide minus several canals that continue to convey water to the Cities of Fresno’s and Clovis’ SWTPs. As previously reported, FID recently began diverting water (4 cfs) to the City of Fresno’s small SWTP known as T-3 which diverts water off the Jefferson-Gunn canal system which comes off the Enterprise Canal.

- Heavy Equipment Operators are busy working on several capital improvement projects as well as dredging the Houghton Canal in preparation of Reclaim Water starting on February 18;
- Construction crews are currently dealing with work orders and several capital improvement projects including the Teague School Pipeline project and the Lampee West Branch Pipeline project;
- District-wide crews are taking care of brushing, pipeline repairs, trash removal, lining repairs, flow meter/measuring station repairs, gate repairs, and general maintenance;
- Pipeline and value repairs have been taking place in preparation of Reclaim Water starting on March 18;
- Sloping crews are working in the southwest portion of the District (Washington systems); and
- Spray crews are applying pre-emergence weed spray District-wide. Spray trucks were previously in the southwest but have moved to the east (Washington, Central and Dry Creek systems) while the tractors were in the southwest area the previous weeks have now moved to the northwest side of the City.

Mr. Stretch provided slides of the following projects:

- Teague School (S/W Ashlan and Polk) – replace 1,700-feet of 24-inch Mortar Joint (designed and constructed by FID employees). Photos showed crews using a wheel trencher and constructing incoming and outgoing pipelines;

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- Lampee West Branch Canal (South and Brawley) – substitution of open channel with 1,900 feet of 30-inch PVC pipe and 450 feet of 18-inch PVC pipe. Crews used a wheel trencher for this project;
- Gould Canal (west of Bethel Avenue) – crews performed “dipping” work along the bank;
- Victoria Colony East Branch Canal (Belmont and Marks avenues) – crews were out sloping the banks of the canal;
- Axt Pond (Barstow and Chateau Fresno) – brushing crews were clearing brush/trees/debris from around the pond in preparation of installing a new fence due to trespassing issues on the surrounding landowners;
- Enterprise Canal (Millbrook and Nees) – crews are working along the canal in order to reclaim FID’s right-of-way;
- Little Houghton Pump #2 Canal (Belmont and Rolinda) – crews were out performing gate repairs due to damage while ripping out old vineyard;
- Kennedy-Owens Canal (Olive and Dower) – repair of ripper damage;
- Dry Creek Extension (Annadale Align and Del Norte) repair of field joint;
- JC Check at Herndon Canal (Shields and Millbrook) – crews took care of fence repairs due to vandalism; and
- Herndon Canal (West / Ashlan and Gates / San Jose) – crews performed homeless camp cleanup.

**b. Southwest Groundwater Banking Project - Update**

Mr. Stretch stated there is no new progress on the purchase agreement with the current landowner. Attorneys on both sides continue discussions. Staff believes the sale will take place but it is taking longer than anticipated.

Staff heard from an attorney of a landowner in the surrounding area. An appraisal on the property will be arranged by the owner – Staff anticipates hearing back within the next week or two.

**c. City of Clovis Property Exchange - Update**

The property’s annexation and zone changes were approved at the Clovis City Council meeting on January 12. FID Staff attended the meeting to be available to answer questions. The next step is approval by LAFCO which is anticipated by mid-2015. The property will be transferred to FID following the close of escrow.

**d. Ag Water Management Plan – Update**

Staff provided an extensive update and presentation of the Ag Water Management Plan (WMP) to the Board of Directors during December’s Board meeting. Staff submitted the WMP and SB X7-7 Supplement Report reports to the USBR on December 22 and to the DWR on December 29. Staff had its first contact with USBR staff on February 11 with the conference call going very well. The Bureau had only a few questions which were answered by FID Staff.

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Director Beberian inquired about whether an actual meter is required. Staff stated that it needs to be a device that can measure water by volume in order for the District to be able to charge volumetrically. The District's consultant is finalizing its measurement report and will be better able to discuss meters once it is complete, possibly at the next Board meeting.

