

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 17, 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 November 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 Jerry Prieto, Jr.
Director George Porter
Director Gregory Beberian
Director Christopher Woolf

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Maricopa Orchards Representative Jason Pucheu
Maricopa Orchards Representative Jon Ritter
Agralogics Representative Thomas Capote

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

REVIEW AGENDA

No changes at this time.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

No changes at this time.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

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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]

None stated.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **Approval of Board of Regular Meetings Minutes – October 20, 2015**
- b. **October 2015 Check Report**
- c. **October 2015 Payroll Registers**
- d. **October 2015 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- e. **October 2015 Investment Account**

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

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

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

Ms. Hailey presented the Fund Activity Summary which includes the approved budget revisions and supporting documents (including Notes to Fund Statements, Treasurer's Report, Deposit and Investments, and Revenues (Pie Chart)) for the month of October. Ms. Hailey reported that the District is within budget and expenses continue to be on target. The District received a check from the County of Fresno for interest earned.

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

- b. **Sale of Nielsen and Marks Properties Update**

Ms. Hailey stated there was no update in Open Session.

WATERMASTER'S REPORT

- a. **Current Water Conditions Report**

Mr. Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply and the routing information. As of November 16, Pine Flat release was 107 cfs with storage at 126,183 acre-feet. There has been an increase in storage due to the weekend's storms. Pre-Project for the Kings River is 306 cfs and FID receives no entitlement. The Gould and Enterprise canals have been shut down for the month of November for maintenance. Mr. Irwin stated that the Reclaim Water deliveries ended on Sunday, November 15. Pine Flat

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precipitation is 3.91 inches for the season – average for this time is 1.88 inches (208 %). Five of the snow sensors have started to report with a range from 1.9 to 3.8 inches. Additional rain/snow is expected around Thanksgiving Day. Mr. Irwin stated that the final KRWA water adjustments would be available for December's Board meeting.

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 two projects in progress at this time and several more are currently planned. During the last month, Staff responded to 20 developer review notices.

b. Agency Projects Update 2015-16

The Engineering Department continues to review the plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2015-16 Maintenance Season. There are four projects in progress at this time and five projects are planned during the 2015-16 Maintenance Season.

i. High Speed Rail

Staff continues discussions with TPZP the crossing locations at Dry Creek and Herndon canals. Staff has met with Dragados-Flatiron Joint Venture (DFJV) and have provided an overview of FID's requirements. Staff provided comments to DFJV on the Draft Task Order Agreement and have met with their legal counsel, as well as the CHSRA staff. The design team is still evaluating the option of deepening several of FID's basins (Ventura, Pursell and Oleander) for fill material on the project. DFJV has announced it will be holding an open house on November 19 in Easton.

c. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2015-16

There are no landowner projects in progress, however Staff is working on several projects with landowners that include turnouts, pipeline projects, utility crossings, and others. Staff anticipates several projects to commence in the near future, including two projects planned for the 2015-16 Maintenance Season.

d. Other Activities

- Monthly groundwater levels were measured as part of the banking facility monitoring plan. Staff discussed the possibility of adding more wells to the measurement list due to losing several wells because of going dry or to Staff being locked out;
- Groundwater levels were measured for the semi-annual well readings throughout the District – Staff is currently processing the data;

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- Staff is currently assisting or working on 13 FID maintenance/construction projects;
- Staff is working with the Maintenance/Construction Department on estimates of upcoming maintenance projects;
- Several surveys were performed for project design; and
- Twelve construction and structure permits were issued during the last month.

e. Kings River Water Quality Coalition Update

Over the next several months, the Kings River Water Quality Coalition will hold a series of eight workshops throughout the area. Staff attended the meetings that were held in Easton and Kerman. The meetings are designed to assist growers in completing their farm evaluation forms for the nitrogen management plan. The deadline to submit the forms is March 1, 2016.

Mr. Serrato stated that it was announced at the KRWA Executive meeting that the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is now identifying growers that have not yet joined a coalition. The RWQCB is sending out Notices of Violation if a grower has not joined a Coalition. After receiving the notice, growers are given 15 days to join a coalition. If the grower fails to respond, they will be fined for non-compliance.

