

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 15, 2015**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session in the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California, on September 15, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Ryan Jacobsen.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Division 2 – Vacant Position

STAFF PRESENT

General Manager Gary R. Serrato
Assistant General Manager Bill Stretch
Chief Engineer Laurence Kimura
Watermaster Jim Irwin
Controller DeAnn Hailey
Director of Human Resources September Singh
Special Projects Coordinator Adam Claes
Interim Maintenance / Construction Superintendent Mike Prestridge
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

OTHERS PRESENT

Friant North Authority Executive Officer Mr. Dave Orth
Staff Member Nathan Alonzo from State Senator Andy Vidak's Office
Landowner Christopher Woolf
Maricopa Orchards CEO Mr. Jon Reiter

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

REVIEW AGENDA

President Jacobsen noted that item 12 d. (Division 2 – Vacant Position interviews) will begin at 6:15 p.m. Any unfinished business will be addressed after the interviews.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

No changes at this time.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Orth gave a recap of his first 28 days as the new Executive Officer of the Friant North Authority and the accomplishments and challenges of the Authority to date. Mr. Orth also discussed pending legislation, future restoration flows, and Exchange Contractors issues. Mr. Orth will continue to give the Board updates as the need arises.

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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]

President Jacobsen recused himself from item 7 b. 2015 Revised Budget – Contributions to Other Agencies section.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **Approval of Board of Regular Meetings Minutes – August 18, 2015**
- b. **August 2015 Check Report**
- c. **August 2015 Payroll Registers**
- d. **August 2015 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- e. **August 2015 Investment Account**
- f. **Developer Pipeline Project – Momentum Housing, Inc. Requests the District Quitclaim a Canal No. 124 Located Northwest of San Pablo and Minarets Avenues in Accordance with Board Policy. Engineering Action Request 2015-12**

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

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

- a. **August 2015 Fund Statements and Supporting Documents**

Ms. Hailey presented the Fund Statements and supporting documents (including Notes to Fund Statements, Treasurer's Report, Deposit and Investments, and Revenues (Pie Chart)) for the month of August. Ms. Hailey reported that the District is within budget and expenses continue to be on target.

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

- b. **2015 Revised Budget**

Ms. Hailey stated that the budget has been revised to reflect the one-month irrigation season. Adjustments of \$10,000 and over were reviewed with the Board of Directors.

M/S/C/(Porter/Prieto) That the Board of Directors approved the 2015 Revised Budget without the section of Contribution of Other Agencies as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

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President Jacobsen turned the meeting over to Vice-President Prieto and excused himself from the Board Room while the other Members discussed the Contribution of Other Agencies in the 2015 Revised Budget.

Mr. Serrato provided a recap of the purpose and background of the agencies that the District elects to make contributions to.

M/S/C/(Porter/Beberian) That the Board of Directors approved the 2015 Revised Budget – Contributions to Other Agencies as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – Jacobsen)

President Jacobsen came back into the Board Room and resumed presiding over the meeting.

c. Sale of Nielsen and Marks Properties Update

There is no new information at this time regarding renewing the lease on the old shop parcel. Staff continues to pursue engaging a broker to assist with the selling of the properties.

WATERMASTER'S REPORT

a. Current Water Conditions Report

Mr. Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply and the routing information. As of September 14, Pine Flat release was 352 cfs with storage at 122,323 acre-feet. Pre-Project for the Kings River is 78 cfs and FID's entitlement is 51 cfs. FID increased the amount of diversions for the Fishery Management Program during the month of August. It was reported at the most recent KRWA meeting by Watermaster Steve Haugen that they were meeting their requirements of keeping water temperature at 19° Celsius.

Mr. Serrato stated that FID was approached by Consolidated Irrigation District (CID) to help facilitate the transfer of 1,000 acre-feet into the Friant-Kern Canal. The transfer has been completed.

