



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MAY 28, 2024



**STOCKTON  
EAST WATER  
DISTRICT**

PROVIDING SERVICE SINCE 1948

www.sewd.net

**DIRECTORS**

Richard Atkins  
President  
Division 1

Andrew Watkins  
Division 2

Alvin Cortopassi  
Division 3

Melvin Panizza  
Division 4

Paul Sanguinetti  
Division 5

Paul Nakaea  
Division 6

Thomas McGurk  
Vice President  
Division 7

**STAFF**

Justin M. Hopkins  
General Manager

Juan M. Vega  
Assistant General Manager

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

Jeanne M. Zolezzi  
General Counsel

Phone 209-948-0333  
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6767 East Main Street  
Stockton, CA 95215

Post Office Box 5157  
Stockton, CA 95205

**MEETING NOTICE**

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT WILL BE HELD AT 12:30 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024 AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE, 6767 EAST MAIN STREET STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95215

**Assistance for the Disabled:** If you are disabled in any way and need accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact Administrative Staff at (209) 948-0333 at least 48-hours in advance for assistance so the necessary arrangements can be made.

FOR CONTINUED CONVENIENCE STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY TELECONFERENCE.

Please call (347) 566-2741/Passcode: 300 937 522# to be connected to the Regular Board Meeting, to begin at 12:30 p.m. Agendas and minutes are located on our website at www.sewd.net.

**AGENDA**

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- A. Pledge of Allegiance (Director Panizza) & Roll Call**
- B. Consent Calendar (None)**
- C. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)**
- D. Scheduled Presentations and Agenda Items**
  - 1. Minutes 05/21/24 01
  - 2. Warrants – California Public Employees’ Retirement System 09
  - 3. Stockton East Water District – Consideration of Approving Revised Rule 109 – Water Rights Claims
    - a. Public Hearing 11
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  - 4. Resolution No. 24-25-03 - A Resolution of the Board of Directors Commending Woodbridge Irrigation District In Recognition of Continuous Service From 1924 To 2024 17
  - 5. Stockton East Water District – Consider Approval of Fujinaka Low-Water Crossing Replacement Project and Filing of CEQA NOE for 30-Day Circulation 19
- E. Committee Reports**
- F. Report of the General Manager**
  - 1. Water Supply Report 05/21/24 21

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| 2.        | Informational Items   |    |
| a.        | <u>Ocean Recreational And In-River Salmon Sport Fisheries In California Closed For Second Consecutive Season, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 05/17/24</u>                    | 23 |
| b.        | <u>Analysis: Benefits Of The Delta Conveyance Project Far Exceed Costs, California Department of Water Resources, 05/22/24</u>  | 25 |
| c.        | <u>Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$81 Million From President's Investing In America Agneda For Drought Resilience In San Joaquin Valley, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 05/22/24</u> | 27 |
| 3.        | Report on General Manager Activities  |    |
| a.        | Stockton East Water District Activities Update  |    |
| 4.        | Stockton East Water District Water Supply Update  |    |
| <b>G.</b> | <b>Director Reports</b>   |    |
| <b>H.</b> | <b>Communications</b>   |    |
| 1.        | San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation Support Letter for the Stockton East Water District Clements Pipeline In-Lieu Recharge Project, 05/20/24   | 29 |
| 2.        | The Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District Support Letter for the Stockton East Water District Clements Pipeline In-Lieu Recharge Project, 05/21/24                              | 30 |
| 3.        | California Water Service Support Letter for the Stockton East Water District Clements Pipeline In-Lieu Recharge Project, 05/22/24   | 33 |
| <b>I.</b> | <b>Agenda Planning/Upcoming Events</b>  |    |
| 1.        | San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation Monthly Water Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., 05/28/24   |    |
| 2.        | ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., 05/31/24  |    |
| 3.        | Mokelumne Integrated Conjunctive Use Program (MICUP), 9:00 a.m., 06/03/24   | 35 |
| <b>J.</b> | <b>Closed Session</b>   |    |
| 1.        | CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Potential exposure to litigation – Government Code Section 54956.9 – two cases   |    |
| <b>K.</b> | <b>Adjournment</b>  |    |

**Certification of Posting**

I hereby certify that on May 23, 2024 I posted a copy of the foregoing agenda in the outside display case at the District Office, 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, California, said time being at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Stockton East Water District (Government Code Section 54954.2).

Executed at Stockton, California on May 23, 2024.



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Priya Ram, Finance Director  
Stockton East Water District

Any materials related to items on this agenda distributed to the Board of Directors of Stockton East Water District less than 72 hours before the public meeting are available for public inspection at the District's office located at the following address: 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, CA 95215. Upon request, these materials may be available in an alternative format to persons with disabilities

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THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT WAS HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE  
6767 EAST MAIN STREET, STOCKTON, CA  
ON TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024 AT 12:30 P.M.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

President Atkins called the regular meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., and Administrative Assistant Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at roll call at the District were Directors Atkins, Cortopassi, McGurk, Nakaue, Panizza, Sanguinetti and Watkins. Also present were Manager Hopkins, Assistant Manager Vega, Finance Director Ram, District Engineer Evensen, Administrative Assistant Rodriguez, Legal Counsel Zolezzi and Consultant Barkett.

**B. CONSENT CALENDAR (None)**

1. Director Atkins requested the Board to make an emergency addition to the agenda. Director Atkins presented the Board with a memo to Consider Approval of Proposed Contract and Budget Amendment for CCTV Inspection of Bellota Pipeline.