Mr. Kimura provided slides and reviewed the following projects:

- 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, check structure, and turnout structure;
- Enterprise Canal (S/E Herndon and DeWolf) – FMFCD's PEP Basin improvement project of widening approximately 2,000 feet of a canal bank;
- Little Pine Flat (Clayton Align and Marks) – installation of rural gate and fencing;
- Reyburn Canal (S/E Bullard and Locan) – ball vent installation for private turnout;
- Waldron Banking Facility (Nielsen and Bishop) – levee repair between Cell 1 and Cell 3;
- Empire Banking Facility, Waldron Banking Facility, and Lambrecht Banking Facility – crews are potholing to determine soil type to increase basin percolation; and
- Nielsen Property – the property has been connected to city water.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Bill Stretch reported on the following:

a. Maintenance and Construction Update

Mr. Stretch stated that crews have also been busy with maintenance and construction activities including pipeline replacement, brushing, gate repairs, pipeline repairs, flow meter/measuring station repairs and trash removal, which is outlined in the Assistant Manager's Report. The Dry Creek Canal project has been completed with the crews doing an excellent job. This canal will be utilized in a greater capacity to route flood

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waters to FID's groundwater banking facilities. Once the Dry Creek project was completed, the heavy equipment operators (HEOs) moved over to the Enterprise Canal and started dredging where sediment had built up. The Enterprise Canal goes down one month per year for maintenance activities. HEOs are also applying rip-rap on the Central Canal near Easton. The following slides show a small selection of the projects that are currently taking or have taken place:

- Dry Creek Canal (through town) – the lining project has been completed;
- Dry Creek Canal (N/E Belmont and Broadway) – brushing crews trimmed bushes and trees that were encroaching into the canal;
- Dry Creek Canal (San Pablo to College – Section 4) – slide shows crews applying shotcrete lining to areas with minimal access (long hoses were used to apply the shotcrete);
- Dry Creek Canal (“H” Street) – crews reinstalled the refurbished trash rack;
- Barcus Canal (S/E Herndon and Dower) –replacement project of 1,300 feet of 30-inch pipeline;
- Barcus Canal (S/E Herndon and Dower) – crews performed the work on pipeline replacement project with FID Engineering Staff designing the plans;
- Flume Canal (N/W Barstow and Chateau Fresno) – heavy equipment crews cleared existing pipe and earthwork prior to the start of a 42-inch pipeline replacement project;
- Thompson Extension (N/O Whitesbridge at Jameson Avenue Line) – heavy equipment crews are scrapping the bottom of the canal with a dozer to remove the build-up of sediment over the years and remove the weeds along the bank;
- Thompson Extension (S/O Whitesbridge at Jameson Avenue Line) – continuation of bottom work on the canal with the dozer;
- Empire Canal (N/W Shields and Jameson) – heavy equipment crews dredged the bottom of the canal;
- East Branch Canal (N/E Olive and Riverbend) – crews cleaned the measuring station;
- Waldron Banking Facility (Nielsen and Floyd) – crews have finished discing the basins – 22 basins in all. Once the discing is complete, crews then shallow ripped the bottom (18-20 inches down) in some of the basins;
- Shubin Pond (N/O McKinley at Shasta Avenue Line) – showed another example of discing;
- Barstow W Branch Canal (S/W Barstow and Dower) and Silvia Canal (N/W McKinley and Chateau Fresno) – crews were sloping some of the smaller canals;
- Fancher Canal (S/W Butler and Clovis Avenue) – crews removed debris, trimmed overhanging branches, cleared away dead trees and performed brushing. Staff continues to work with the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding permitting issues;
- Herndon Canal (McKinley and Millbrook) – trash crews removed debris from the inside of the canal;
- Center Canal (W/O Cedar to E/O East) – rip-rap (broken up bricks) was placed along the south side of the bank;
- Kennedy-Owens Canal (Olive and Dower) – pipeline crews made repairs to a box structure;

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- Paragon Canal (Kearney and Bryan) – a pad was poured and fencing installed around an automatic trash rack;
- Houghton West Canal (Nielsen Alignment and Goldenrod) – gate crews were making repairs; and
- Dry Creek (Hammond and Effie) and Victoria Canal (Weber and Valentine) – the cleanup of homeless encampments continues.