Mr. Stretch summed up the presentation that was given at the KRWA meeting concerning the Rough Fire. During the meeting Mr. Haugen explained the potential impacts to the KRWA watershed which consists of approximately one million acres. He compared the Rough Fire to the Rim Fire from 2013 that impacted the Tuolumne-Merced Watershed. The latest information is that the fire has grown to 140,000 acres and is only 40% contained. The fire has destroyed 15% of the watershed on the Kings River. The impact to the River, and ultimately to FID, could include water quality, sediment in the River, lower oxygen levels which could impact the Fishery Management Program, and turbidity could be higher. Debris and avalanches could pose a problem this winter if the area experiences an El Nino weather system. Staff believes that runoff

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could occur earlier in the 2015/2016 winter season which could necessitate the need for FID to start water deliveries earlier than normal. There will be a large coordination effort with the Army Corps of Engineers to help minimize the effects of the fire. FID's crews are preparing the recharge facilities/water banks in preparation of flood releases (if needed) which could occur as early as May/June. Farmers may also be asked to take water earlier in the year.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chief Engineer Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

a. Developer Projects Update 2015-16

The Engineering Department continues to review plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2015-16 Maintenance Season. There are five projects in progress at this time and several more are currently planned. During the last month, Staff responded to 22 developer review notices and two utility search requests.

b. Agency Projects Update 2015-16

The Engineering Department continues to review plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2015-16 Maintenance Season. There are three projects in progress at this time and four projects are planned during the fall/winter. Staff does not anticipate any new projects to commence until the 2015-16 Maintenance Season.

ii. High Speed Rail

Staff has been in discussions with TPZP regarding the crossing locations and a sewer line passing under Dry Creek Canal. Staff is also in the process of evaluating the options of deepening and enlarging several of FID's basins as Dragados-Flatiron-Shimmick is in need of fill material for the project.

c. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2015-16

Currently there are no landowner projects in progress. Staff is working on three potential turnouts during the 2015-16 Maintenance Season.

d. Other Activities

- Monthly groundwater levels were measured as part of the banking facility monitoring plan;
- Staff is working with the Maintenance/Construction Department on estimates of upcoming projects;
- Several surveys were performed for project design; and
- Five construction and structure permits were issued during the last month.

Mr. Kimura provided slides and reviewed the following projects:

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- Gould Extension Canal (N/E Dakota and Cedar) – Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District’s (FMFCD) BDB Basin improvement project showing construction of a measurement station;
- Enterprise Canal (S/E Herndon and DeWolf) – FMFCD’s PEP Basin improvement project of widening approximately 2,000 feet of a canal bank; and
- Helm Canal (Herndon and First) – directional bore under FID’s 60-inch pipeline.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Bill Stretch reported on the following:

a. Maintenance and Construction Update

Most of the heavy equipment operators and construction crews are focusing on the Dry Creek Canal lining project through town. Crews are lining the floor and installing/repairing side panels through the downtown portion of the canal. Mr. Stretch stated that crews have also been busy with other maintenance and construction activities which he outlined in his Assistant Manager’s Report. The following slides show a small portion of the projects that are currently taking or have taken place:

- Dry Creek Canal (Olive and Glenn) – crews are removing and trimming bushes and small trees in preparation of the lining project. An outside contractor has been hired to remove the larger trees along the canal banks;
- Dry Creek Canal (Olive and Delphia) – additional tree removal by outside contractor took place;
- Dry Creek Canal (Olive and Glenn) – crews are removing trash in preparation for the lining project;
- Dry Creek Canal (Olive and Blackstone) – photos showed the erosion of the linings and footings. Crews prepared the bottom of the canal for Gunite by scrapping and spreading base rock, then applied shotcrete along the sides and bottom;
- Westfall Pond (N/W Lincoln and Peach) et al – crews have been out discing weeds at FID’s various ponds (Westfall Pond shown in slide);
- FMFCD (CS) Basin (S/E North and Peach) – this is a joint project where FID is dewatering the basin, FMFCD crews will be scrapping the bottom of the basin, and the City of Fresno will be deep-ripping; all in an effort to improve the percolation;
- Herndon Canal (S/W Shields and First) – crews are removing oleanders to help control the homeless camps situation in that area;
- Enterprise Canal (Shepherd and Fowler) – FID has rented a Flail Mower from Madera Irrigation District for three weeks to test its effectiveness in an effort to improve its weed abatement program;
- Washington Colony Center Branch Canal (Lincoln and East) - crews are working on the construction of a long crested weir;
- Washington Colony Center Branch Canal (Clayton and Elm) - crews are working on the construction of a long crested weir;
- Rolinda High Canal (California and Jameson) – crews repaired a standpipe that had been damaged;