A motion was moved and seconded to add one item to the May 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting as Agenda Item No. D-6, Stockton East Water District - Consider Approval of Proposed Contract and Budget Amendment for CCTV Inspection of Bellota Pipeline Memo, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGurk, Nakaue, Panizza, Sanguinetti, Watkins  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT (None)**

**D. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Minutes 05/14/24 Regular Meeting  
Director Atkins provided the Board with a handout for the May 14, 2024 minutes.  
Director Atkins addressed the following correction:
  - Page 3, section 6, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the May 14, 2024 Minutes, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGurk, Nakaue, Panizza, Sanguinetti, Watkins  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

2. Warrants
  - a. Fund 68 – Municipal & Industrial Groundwater Fund
  - b. Fund 70 – Administration Fund
  - c. Fund 71 – Water Supply Fund
  - d. Fund 91 – Vehicle Fund
  - e. Fund 94 – Municipal & Industrial Fund
  - f. Summary

- g. Short Names/Acronym List
- h. SEWD Vehicles & Heavy Equipment

Director McGurk inquired on the expense on page 17, line item 41 A T.E.E.M Electrical Engineering for Electrical Improvements of MCC-5M March/April 2024 in the amount of \$4,850.00. Manager Hopkins replied A T.E.E.M. is designing the improvements for MCC-5M.

Director McGurk inquired on the expense on page 17, line item 45 GEI Consultants Inc for Professional services for Aquifer Storage/Recovery study 02/24/24-04/25/24 in the amount of \$104,180.75. District Engineer Evensen replied it is an ASR well design with a contracted amount of \$595K.

Director McGurk inquired on the expense on page 17, line item 48 JCI Jones Chemical Inc for Chlorine delivery on 04/23/24 and 05/06/24 in the amount of \$19,954.42. Manager Hopkins addressed the Board it is sodium hypochlorite and not chlorine gas.

Director Panizza inquired on the expense on page 17, line item 41 A.T.E.E.M Electrical Engineering for Electrical Improvements of MCC-5M March/April 2024 in the amount of \$4,850.00. Assistant Manager Vega replied it is a partial bill.

Director Sanguinetti inquired on the expense on page 18, line item 55 Stockton Scavengers/ Waste Management Corp for 20-yard bin and dump fees for period 04/01/24-04/30/24 in the amount of \$1,587.77 and line item 56 Stockton Scavengers/ Waste Management Corp for April/May 2024 garbage service @6767 East Main St in the amount of \$1,076.72. Assistant Manager Vega replied the District has a 4- yard and 6-yard dumpster.

Director Cortopassi inquired on the expense on page 11, line item 6 Control Point Engineering Inc for Phase V SCADA upgrades project services 01/01/24-03/31/24 for the amount of \$307,220.00. Manager Hopkins replied it is for three months' worth of billing.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the May 21, 2024 Warrants, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGurk, Nakaue, Panizza, Sanguinetti, Watkins  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

3. Stockton East Water District – Approval of a PPA with White Pine Renewables for Solar System With (BESS) Memo

Manager Hopkins provided the Board with an Approval of a PPA with White Pine Renewables for Solar System With (BESS) Memo. Manager Hopkins reported the District staff has been working with an ad-hoc committee of Board members to investigate different options to decrease the Districts' on-going energy cost. Since 2019 the Districts' PG&E electrical cost has doubled, therefore, the District worked with various consultants, contractors and vendors to identify possible options for energy in leu of the PG&E power. Manager Hopkins also reported through the ad-hoc committee the option recommended for presentation of the Board was a Power Purchase Agreement for a ground mount system specifically with White Pine Renewables. Assistant General Manager Vega reported the ad-hoc committee met several times from January through April in which the committee met to discuss the options the District had to combat rising electricity costs, especially

demand charges. The committee weighed different solution including investing in additional solar facilities and battery storage solutions. Assistant Manager Vege reported the committee weighed several aspects of adding solar including: district owned vs PPA, standalone solar vs solar with BESS, and ballasted, ground-mounted solar vs floating solar. After staff presentations and Committee discussions, the Committee directed staff to present a proposal for a Power Purchase Agreement with White Pine Renewables for its ground mounted (ballasted) system with BESS to the full Board. Evan Riley, the CEO and managing partner of White Pine Renewables, presented to the Board. White Pine Renewables is a California-based company with offices in Fresno and San Francisco which focuses on providing solar energy storage solutions to irrigation districts, water districts, water treatment plants, food processors, and cold storage. Mr. Riley reported White Pine has thirty projects in operation and six projects in construction. White Pine's business model is selling electricity at a cost which is lower than PG&E. Mr. Riley mentioned the scope of White Pine Renewables which is development, entitlement, PG&E interface, construction, financing and long-term ownership and authorization to the project. Mr. Riley reported they do not get paid their last dollar until the District receives the last dollar of savings. Mr. Riley explained the project which contemplates solar at a pre-agreed price over thirty years which includes batteries, electrical distribution line to connect to the PG&E meters with the batteries and solar allowing the electricity to first be consumed on site before any of the electricity gets back to PG&E. The Districts' PG&E historic rate escalation in energy rates is 8.6% per year and demand rates at 11.7% per year. White Pine future rate escalation assumption on energy rates per year is at 4% and demand rates per year 8%. Mr. Riley reported they will not go up more than 1.9% per year over the life of the project.

Director McGurk inquired when does the life of the project end. Mr. Riley replied the project itself is designed to have a thirty-five year useful life, the panels are warranted for thirty years and the batteries have a warranty for fifteen years, with replacement costs built into the PPA. The power poles, transmission lines and the transformers will have a useful life of fifty years.

Director Nakaue inquired if it is important to the District how much the solar is being produced per kw/hr. Mr. Riley replied yes, because White Pine is 30% cheaper than PG&E therefore, the more electricity the District purchases from White Pine, the more the District will save.