**e. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Update**

Mr. Stretch attended a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) workshop in Tulare. Two additional workshops were held (one in Willows and one in Modesto). The workshops were sponsored by ACWA, CA State Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of CA, and CA Water Foundation (an initiative of Resources Legacy Fund). The Tulare workshop was well attended (approximately 150) by staff and elected officials from local water districts, counties, cities, environmental groups, media, farm bureaus, etc. The workshop provided an overview of SGMA and local governance considerations. Several case studies were presented including the Kern County Basin, Kings Basin (presented by KRCD's Dave Orth and Fresno County's Alan Weaver), and the Kaweah Basin. In response to a questions from a Board Member, Mr. Serrato stated that it is not certain how much of a role that Fresno County will play in developing or leading the committee overseeing the Kings Basin portion. A Board of Supervisors meeting will be held on March 10 where this will be explored further.

**f. Kings River Water Quality Coalition – Update**

Staff attended the Kings River Water Quality Coalition's (KRWQC) first annual membership meeting session in Selma earlier this month. It was well attended by local growers, estimated at 700. There was some confusion on whether this was the only mandatory meeting that members needed to attend. Staff provided the Directors a copy of a letter from the Kings River Water Quality Coalition clarifying whether the meeting covered the mandatory requirement and also gave notice of additional meetings to be held. Staff plans to have KRWQC's Coordinator Casey Creamer attend a FID Board Meeting in March to provide the Board with an update of the program.

**g. Equipment Committee Recommendations**

On January 26 the Equipment Committee (Directors Porter and Beberian) met with Staff to discuss the purchase of three pieces of equipment that Staff has received bids on. The equipment consist of 1) man-lift truck for brushing crew; 2) crawler tractor for the sloping crew; and 3) mini-excavator for pipeline repairs/replacement and some dredging. A loader was previously approved by the Board for purchase and is expected to be delivered within the next few days. Total cost of the three pieces of equipment is \$346,628.83 with monies to come from the Power Revenue Fund. Mr. Stretch explained the exceptions to the bids. The Committee Directors mentioned having the warranty start on the first day of use as opposed to their delivery date. Director Beberian was concerned about the perception of purchasing new equipment during the fourth consecutive year of drought. Mr. Stretch and Mr. Serrato informed the Directors that a lot of Staff time would be used if the District has to go out to bid again (bids are good for

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only 30-60 days) and you take a chance on a possible price increase. Also, the funds have already been set aside in the Power Revenue Fund. Staff believes it would be beneficial to use the new equipment during the extended maintenance season. Director Porter believes the quality of work produced by FID crews has a direct bearing on the type of equipment that is used.

**M/S/C/(Porter/Balls)** That the Board of Directors voted to approve the 2014/2015 equipment purchase from the January 26, 2015 Equipment Committee meeting with monies to come from the Power Revenue Fund as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – Beberian; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

**KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION**

**Water Rights Fees**

Mr. Serrato attended the Kings River Legislative Committee meeting. General discussions centered on two items: 1) State of California Water Resources Control Board Water Right Fees; and 2) Groundwater Sustainability Act – Rule Making Process and Clean-Up Legislation. The State Water Resources Control Board will be increasing water right fee rates by another 28% (FID’s Kings River portion will increase an additional \$15,200. FID’s annual Kings River Water Right Fees will now be \$80,000). The Water Rights Fees were initially based on the amount of services that members receive from the Control Board. KRWA believes the service does not commensurate with the service provided to KRWA

**KRWA 2015 Operations**

Mr. Serrato reviewed the KRWA Fisheries Management Program specific to Exhibit “C” Flows. With 2015 developing into another critically dry year, KRWA approached FID with a new concept of diverting the Exhibit C Flows at the Gould Weir which is upstream one and a half (1 ½) miles from the established diversion point of the Fresno Weir. Diverting Exhibit C Flows at the Gould Weir will help better manage a limited water supply.

**Temperature Control Pool (TCP)**

There are member districts that have not been able to pay back their portion of the 2014 TCP water that was borrowed. If dry conditions persist, FID could be impacted by districts that are not able to meet their obligations.

**FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**

**Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau)**

The Bureau has yet to announce an allocation for the 2015 water year. A letter from the Bureau placed Friant on notice that there could be a call on Friant water to meet the

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demands of the Exchange Contractors which would mean a 0% allocation for the second straight year.

The State Water Resources Control Board declared "Curtailment" for 2015 which makes Health and Safety a top priority. The City of Fresno has written a letter to the Bureau requesting water under the Health and Safety declaration. Four other smaller local communities will be joining the City of Fresno in writing a letter to the Bureau requesting a supply of water under the Health and Safety priority.