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- Enterprise Canal (Nees and Armstrong) – at the Clovis Exchange Property, crews installed a fence along the back of the property adjacent to the Enterprise Canal;
- Deadwood North Branch Canal (California and Howard) – crews dewatered a gate prior to making repairs;
- Fancher Canal (Tulare and Fowler) – trash and tree limbs/branches were removed;
- Dry Creek Canal (McKinley and Highway 41) – trash and cleanup work was performed by crew members;
- Herndon Canal (Ashlan and Fruit) – FID crews removed and cleaned up a homeless camp;
- Mill Canal (McKinley and Highway 168) – FID crews removed and cleaned up a homeless camp;
- Victoria Canal (Dakota and Weber) – FID crews removed and cleaned up a homeless camp; and
- Annual Training Day – FID held its annual training/information day for all of its employees. Outside vendors/speakers provided useful information to FID's employees, including on how to deal with stress and preparing a budget.

b. Southwest Groundwater Banking Project - Update

Only one more signature is required to complete the escrow process on the first 40 acre parcel of the proposed banking project. Chances are very good that this last signature can be obtained in a week or so.

Unfortunately, additional properties have not been able to be acquired. James Irrigation District will be pursuing some leads.

c. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – Update

There are three groups that continue to meet: 1) Kings Subbasin Planning Group led by KRCD; 2) Fresno Area / North Kings GSA led by FID and 3) County of Fresno Workgroup (24 agencies ranging from the large irrigation districts, large cities, small cities, irrigation districts outside the sub-basin, and several other districts/companies). Mr. Serrato continues to be the representative for FID on the County of Fresno Workgroup.

At this time, the major area of concern for the Kings Subbasin group are the deadlines for boundary adjustments. KRCD has recently submitted boundary adjustment recommendations to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The DWR has been cooperative to work with which will save time and expenses.

The County presented a recommendation during their August meeting for the Kings Subbasin GSA groups to form a JPA. All panel members were in agreement not to form the JPA. The group is more inclined to enter into a coordinated agreement.

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During the August meeting of the Fresno Area / North Kings GSA a draft MOU was handed out. Comments have been received from the members and will be addressed. Additional comments and reviews are continuing before the final MOU is ready. A final MOU is expected within the next two – three months.

FID Staff is working with staff from DWR. DWR has money set aside for facilitation services: 1) general, 2) disadvantage communities, and 3) technical. Staff has submitted their second draft of the facilitation services application.

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 a special Board meeting held in December 2014. Staff initially submitted the WMP and SBx7-7 Supplement report to the USBR on December 22 and notified the DWR of the USBR submittal on December 29. Staff has since submitted several revisions. The Board later adopted a resolution approving the updated WMP and SBx7-7 Supplement report. Staff then submitted the adopted WMP, SBx7-7 Supplement report, and Board Resolution to the USBR.