Director Panizza inquired how does White Pine Renewables solar panels interact with the Districts' existing solar panels. Mr. Riley replied there are two different ways it interacts since the current panels the District has are on a separate circuit behind the main meter White Pine will place the project on. The panels will be in different circuits. The current solar panels the District has will be increased in value by \$80K in year one.

Director Sanguinetti inquired how White Pine Renewables stands financially. Mr. Riley replied White Pine is financially backed by publicly traded banks in the Midwest and North Carolina. The two banks White Pine primarily works with are West Town Bank and Trust and Pathward Financial which are both FDIC insured.

Director Watkins inquired how will White Pine solar facility interface with the Districts' current solar facility and generators when the District loses energy from PG&E. Mr. McClean replied their solar panels and battery storage are not for emergency power and the District still needs the standby generators to run the water treatment plant until PG&E comes back online. As sized, The batteries will not be capable of running the whole treatment plant. Discussion followed.

A motion was moved and seconded to authorize the General Manager to approve a Power Purchase Agreement with White Pine Renewables for a cost per Kilowatt-Hour of \$0.174 for year one and a yearly escalation factor of 1.90% and make all other necessary approvals, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGurk, Nakaue, Panizza, Sanguinetti, Watkins

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Stockton East Water District – Approval of Memorial For Late District Director Loralee McGaughey Memo

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with the Approval of Memorial for Late District Director Loralee McGaughey Memo. Manager Hopkins reported on May 14, 2024 the Board was presented with some ideas for a potential memorial for late Director Loralee McGaughey. The Board was presented with a courtyard style bench or a plaque dedicating the sodium hypochlorite facility. Manager Hopkins also reported the sodium hypochlorite facility was previously dedicated to the full Board therefore staff recommends the Board authorize the purchase of the courtyard style bench for a cost not to exceed \$1,000 and requests the Board provide direction for the bench placement.

Director Watkins suggested the courtyard bench be placed in the front of the parking lot.

Director Panizza inquired where in the parking lot the bench would be placed. Manager Hopkins replied wherever the Board members desire to place it.

Director Cortopassi suggested purchasing a marble or granite bench instead of a steel bench.

There was a consensus of the Board to purchase a bench for a cost not to exceed \$1,000 for late District Director Loralee McGaughey.

5. Stockton East Water District – Consider Adoption of Resolution 24-25-02 Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the USBR to Modify the Service Area set Forth in Exhibit A of CVP Contract Number 4-07-20-W0329 Memo

Manager Hopkins presented the Board to Consider Adoption of Resolution 24-25-02 Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the USBR to Modify the Service Area set Forth in Exhibit A of CVP Contract Number 4-07-20-W0329 Memo. Manager Hopkins reported on June 7, 2023 the District sent a letter to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation requesting a modification of the Districts' Central Valley Project Contract. Manager Hopkins replied the specific modification requested was to change Exhibit A, which identifies the contract service area, and to replace the Districts' outdated pre--2004 District boundary with the existing New Melones Reservoir place of use boundary. Manager Hopkins also reported the District has been working with Congressman Harder's office to have some federal bill language which forces the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to make the Districts' requested changes, which is concurrently moving forward and recommended the District to proceed under the Letter of Agreement since it will be the same process the District will be going through. Manager Hopkins reported the Letter of Agreement does require the District to pre-pay the estimated cost of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation services which they estimate not to exceed \$25,000. If the cost is greater than \$25,000 the District will have to pay the remaining balance and if it is under \$25,000 the District will receive a refund. District staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt Resolution 24-25-02 to authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to modify Central Valley Project Contract Number 4-07-20-W0329.

Director Cortopassi inquired if the District has determined the total of the encompassing area will be. Legal Counsel Zolezzi replied no, they are studying the area. Manager Hopkins replied the resolution is to authorize the General Manager to sign the Letter of Agreement.

A motion was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 24-25-02 to authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to modify Central Valley Project Contract Number 4-07-20-W0329, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGurk, Nakaue, Panizza, Sanguinetti, Watkins

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Stockton East Water District – Consider Approval of Proposed Contract and Budget Amendment for CCTV Inspection of Bellota Pipeline Memo.

Manager Hopkins provided the Board to Consider Approval of Proposed Contract and Budget Amendment for CCTV Inspection of Bellota Pipeline Memo. Assistant General Manager Vega reported the Bellota Pipeline was originally constructed in 1975 to provide water to the District's water treatment plant. Over time, the pipeline has developed leaks and required repairs, with the most recent leaks occurring earlier this month. Deferred maintenance and malfunctioning air release and vacuum valves (air valves) along the Bellota Pipeline are suspected as the cause for pipeline damage and flooding on the property of growers within the last month. District staff have been working to repair the obvious pipeline damage and replace the air valve setups along the pipeline. Assistant General Vega reported the District currently has an active contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for the formulation of a master plan for the DJW WTP, a 20-year capital improvement plan (CIP), and the assessment of 1.4 miles of the Peters Pipeline. Assessment of the Bellota Pipeline was omitted due to budget limitations. Assistant Manager Vega reported due to the recent pipeline damage, District Staff proposes extending the pipeline assessment to the Bellota Pipeline and an inspection of the Bellota Pipeline would provide data for Stantec to create a more accurate analysis of District facilities for the master plan and identify areas that may require more immediate remediation. A closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection would provide valuable information on the condition of the Bellota Pipeline. This inspection will inform the specific need for repairs before District Staff backfill the pipeline entry points during the critical pipeline repairs. Assistant General Manager Vega also reported the District has \$3,000,000 set aside for potential purchase of surface water from Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District. However, given the past winter's precipitation, the purchase will not be required for the water treatment plant to have sufficient supply. As such, the amendment will not negatively affect the water treatment plant operations. Staff respectfully recommends the Board authorize the proposed budget amendment as presented in Table 1 and authorize the General Manager to approve a contract amendment for CCTV Inspection of Bellota Pipeline with Stantec in the amount of \$42,105, plus a 20% contingency of \$8,421, for a total of \$50,526 and make all other necessary approvals.