**Strategic Planning**

The Executive Committee and Interim Water Development Committee have been established. Friant Water Authority will be seeking adoption of the new By Laws at the next Board meeting.

**Other Issues**

The Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board (Tom Howard) has declined to recommend adopting the Temporary Urgency Change Petition that would allow the Department of Water Resources and the US Bureau of Reclamation to increase pumping in the Delta during specific periods of February and March 2015. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have all supported additional pumping from the Delta during this extremely dry period. Mr. Howard stated the reason was that additional pumping would facilitate the decline of water quality in the Delta.

**OTHER**

**City of Fresno Proposition 218 Election and Conveyance Agreement Negotiation**

Fresno's Proposition 218 election passed earlier this month. The City Council will meet on February 26 to decide on how to proceed. Mr. Serrato will address the Fresno City Council at the meeting to express FID's concerns and issues with the views that the City perceives how Kings River Water would be utilized by the City.

Mr. Serrato was also a guest on the John Mallos radio show. The show gave Mr. Serrato the opportunity to clarify misinformation about water going down to the ocean, water exchanges, and the impacts to farmers during these dry years.

Mr. Serrato has met with Mr. Thomas Esquada, of the City of Fresno, at numerous times to begin the process of renegotiating the Conveyance Agreement to meet the needs of both parties.

**Briggs Canal Operational Agreement (between Consolidated Irrigation District and Fresno Irrigation District)**

Mr. Serrato has met with Phil Desatoff, general manager of Consolidated. Mr. Serrato reported that there has not been any resolution to the re-negotiation of the Briggs Canal Agreement. Messrs. Serrato and Desatoff are scheduled to meet again next week. Should an understanding not be reached, Mr. Serrato will recommend to the Board that FID write a letter to Consolidated stating that FID would adhere to the original

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agreement and the outstanding invoice for repairs to the Briggs Canal in 2012 be paid in full with interest.

**Malaga Peaking Plant**

The Malaga Peaking Plant (owned by KRCD) located on North Avenue is being sold. There is a requirement by Fresno County to replace groundwater being utilized by the plant to offset any impacts. An agreement between KRCD and FID where FID provides water to be recharged is currently in place. KRCD has requested that FID continue to provide water to the plant under the new ownership. The Board gave direction to Mr. Serrato to inform KRCD that FID will continue to provide water to the potential buyer to meet the requirement of Fresno County.

**Growers Meetings**

Mr. Serrato stated that growers meetings in Kerman and Easton will be scheduled for March. The announcement of the meetings will appear in the Waterways Newsletter that will be published shortly.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**a. Board of Directors Reorganization – Nominations / Election of Vice President**

President Jacobsen recapped the election of vice-president from the January's Board meeting where the Board members were unable to secure a majority vote for one of the two Directors nominated for the position of vice-president. It was decided at the January meeting by the Board to postpone the vote until the February Board meeting.

President Jacobsen re-opened nominations and ask if Directors Prieto and Balls were still interested in running. Director Prieto agreed to run for the position of vice-president; Director Balls stated he has chosen to withdraw his nomination. President Jacobsen called for any other nominations; with none, he closed the nominations.

That the Board of Directors elected Director Jerry Prieto, Jr. as Vice-President of the Board by unanimous vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

President Jacobsen thanked Director Balls for his service and dedication as vice-president for the past four years.

**b. Reorganization of Board Committee Members**

President Jacobsen presented the new committee assignments for 2015. The assignments are basically the same as in 2014 with only a few changes.

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**c. 2014/2015 Statement of Economic Interest Forms Due Date (700 Forms)**

President Jacobsen reminded the Board and Staff that the 700 Forms need to be given to Staff by March 24 in order to make the April 1 due date. Copies of last year's completed forms were provided to assist with this year's completion of the Form.

**d. Request of Overnight Stay for Board Members and Senior Staff to Attend the 2015 Spring ACWA Conference- Sacramento, CA; May 2015**

The 2015 Spring ACWA Conference will be held in Sacramento in May. Any Director or Staff wishing to attend should let Staff know.