Maintenance crews rented another fail mower (as opposed to a rotary mower) and tractor from a neighboring irrigation district and found that the mower does not work well on weeds when they are wet. There have been other issues, but crews continue to work on it as well as looking into other options for weed control. Staff has also been visiting other districts to view what type of weed program they are using. Staff is preparing a weed and aquatic program which will be brought to the Board for review. Spray crews have started to spray pre-emergence weed spray District-wide.

b. Ag Water Management Plan Update

Adam Claes, Special Projects Coordinator, stated that the USBR Water Management (WMP) is awaiting the public review / comment process being coordinated by the USBR's Washington DC office, which should conclude by the end of the year. Assuming the WMP is not challenged during the 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 April 1, 2015, Executive Order B-29-15 which will most likely occur in early 2016.

c. Southwest Groundwater Banking Project - Update

One final signature is still needed to complete the escrow process on the first 40 acre parcel of the proposed banking project. The closing documents are being drawn up; there are still a couple of issues that need to be taken care of.

FID and James Irrigation District (JID) continue to meet. It was decided that JID will take the lead in pursuing some additional prospects.

d. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – Update

Mr. Stretch recapped the growers meetings that FID hosted in Clovis, Kerman, and Easton during the first two weeks of November. The meetings were well attended and the feedback was positive. Each meeting was directed at informing the public regarding SGMA. The meetings were advertised in FID's Waterways Newsletter and on its website. Several individuals have shown an interest in participating in the Fresno Area / North Kings Sub-Basin discussions (monthly meetings). Several individuals at the Kerman meeting approached Staff regarding annexation of the surrounding area. Mr. Serrato stated that FID was not looking into annexation at this time. In the mid 1980's, the Board passed a resolution not to expand FID's boundaries; however, it is open to constructing water banking facilities in the Kerman area. President Jacobsen stated that

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some of the public is confused with the difference between the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the irrigated lands program.

There are three groups that continue to meet: 1) Kings Sub-Basin Planning Group led by KRCD formed of six GSAs (meets monthly); 2) Fresno Area / North Kings Sub-Basin led by FID (meets monthly); 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, which now meets quarterly.

The Kings Sub-Basin Planning Group is still discussing governance and how they will work together. Staff stated that in January or February the group will seriously focus on developing an agreement. The majority of the named parties have signed the MOU for the Fresno Area / North Kings Sub-Basin. There has been some discussion on what the next step will be. Representative of the group are looking into JPAs from other agencies.

DWR recently announced that they achieved the first major milestone as final SGMA groundwater basin regulations go into effect. This accomplishment is about six weeks ahead of schedule.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

a. Kings River Water Association Update

The KRWA Watermaster reported that the Water Right Fees invoice has been received. The cost has increased by 9% from last year, bringing the cost to \$320,000 (FID's portion is \$60,800). It is expected that the fees will increase again next year by an additional 9%.

KRWA has initiated litigation over two illegal pumpers on the Kings River that are located in the Clarks Fork District. KRWA hired Attorney Leonard Herr as special Counsel to file the case in Kings County.

b. Pre-1914 Policy

A meeting of the Pre-1914 committee was held to review the final policy. There are members of the committee that have concerns regarding the required reporting submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board. Mr. Serrato believes that FID does not have any issues with the policy but is recommending that FID not approve the policy until the concerns identified by the other members can be reviewed.

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SAN JOAQUIN RIVER ISSUES / FRIANT NORTH AUTHORITY

c. San Joaquin River / Friant North Authority Update

Friant North Authority is in the process of selecting legal counsel. A Request for Proposals was sent out to ten legal firms. Three firms have responded and will be interviewed next week by a panel made up of three FNA board members and three general managers.

Friant North Authority will be meeting with the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority to discuss a number of issues surrounding the San Joaquin River Restoration Program and its impacts to water supply and the Fishery. Mr. Serrato believes the discussion will center on water quality issues in the Delta.

Federal Drought Legislation (S. 1894/Feinstein/HR 2898 Valadao): A Senate committee hearing on both the House and Senate drought bills were heard in committee last week with the potential markup of the two bills to occur during November.

Dave Orth is working with the Bureau of Reclamation and other CVP Contractors to develop a framework for the formal negotiation of the Coordinated Operations Agreement (COA) in the Delta. This agreement has a direct impact on water supply allocations by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Dave Orth has been participating in meetings dealing with the Westlands Drainage Settlement. Key amendments for the Friant North Authority are: 1) no water supply impacts; 2) no cost shifting to other CVP Contractors; 3) no conflicts with CVPIA priorities; and 4) no conflict with water management goals of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.