Director Cortopassi inquired on what the benefits are if the District would use a CCTV on the Bellota Pipeline. District Engineer Evensen replied it gives staff an idea of the pipe condition and the longevity of the pipe and when the District should replace or repair the pipe.

Director Watkins inquired if the leaks staff are repairing at the Machado property were caused by rubber gasket failure at the joints or fractures in the pipe. District Engineer Evensen replied it appears that the leaks are at the pipe joints. Discussion followed.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the proposed budget amendment as presented in Table 1 and to authorize the General Manager to approve a contract amendment for CCTV Inspection of Bellota Pipeline with Stantec in the amount of \$42,105, plus a 20% contingency of \$8,421, for a total of \$50,526 and make all other necessary approvals, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGurk, Nakaue, Panizza, Sanguinetti, Watkins

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## **E. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Advisory Water Commission Meeting, 05/15/24

Director McGurk attended the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Advisory Water Commission Meeting. Director McGurk reported Seth Roselle (Consultant) gave a presentation. SJAFCA is the process of conducting an assessment to build up levees; the assessment is called Mossdale Overland Assessment District (OAD). Director McGurk reported thirty percent of the money will be coming from already existing assessment from the county and seventy percent balance will be coming out of assessment fees. Director McGurk also reported the San Joaquin County Deputy Director, Emergency Operation Tiffany Cacho gave a presentation and the new Water Resources Manager Ashley Couch introduced himself.

## **F. REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER**

1. Water Supply Report as of 05/14/24

Manager Hopkins provided a handout of the Water Supply Report for information only that included storage, release, and production data collected from various sources as of midnight last night.

There is 238,653AF in storage at New Hogan Reservoir. Current releases are set at 148 cfs. There is 2,090,401 AF in storage at New Melones Reservoir. Current releases are set at 1,875 cfs. Current release at Goodwin Dam to Stanislaus River is set at 1,348 cfs and release to all water users is set at 2,609 cfs. The District Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is currently processing 44 mgd. North Stockton is currently utilizing 9 mgd. South Stockton is currently utilizing 6 mgd. Cal Water is currently utilizing 23 mgd. The City of Stockton WTP is currently processing 17 mgd.

2. Information Items:

- a. Manager Hopkins noted items: F-2a, F-2b and F-2c

3. Report on General Manager Activities

- a. ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting, 05/17/24

Manager Hopkins attended the ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting. Manager Hopkins reported SB1147 which will be directing the California State Water Resources Control Board to develop public health goals for microplastic in drinking water including bottled water and the second bill was AB2060 to exempt the temporary flood water diversion permits from having to secure a Lake and Stream Alteration Agreement from California Department of Fish and Wildlife with AWCA taking a favored position. Manager Hopkins also reported a last-minute

update which was not presented at the ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting but was received in an email. AB2079, which is legislation proposing an end run around SGMA using land subsidence criteria to prevent the issue in some well permits, passed the Assembly floor on May 20,2024.

- b. CVP Water Association – Executive and Financial Affairs Committee Meeting, 05/17/24  
Manager Hopkins reported this meeting was postponed until May 31, 2024.
- c. Stockton East Water District Activities Update  
Manager Hopkins reported the District participated at the Linden Cherry Festival parade with the attendance of Director Atkins and two District managers, a new banner was placed on one of the District vehicles to show the audience the work the District does. Assistant General Manager Vega created a QR code which was also displayed in the banner so the audience would be able to scan the QR code and be directed to the SGMA part of our website.

Manager Hopkins reported on Monday the District launched a new program for the employees, the Employee Spotlight. Two of the District employees were spotlighted, which were Alejandra Rangel the Districts’ Accountant and Ryan Welch, Senior Water Treatment Plant Operator. The employee spotlight will also be posted on the Districts’ LinkedIn account.

Manager Hopkins reported staff is working with the Districts’ environmental consultants for the Bellota project, Fishbio and their subconsultant have started paperwork to begin the engagement process with the San Joaquin Council of Governments to see if the District could participate in the San Joaquin County habitat conservation plan to decrease the Districts’ mitigation cost. Manager Hopkins reported it will potentially be discussed in the June committee meeting for San Joaquin Council of Governments.

- 4. Stockton East Water District Engineering Update  
District Engineer Evensen provided the Board with a presentation on the District’s projects which included the completed Delucchi Crossing, Raise LFC Bridge 6 Survey, Bellota Pipeline Air Valve Replacements, LLPS Pump P-1 Install, and Security Gates and Fencing. District Engineer Evensen provided an update on the design and permitting process for projects which include the Water Supply Mater Plan and CIP, Water Treatment Plant Master Plan and CIP, George Watkins Low-Water Crossing, Eight Mile Dam and Grants including the SWEEP Block Grants.