**M/S/C/(Prieto/Porter)** That the Board of Directors approved the three-night stay for Directors and senior Staff to attend the 2015 Spring ACWA Conference in Sacramento by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**e. Kings Groundwater Basin MOU Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)**

Mr. Serrato reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Directors pertaining to the efforts of the Kings Basin regarding the SGMA. There will be some costs associated with facilitating the Kings River Groundwater Management Act Committee. Mr. Gary Sawyers developed the MOU for the participating parties (Alta Irrigation District, Consolidated Irrigation District, Fresno Irrigation District, City of Fresno, City of Clovis, and the Kings River Conservation District). Once the MOU is in place and the committee starts to advance the plan, other cities and agencies will be invited to participate.

**M/S/C/(Prieto/Porter)** That the Board of Directors approved the Kings Groundwater Basin MOU as written (except for the typographical corrections on pages 1 and 2) by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**f. Presentation of the Groundwater Sustainability Act (Augustine Ramirez) Fresno County Staff**

This presentation will be moved to a future meeting.

**g. Damage Claim Request – Patricio Ortiz**

Ms. Singh briefly described the traffic incident and the progress of the insurance companies involved. Due to time constraints by the insurance companies, the claim was submitted to the District's insurance carrier (JPIA) before being presented to the Board. It is Staff's recommendation to deny the claim and allow JPIA to continue with their investigation.

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**M/S/C/(Porter/Balls)** That the Board of Directors denied the claim by Patricio Ortiz and directed Staff to let JPIA continue with its investigation by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**h. Request for Overnight Stay for R Director and Safety Manager to Attend SDRMA Safety Claims Day – Sacramento, CA; March 2015**

Ms. Singh explained that this is an annual event hosted by SDRMA. By attending, the District receives incentive points used towards a discount on the Districts' workers compensation coverage. As well as receiving incentive points, this seminar proves to be educational and useful. This is a one-night stay for two District employees.

**M/S/C/(Balls/Porter)** That the Board of Directors approved the over-night stay for the HR Director and Safety Manager to attend the SDRMA Safety Claims Day in Sacramento by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**i. Policy 140-533 – Absence Management and Attendance Program Revised**

Ms. Singh brought before the Board the revisions for Policy 140-533. The revisions are necessary to stay in compliance following the changes to the sick leave regulations that Governor Brown signed. President Jacobsen inquired about the wording choice on the Performance Evaluation section of the policy. Ms. Singh stated she would change the first "Good" to "Excellent" (or something similar) to eliminate any misunderstanding by employees.

**M/S/C/(Porter/Balls)** That the Board of Directors approved the revisions to Policy 140-533 as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**j. Policy 140-520 – Electronic Communication Device Revised**

Ms. Singh stated the revisions to Policy 140-520 were to make clear to the employees the District's stand on electronic devices. Electronic devices are the property of the District and should only be used for business purposes and that employees should not have the expectation of privacy when using these devices. The National Labor Relations Board has ruled that employees have the right to use company email during non-working time to communicate about the terms and conditions of their employment.

**M/S/C/(Porter/Balls)** That the Board of Directors approved the revisions to Policy 140-520 as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

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**MANAGER'S REPORT continued**

Mr. Serrato stated that he received a letter from Mr. Mike Perry complimenting his Water Systems Operators for the professional and exceptional job they did during last year's difficult water delivery season.

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Director Beberian** – attended the 2015 Mid-Pacific Regional Water Users Conference. He noticed there was not much snow on the ground on his traveling to Reno. Director Beberian thought the conference was good. Dam safety was the main topic two years ago when he attended; however, this time, dams were not even discussed. KRWA scientist (Chuck Hansen) spoke on the lack of connection between the inflow of water and the increase of fish population. Discussions also included river restoration. There was a large representation from the Bureau of Reclamation in attendance.

**Director Balls** – none.

**Director Jacobsen** – welcomed Director Porter back. President Jacobsen will work with Staff on a date for the growers meeting in Easton.

**Director Porter** – none.

**Director Prieto** – amazed at the number of orchards that are being planted in his division. Some of the orchards are being fitted with for drip lines. A significant amount of new wells are being drilled along with others being redeveloped.

There was no Closed Session portion of the meeting held.

**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 GF Land Company L.P. Properties

Property: APN 035-060-14S

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

**REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

President Jacobsen stated that since there was no Closed Session, there was nothing to report.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

President Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato  
Secretary of the Board