Staff met with DWR's staff in August regarding FID's SBx7-7 Supplemental report and discussed another alternative for flow measurement. DWR seemed receptive to this alternative and; therefore, Staff is in the process of updating the SBx7-7 Supplement report component of the WMP. Staff will resubmit the revised SBx7-7 Supplement report to the USBR within the next one – two weeks. Staff also contacted USBR and discussed the alternative and associated revisions to the SBx7-7 Supplement report, which they seemed receptive to so long as it meets the accuracy criteria. USBR staff will review the revised SBx7-7 Supplement report and include FID's WMP in the group of other WMPs being noticed at the same time in the Federal Register. USBR staff anticipates that the 30-day public review period will conclude by the end of the 2015. Assuming the WMP is not challenged during public review process, the USBR will provide FID a letter formally accepting the WMP. Staff will then submit the WMP and SBx7-7 Supplement report to DWR, along with additional documentation required under the Governor's Executive Order which will most likely occur in early 2016.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

a. Kings River Water Association Update

Pre-1914 Water Rights

KRWA members were recently notified that the Pre-1914 Water Rights negotiation is still on-going. There are additional changes being suggested which identify other areas affected by the agreement. Unfortunately, the absences of member units who were requesting the changes postponed any action being taken on approving the Policy. There was a discussion centered on providing the Provost & Pritchard report which was

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developed sometime in the 1990's which may assist in making recommendations to the Pre-1914 Policy. Staff will update the Board as negotiations continue.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER ISSUES / FRIANT NORTH AUTHORITY

b. San Joaquin River / Friant North Authority Update

San Joaquin River

Mr. Serrato attended a meeting concerning the 2015 Bureau of Reclamation operations of the Central Valley Project. Arvin Edison Manager Steve Cullop reviewed the Exchange Contractors contracts with the group, which if were implemented by the Bureau of Reclamation as Friant interprets the language, Friant Contractors should have been allocated approximately 200,000 acre-feet in 2015. Friant member districts will continue to engage the Bureau for clarification and implementation of the Exchange Contractors Agreements.

Friant North Authority

Previously discussed during Mr. Orth's Public Presentation portion of the meeting.

OTHER

i. Fresno County – Joint Powers Agreement

The County of Fresno continues to take the lead in creating a joint powers authority (JPA) to develop a project list for grant funding under Proposition 1, Chapter 8, which provides \$2.7 billion for projects associated with water development, water reuse, infrastructure, and a number of other related projects.

As of now, the irrigation districts have been asked to allow the Counties to develop the JPA. Once that has been completed, the irrigation districts will be asked to join later. FID's concern with this process is that the governance process would exclude FID, and other irrigation districts, from having a vote on policy development. Staff has expressed these concerns to County Board of Supervisor Buddy Mendes.

Mr. Serrato was informed by John Navarrette, CAO of Fresno County, that the JPA will be adopted at the next Board of Supervisors meeting. The JPA will include Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Merced, and Madera Counties. Additional language will be inserted that will state that one city, one irrigation district, one special district, and one at-large district will be included in the discussions/decisions process.

Apart from funding under Chapter 8 of Proposition 1, Staff continues to work with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District and the Cities of Clovis and Fresno to identify projects that would be eligible for funding under other chapters of Proposition 1.

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ii. Legislative Update

AB 935 (Salas)

South Valley Friant members have been working with Assembly Member Salas to obtain authorization and funding for two “recirculation projects” (AB 935). The bill directs the Department of Water Resources to fund the projects without naming a funding source. Valley agencies who have participated in the IRWMP process are concerned that this funding would be utilized for the projects and have opposed the legislation unless amended.

AB 1135 (Perea)

The “East Kings River GSA” has progressed to a two-year bill and Assembly Member Perea is looking to advance the bill. FID, Consolidated Irrigation District, Kings River Conservation District, and Kings River Water Association opposed the bill early on and are now being asked to participate in a roundtable discussion to communicate our areas of concerns. Assembly Member Perea plans on moving AB 1135 into session in January 2016.

iii. Governor’s Drought Task Force Update

Mr. Serrato participated in a “Local Government & Stakeholder Leaders” meeting held in Mendota to discuss “Top Actions and Issues” concerning the drought. The Governor’s drought task force consist of Karen Ross, Secretary – Department of Food and Agriculture; Bill Croyle, Deputy Director Department of Water Resources; Dee Dee D’Adamo, Board Member - State Water Resources Control Board, Fresno County Board of Supervisor Brian Pacheco, also participated in the meeting. The remainder of the group was made up of irrigation districts, cities, and representatives from Assembly Members Steve Canella’s and Henry T. Perea’s offices. Topics of discussion included water for agriculture, disadvantage communities, cities, and the environment. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was also discussed.

iv. Upcoming Growers Meetings – SGMA Update

Dates have been set for three upcoming growers meetings. Discussion at these meetings will be on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Each meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m.