## **G. DIRECTOR REPORTS**

- 1. ACWA 2024 Spring Conference & Expo, 05/07/24 – 05/09/24  
Director Nakaue, Assistant General Vega and District Engineer Evensen attended the ACWA 2024 Spring Conference & Expo. Director Nakaue reported the opening keynote speaker for the second day of the ACWA Conference was Gavin Newsom. Gavin Newsom spoke about the Sites Reservoir and how great the new, redesigned tunnel is and changing the intakes and rerouting where the tunnel is going to go. Director Nakaue also reported he attended the How to Play Nice session which was based on how you get everyone to agree which focused on having a good relationship with the Native American tribes and allowing fishing. Assistant Manager Vega reported the AG Committee had a presentation from Land IQ which is an entity who does land use mapping. They have surveyed 460,000thousand fields which is 9, 550,00 million acres which according to them is 97.6% accurate. Assistant Manager Vega reported Land IQ has completed mapping from 2018-2023 and have tallied what is prevalent in the different regions. Assistant Manager Vega also reported the Groundwater Committee had an update from Department of

Water Resources (DWR) which were seventy-one approved basins for the SGMA plans with thirteen already complete and six are inadequate. All basins are required to submit annual reports regardless of their status. Discussion followed.

2. 2024 WEF-Bay Delta Tour, 05/15/24

Director Sanguinetti, Director Watkins and Manager Hopkins attended the 2024 WEF-Bay Delta Tour Dinner. Director Sanguinetti reported it was a successful dinner with Legal Counsel Zolezzi being one of the speakers.

3. F&M Bank Annual Evening At The Ball Park, 05/16/24

Director McGurk, Director Watkins and Manager Hopkins attended the F&M Bank Annual Evening At The Ball Park. Director McGurk reported Santa Clara Broncos had a great sixth inning, scoring six runs.

#### **H. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Woodbridge Irrigation District Luncheon, 11:00 a.m., 06/13/24

Manager Hopkins reported the Directors were invited to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Luncheon to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

#### **I. AGENDA PLANNING/UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. District Holiday – Memorial Day, 05/27/24

#### **J. REPORT OF THE COUNSEL**

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Personnel Government Code 54957

2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Potential exposure to litigation – Government Code Section 54956.9 – two cases

President Atkins adjourned the meeting to closed session at 2:29 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 2:41 p.m., with no reportable action.

#### **K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Atkins adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin M. Hopkins  
Secretary of the Board

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**STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT  
INVOICES FOR BOARD PACKAGE  
CALPERS EFT REQUEST  
MAY 28, 2024**

| Vendor name  | District Fund# | Account # | Description   | Amount              | Invoice No.         |
|--|----------------|-----------|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 CA Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS)                        | 70             | 10-5049-0 | Retirement Contributions for Payroll 05/24/24-Admin | 5,950.02            | 05/24/24 1245106351 |
|  |                |           | <b>Total Fund 70 Admin</b>                          | <b>\$ 5,950.02</b>  |                     |
| 2 CA Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS)                        | 71             | 10-5049-0 | Retirement Contributions for Payroll 05/24/24-WS-NM | 5,751.73            | 05/24/24 1245106351 |
| 3 CA Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS)                        | 71             | 10-5058-0 | Retirement Contributions for Payroll 05/24/24-WS-NH | 1,466.94            | 05/24/24 1245106351 |
|  |                |           | <b>Total Fund 71 Water Supply</b>                   | <b>\$ 7,218.67</b>  |                     |
| 4 CA Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS)                        | 94             | 10-5049-0 | Retirement Contributions for Payroll 05/24/24-M&I   | 22,221.12           | 05/24/24 1245106351 |
|  |                |           | <b>Total Fund 94 Municipal &amp; Industrial</b>     | <b>\$ 22,221.12</b> |                     |
| <b>Grand Total for Electronic Funds Transfer Request on RBM 05/28/24</b> |                |           |   | <b>\$ 35,389.81</b> |                     |

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**NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF THE  
STOCKTON EAST WATER  
DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of the Stockton East Water District will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 12:30 p.m., to consider the adoption of Rule 109- Water Rights Claims.

The hearing will be held in the District Office at 6767 East Main Street, Stockton, California, and will be held pursuant to and in accordance with Government Code 6061.

Justin Hopkins  
General Manager  
Stockton East Water District  
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**RULE NO. 109**

ADOPTED June 20, 1972  
REVISED May 28, 2024

**ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR WATER RIGHTS CLAIMS**

WHEREAS, the Act governing Stockton East Water district (“**Stockton East**”) authorizes the Board of Directors (“**Board**”) to make such rules and regulations as it deems necessary and proper for carrying out the provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Calaveras River diverges into the Calaveras River and Mormon Slough east of Bellota, and for interpretation of this Rule all references to “**Calaveras River**” shall mean that part of the Calaveras River east of Bellota and west of the San Joaquin-Stanislaus County line; and

WHEREAS, various diverters of surface water from the Calaveras River and its distributaries claim that a portion of the water they divert is diverted under a claim of right other than that held by Stockton East; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that in some instances such claims may have validity when made by surface water diverters from the Calaveras River and from the Mormon Slough to the beginning of the Stockton Diverting Canal; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Murray, Burns & Kienlen prepared a study of water uses and water rights on the Calaveras River (“**Water Rights Study**”); and

WHEREAS, the Water Rights Study set forth for each surface diverter in 1969 a percentage of that diverter’s water demand that was considered to be taken under the diverter’s claim of right (“**Allowance**”), concluding that:

- riparian lands are entitled to 30% of the surface water used on them under a claim of right,
- "Use" (as defined on page 14 of the Water Rights Study) lands are entitled to 16% of the surface water used on them under a claim of right and
- appropriators are entitled to the percentage of water used on them as set out for each individual appropriator on page 31 of the Water Rights Study;

WHEREAS, subsequent to the completion and adoption of the Water Rights Study, the Board received additional evidence that in that part of the Calaveras River the riparian entitlement may be somewhat greater than set forth in the Water Rights Study, and that accordingly some landowners in that reach may have a claim to additional rights; and