Mr. Kimura and Mr. Serrato attended an Unreleased Restoration Flows (URF) meeting held at the Fresno Irrigation District office and hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation to review and negotiate the use of the URF water. The Bureau will now develop an agreement that will be sent out to all the contractors for their comments. Friant contractors believe that if the water is not used for restoration, it should be returned to the Friant Contractors as allocated water at either Class I or Class II cost. The Bureau believes the contractors should purchase the URF water at a schedule corresponding with the hydrological year.

ii. Miscellaneous

Mr. Serrato reported that a letter was sent to the Friant Water Authority expressing its appreciation for the invitation, but that FID declined the offer to rejoin FWA for a one-year trial membership.

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OTHER

i. Fresno County – Joint Powers Agreement

The counties of Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Merced, and Madera have signed the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) required for Proposition 1 funding under Chapter 8. Mr. Serrato and President Jacobsen have each been personally contacted about having FID as a member of the JPA. Mr. Serrato believes that FID should participate on the advisory committee to the JPA. The California Water Commission is working on the requirements for project eligibility. The Commission is responsible for the selection of projects under Proposition 1, Chapter 8 funds.

ii. Legislative Update

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 in 2016. Mr. Serrato has provided comments and amendments on the bill’s current language. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled on December 14 to review the final language with the stakeholders.

iii. FID / City of Fresno Conveyance Agreement Update

Mr. Serrato and the City of Fresno Utilities Director Mr. Esquada continue to meet and work on the issues within the Conveyance Agreement. The last meeting centered on the City’s need for storage. Once the agreement is further along, Staff will meet with the Ad Hoc Committee. Once the Ad Hoc Committee has given its approval, it will then be brought before the entire Board for review and discussion.

Miscellaneous - Other

A Finance Committee meeting is planned for December to review the 2016 FID budget. Staff is currently working on the 2016 Budget and will bring it before the Directors during the December Board meeting for adoption.

The consulting firm of Provost & Pritchard was retained by the Stream Group (Cities of Fresno and Clovis, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District and FID) to prepare a proposal on researching the ability to utilize Big Dry Creek Reservoir, Redbanks, Fancher Creek Dams, and Fancher Creek Detention Basin for recharge.

Staff will schedule three committee meetings during December. The meetings will be for the Personnel Committee, Finance Committee, and the Equipment Committee.

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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

i. Resolution 2015-11: Flexible Spending Account Amendment

Ms. Hailey explained that the resolution is to modify the District's 125 Flexible Spending account. This resolution would change the language so that the maximum spending allowance amount would be the same as the IRS code every year.

M/S/C/(Porter/Prieto) That the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2015-11 by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Woolf, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

b. Resolution 2015-12: Bureau of Reclamation 215 Contracts

Mr. Serrato stated that for the first time since 2011, Section 215 Contracts have been made available to the Friant Contractors. Section 215 Contracts are required by the Bureau of Reclamation in the event that Section 215 water will be made available in 2016.

M/S/C/(Porter/Woolf) That the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2015-12 by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Woolf, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Beberian – none.

Director Woolf – none.

Director Jacobsen – stated that the new committee assignments have been handed out to the Directors.

Director Porter – none.

Director Prieto – none.

Open Session adjourned at 5:46 p.m. with the Board and some senior Staff going directly into Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

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

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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 54956.8 Real Property Transactions.

Negotiators: Gary R. Serrato-FID, DeAnn Hailey-FID, and All American Logistics, Inc.

Property: APN 326-160-10 & 326-160-41

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 5:55 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Jacobsen stated Staff was given direction to proceed with the listing of the Nielsen Avenue property, hire a realtor, and hire an appraiser to appraise all three properties located at Nielsen and Marks.

San Joaquin River

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT Continued

c. San Joaquin River / Friant North Authority Update

i. Friant Canal Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

Mr. Serrato informed the Board that the southern Friant districts have asked FID to sign a letter addressed to Michael P. Jackson, SCCAO Area Manager, requesting a change to the FWA's existing bylaws and joint powers agreement providing FNA with the opportunity to have direct input and an equal vote on the O&M matters affecting all Friant-Kern Canal contractors.

M/S/C/(Prieto/Porter) That the Board of Directors approve the General Manager to sign the conjunctive letter for the participation on the FKC O&M committee by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Woolf, Jacobsen, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – Porter; Abstain – 0)

ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Secretary of the Board