November 4 – Clovis City Hall

November 6 – Easton C.P.D.E.S. Hall

November 10 – Kerman Community Center

Representatives from Kings River Conservation District and the Cities of Clovis and Fresno have been invited to participate on the panel during the meetings. Also, a select number of growers will also be asked to participate on the panel.

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Staff has been working with our public relations person on publishing a Waterways Newsletter. The newsletter will be entirely on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

City of Fresno Conveyance Agreement

Mr. Serrato and Mr. Esquada (City of Fresno Public Utilities Department) continue to work on the agreement. Studies have been completed and the issues to be incorporated have been agreed to. Once the draft has been completed it will be forwarded to FID's attorney for the first review.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Resolution 2015-09: Honoring Director Balls for His Years of Service

Staff recommends approving Resolution 2015-09 in honoring Director Balls for his eleven years of service, two of them as vice-president.

M/S/C/(Prieto/Beberian) That the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2015-09 by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

b. Resolution 2015-10: Honoring Max Gonzales on His Retirement

Staff recommends approving Resolution 2015-10 in honoring Max Gonzales for his twenty-seven years of service in the Water Department.

M/S/C/(Prieto/Beberian) That the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2015-10 by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

c. Damage Claim – Jerry Smith

FID received a claim for damages done to a vehicle owned by Mr. Jerry Smith. Ms. Singh explained that the claim is not a FID issue as the incident occurred on a Saturday involving a "manhole cover" owned by the City. FID does not have a pipeline in the area of the incident. Staff recommends denying the claim. Ms. Singh will contact the claimant's attorney and provide them with FID's response.

M/S/C/(Prieto/Porter) That the Board of Directors denied the claim submitted by Jerry Smith by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

6:12 p.m. – President Jacobsen called for a very short break before starting with the interviews for the Division 2 vacant Board Member position.

6:16 p.m. – President Jacobsen called the meeting to order.

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d. Interviews for the Open Board of Director Position – Division 2

Interviews for the vacant Board of Director position – Division 2 were held. Applications were received from two interested parties, Mr. Chris Woolf and Dr. Mark Toopozian. The Board conducted the interviews and asked each applicants about their background, board experiences, and any farming/water knowledge they possess. The Board informed each applicant that they would discuss the selection of the new Director after Closed Session concludes with each candidate being informed of the outcome shortly thereafter.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Beberian – stated that by the time he arrives home after the Board meeting, his raisin crop should be on the ground drying. He hopes that his raisins will be boxed by the time the Board meets in October.

Director Jacobsen – none.

Director Porter – stated that he has had intermittent “Time of Use” issues regarding his groundwater pumps, making irrigation a slow process. Director Porter is still waiting to harvest his crop.

Director Prieto – went to Shaver Lake last weekend and found the lake to contain a decent amount of water. However, the water level at Bass Lake is extremely low.

Open Session adjourned at 6:58 p.m. with the Board and Senior Staff going straight into Closed Session.

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

Government Code Section 54957. Personnel Matters.

CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned Closed Session at 7:40 p.m.

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REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

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

Discussion of Open Board of Director Position – Division 2

The Board of Directors came out of Closed Session with no reportable action and went back into Open Session.

The Board deliberated on the two candidates who applied to fill the vacant Division 2 position. Both candidates had strong qualifications.

Director Porter made a motion to appoint Christopher Woolf as the newest member to the Board.

M/S/C/(Porter/Prieto) That the Board of Directors approved the appointment of Christopher Woolf to fill the vacancy of the Division 2 Board of Director's seat for the remainder of the current term by the following vote. (Ayes – Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – Beberian; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Secretary of the Board