WHEREAS, based on that information, the Board concluded that the Allowance of some landowners on the Calaveras River were greater than that contained in the Water Rights Study, and modified the Allowance provided to such landowners under the Water Rights Study.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STOCKTON-EAST WATER DISTRICT HEREBY ENACTS AND ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING RULE:

1. All assessments and charges levied for stream-delivered water subsequent to January 1, 1972 shall contain Allowances for independent water rights of each surface water diverter from the Calaveras River that have been recognized by Stockton East as follows:
  - a. The credit entitlement of riparian diverters between the east line of the Escalon-Bellota Road Bridge and the west line of Section 4, Township 2 North, Range 9 East, M.D.B.&M. is 35%.
  - b. The credit entitlement of riparian diverters between the west line of Section 4, Township 2 North, Range 9 East, M.D.B.&M., and the west line of section 35, Township 3 North, Range 9 East, M.D.B. & M. is 40%.
  - c. The credit entitlement of riparian diverters between the west line of Section 35, Township 3 North, Range 9 East, M.D.B.&M. to the San Joaquin-Stanislaus County line is 45%.
  - d. The credit entitlement of a diverter in the areas described in subparagraphs 1 (a), (b), and (c), may be increased by resolution of the Board of Directors on a finding based on reasonable evidence in the judgment of the Board of Directors that such diverter is entitled to additional rights, whether prescriptive, riparian, appropriative, or Use, not taken into account in the Water Rights Study.
2. Effective May 28, 2024, all existing Allowances shall remain in effect, but, except as provided in Section 3, and subject to Section 6, no further credit entitlements will be granted, recalculated or modified.
3. Because the Allowances assigned to riparian lands in the Water Rights Study, Table 7, are based upon water use at the time of the Water Rights Study, Allowances for Riparian Parcels (defined below) may be altered by Stockton East upon sufficient proof. The General Manager of Stockton East is authorized and directed to recalculate the Allowance due to each Riparian Parcel and to calculate the Allowance due to Riparian Parcels not covered by the Water Rights Study, which such calculations become necessary, in the opinion of the General Manager or when directed to do so by this Board. In the event of such a calculation the General Manager shall consider the ratios established by the adjustments made in the Allowances granted to Riparian Parcels in the three areas above Bellota. In addition:
  - a. All parcels that have a riparian right to natural flows in the river, stream, or creek will retain a riparian Allowance in perpetuity or until such time changes in state

law redefine the definition of riparian. The only parcels eligible to receive the riparian Allowances under this Rule are the smallest legal parcel that share a property boundary with a river, stream, or creek (“**Riparian Parcel**”), independent of prior inclusion within the Water Rights Study.

- b. Any parcel contiguous to a Riparian Parcel that does not itself share a property boundary with a river, stream, or creek, is not eligible to receive a riparian Allowance, even if under the same ownership. Landowners may appeal a parcel’s denial of a riparian allowance if acceptable documentation is provided identifying a riparian reservation recorded on the parcel deed as a result of a parcel subdivision.
  - c. Parcels identified within the Water Rights Study as owning an appropriative water right will continue to receive the identified Allowance until such time the appropriative water right is surrendered by the owner or otherwise invalidated by changes in state law.
4. The District reserves the right to modify or abolish any Allowance granted to a diverter pursuant to this Rule, as the Rule is intended to and is granted solely for the purpose of levying a charge for surface water use and is not a determination binding either upon the District or the diverter for any other purpose.
5. Any landowner who has an Allowance recognized by Stockton East in writing or as set forth in this Rule may take water after October 30<sup>th</sup> and prior to the following April 1<sup>st</sup> of any consecutive years without payment and without having such taking applied in satisfaction of such a landowner’s Allowance recognized by Stockton East, provided that any such landowner shall provide to Stockton East written documentation sufficient (in the opinion of the General Manager) to substantiate the actual time of water use.
6. All parcels receiving a non-riparian Allowance (i.e., for Use lands) and/or non-riparian parcels receiving a riparian Allowance as of May 28, 2024, are required to continue using surface water to retain the Allowance. The use of groundwater for three (3) consecutive years, when surface water supplies are available, will constitute a failure to continue using surface water. If surface water is unavailable during the consecutive years of groundwater use, the corresponding number of years will be added to the consecutive years of groundwater use requirement. For example, should surface water be unavailable for two (2) years, groundwater use must occur for five (5) consecutive years to constitute a failure to continue using surface water.
7. This rule succeeds former Rules 10, 15, 21, 23, and 26 of Stockton East, and any question or dispute between an owner and Stockton East over charges or assessments made prior to the effective date of this Rule shall be governed by the appropriate former Rule to the extent that it would have applied prior to the adoption of this Rule.

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**Resolution No. 24-25-03**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS OF STOCKTON EAST WATER  
DISTRICT**

**COMMENDING WOODBRIDGE IRRIGATION DISTRICT IN RECOGNITION  
OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE FROM 1924 TO 2024**

WHEREAS, Woodbridge Irrigation District has diligently served their constituents for one-hundred years;

WHEREAS, Woodbridge Irrigation District was formed in 1924 and has been diverting water from the Mokelumne River and provides water service to the areas of San Joaquin County, west of the City of Lodi and North of the City of Stockton; and

WHEREAS, the work which is governed by five-member Board of Directors has been continued and carried forward over the past one-hundred years; and

WHEREAS, Woodbridge Irrigation District has been an exemplary steward of both pre-and post-1914 surface water rights that bring critical water supplies into the region to support sustaining the groundwater basin; and

WHEREAS, the water supplies efficiently conveyed through a network of water storage and delivery infrastructure are a benefit to its agricultural and municipal clients.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Stockton East Water District Board of Directors and its management do hereby extend best wishes and continued success providing service to its communities, and the region, to the Woodbridge Irrigation District.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting by the Board of Directors of the Stockton East Water District on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024, by the following vote of the members thereof:

- AYES:
- NOES:
- ABSENT:
- ABSTAIN:

**DRAFT**

**DRAFT**

---

Justin M. Hopkins, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Stockton East Water District

---

Richard Atkins, President  
Board of Directors  
Stockton East Water District

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# Memorandum

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Justin M. Hopkins, General Manager  
Juan M. Vega, Assistant General Manager  
Darrel Evensen, District Engineer  
Manuel Verduzco, Senior Engineer  
**Date:** May 28, 2024  
**Re:** Consider Approval of Fujinaka Low-Water Crossing Replacement Project and Filing of CEQA NOE for 30-Day Circulation

---

## **Background**

The Fujinaka Low-Water Crossing Replacement Project (Project) is a collaboration between Stockton East Water District and CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) with the goal of remediating an existing fish passage barrier on the lower Calaveras River system. The existing Fujinaka Crossing, located along the Mormon Slough, has been identified as a barrier to fish passage. The purpose of the Project is to remediate the crossing and improve habitat, natural production, and viability of native fish populations in the lower San Joaquin River watershed. Removal of these barriers and remediation of the crossing would restore passage for Central Valley Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) to high quality habitat in the Calaveras River reaches below New Hogan dam.

The proposed design consists of removing and replacing the existing low-water road crossing with a set of concrete box culverts and regrading the streambed to match the natural channel slope upstream and downstream. The crossing will be constructed at the same location as the existing crossing with the culverts skewed to better align with the existing channel. Wingwalls will be installed at the corners of the crossing at 45-degree angles for stability and improved hydraulics through the structure.

This Project requires California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance.

## **Summary**

It is the determination of District staff that the proposed Project conforms to the description of Class 1 projects under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 since the Project applies to, *“the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use”*. The Project, as proposed, does not substantially expand or change the existing function or purpose of any of the facilities, and therefore the upgrades involve negligible or no expansion of existing uses. As such, the Project would have no significant environmental impacts, is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, and would not meet any of the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines that would make the Categorical Exemption inapplicable.

## **Recommendation**

Staff respectfully recommends the Board approve the Fujinaka Low-Water Crossing Replacement Project and filing of the associated Notice of Exemption.

# Notice of Exemption

# Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk  
County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**From:** (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Address)

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location - Specific:

Project Location - City: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Location - County: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: \_\_\_\_\_

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?    Yes    No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT**

Signed by Lead Agency      Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

| Weekly Water Report                 | As of:<br>May 21, 2024 | As of:<br>May 28, 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>New Hogan (NHG) TOC</b>          | <b>317,100</b>         | <b>AF</b>              |
| Storage:                            | 238,653                | AF                     |
| Net Storage Change:                 | -1,447                 | AF                     |
| Inflow:                             | 69                     | CFS                    |
| Release:                            | 148                    | CFS                    |
| <b>New Melones (NML) Allocation</b> | <b>75,000</b>          | <b>AF</b>              |
| Storage:                            | 2,090,401              | AF                     |
| Net Storage change:                 | +24,122                | AF                     |
| Inflow:                             | 4,809                  | CFS                    |
| Release:                            | 1,875                  | CFS                    |
| <b>Source: CDEC Daily Reports</b>   |                        |                        |

| <b>Goodwin Diversion (GDW)</b>                 |            |     |
|--|------------|-----|
| Inflow (Tulloch Dam):                          | 2,444      | CFS |
| Release to Stanislaus River (S-98):            | 1,348      | CFS |
| Release to OID (JT Main):                      | 754        | CFS |
| Release to SSJID (SO Main):                    | 312        | CFS |
| Release to SEWD:                               | <u>195</u> | CFS |
| Total Release                                  | 2,609      | CFS |
| <b>Source: Tri-Dam Operations Daily Report</b> |            |     |
| <b>Farmington Dam (FRM)</b>                    |            |     |
| Diverted to SEWD:                              | 100        | CFS |
| Diverted to CSJWCD:                            | 135        | CFS |

| <b>Surface Water Used</b>         |    |     |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|
| Irrigators on New Hogan:          | 12 |     |
| Irrigators on New Melones:        | 1  |     |
| Out-Of-District Irrigators:       | 1  |     |
| DJWWTP Production:                | 44 | MGD |
| North Stockton:                   | 9  | MGD |
| South Stockton:                   | 6  | MGD |
| Cal Water:                        | 23 | MGD |
| City of Stockton DWSP Production: | 17 | MGD |

| <b>District Ground Water Extraction</b> |          |     |
|---|----------|-----|
| 74-01                                   | 0        | GPM |
| 74-02                                   | 0        | GPM |
| North                                   | 0        | GPM |
| South                                   | 0        | GPM |
| Extraction Well # 1                     | <u>0</u> | GPM |
| Total Well Water Extraction             | 0        | GPM |
| Total Ground Water Production           | 0        | MGD |

**Note: \*\*The data reported here is available as of 05/19/24**

**\*The data reported here is available as of 05/20/24**

**All other flow data reported here is preliminary, as of 9:00 a.m. on 05/21/24**

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# Ocean Recreational And In-River Salmon Sport Fisheries In California Closed For Second Consecutive Season

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 05/17/24

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) voted unanimously this week to close in-river salmon sport fishing in the Klamath River Basin and Central Valley rivers for the second consecutive year.

As part of its annual process for adjusting seasons and bag limits, the Commission voted to:

- Prohibit the take and possession of Chinook salmon in the Sacramento, American, Feather and Mokelumne rivers and their tributaries.
- Prohibit the take and possession of fall-run Chinook salmon in the Klamath and Trinity rivers and their tributaries.
- Adopt emergency closures of the spring Chinook salmon sport fishing seasons on the Klamath and Trinity rivers and their tributaries.

The regulations are expected to take effect no later than July 1, 2024, following approval by the state Office of Administrative Law.

The in-river closures align with the recommended closure of both commercial and recreational ocean salmon fisheries off the California coast by the Pacific Fishery Management Council due to continued low abundance. Federal fisheries managers have since enacted a full closure of ocean salmon seasons in California. California's ocean salmon sport fishing seasons and regulations automatically conform to federal regulations unless the Commission acts otherwise.

In other action, the Commission took steps to limit the spread and impacts of chronic wasting disease (CWD) on California deer and elk herds. CWD was confirmed in two California deer for the first time earlier this month. The Commission approved additional changes to regulations governing the importation of cervids (hoofed mammals including deer, elk, moose and reindeer) into California and strengthened disease testing requirements to meet with current U.S. Department of Agriculture standards.

Lastly, the Commission approved regulation changes regarding issuing special hunt permits and drawings. The changes will allow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to administer and offer the hunts through CDFW's Automated License Data System (ALDS), ensuring fair and equitable distribution of available permits and reducing barriers to entry into the draw process.

Commission President Samantha Murray along with commissioners Eric Sklar, Darius Anderson and Jacque Hostler-Carmesin participated virtually in the May 15 teleconference meeting. Commission Vice President Erika Zavaleta did not attend.

The meeting agenda, along with supporting documents and background information, is available on the Commission website (opens in new tab). Archived video of past Commission meetings(opens in new tab) is available online. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 19-20, 2024, in Mammoth Lakes and via Zoom and phone. An exact location will be determined and updated on the Commission's website soon.

# Analysis: Benefits Of The Delta Conveyance Project Far Exceed Costs

California Department of Water Resources, 05/22/24

Today, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a benefit-cost analysis for the Delta Conveyance Project that finds the infrastructure modernization project would create billions of dollars in benefits for California communities, including reliable water supplies, climate change adaptation, earthquake preparedness and improved water quality.

For every \$1 spent, \$2.20 in benefits would be generated. The report also shows the very real cost of doing nothing, posing significant future challenges to supplying water to California communities.

“The Delta Conveyance Project passes the benefit-cost test readily, with benefits that are more than double the cost,” said Dr. David Sunding, Emeritus Professor, UC Berkeley, who led the benefit-cost analysis. “The project enables ongoing demands to be satisfied and water supply reliability to be maintained,” he said, adding “the benefits clearly justify the costs.”

As climate change and regulatory constraints cause water supplies to diminish over time, the reliability of the State Water Project infrastructure is in jeopardy, putting 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland at risk. This new benefit-cost analysis provides a compelling financial rationale for the public water agencies funding the project to be able continue to provide affordable, safe, clean and reliable water supply.

“Twenty-seven million people rely on these surface water supplies that support a \$2.3 trillion economy in California.” said Karla Nemeth, Director of the California Department of Water Resources. “There is a very real cost to do nothing. It is vastly more efficient and economical to avoid declining supplies. Water shortages, mandatory restrictions, land following and job loss all impact our state and local economies.

## **MORE WATER SUPPLY**

The need for operational flexibility that the Delta Conveyance Project would grant water managers is especially notable this year. Even though it was a wet winter, fishery-related regulations significantly constrained water exports from the south Delta. If the Delta Conveyance Project had been available, an additional 909,000 acre-feet of water could have been moved from the intakes in the north Delta where it is safer for fish. The Delta Conveyance Project helps resolve these difficult conflicts in the south Delta.

## **COSTS REMAIN FLAT, DESIGN Innovations CAN SAVE ANOTHER \$1.2B**

An updated cost estimate was prepared by the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA). The cost of the project is estimated to be \$20.1B in real 2023 (undiscounted) dollars. A preliminary cost assessment conducted in 2020, early in the design process, showed the project would cost about \$16B. Accounting for inflation

to 2023 dollars shows that the two estimates are similar in cost. Even as details are added and refinements made to the program, costs are holding steady.

The DCA is the joint powers authority that, under DWR's direction, is responsible for project design and engineering and will oversee construction. The DCA is a public agency comprised of the local public water agencies participating in the project.

"Our member agencies are paying for this project, and they have a fiduciary responsibility to their ratepayers to ensure the project is built on time and budget with the highest industry standards for safety, quality and risk management," said Graham Bradner, executive director of the DCA.

The DCA conducted a preliminary value engineering exercise to identify design and construction innovations that present opportunities to cut costs, save time, and reduce risks. These engineering innovations, while not representing changes to the approved project description, do show that there is genuine potential for a significant cost reduction of about \$1.2 billion even at this early stage of project development.

Some examples of the DCA's recommended design and construction innovations include:

- Optimize the Bethany Reservoir Pumping Plant belowground configuration to reduce construction effort and house the pumping plant equipment and piping more efficiently.
- Consider the latest tunnel boring machine technology that allows excavation and lining installation to happen concurrently.
- Raise the elevation of the intake screens to create more separation from the river bottom, improving O&M and reducing the depth of the intake structure.

### **\$200 Million Set Aside for Local Delta Community Projects**

A number that is new and noteworthy is the \$200 million set-aside for the project's Community Benefits Program. DWR committed to this program by including it in the project's environmental impact report, and this is the first time identifying a dollar value.

"We are committed to bringing substantial and tangible benefits to the communities in the project area that will see the most impacts from construction," said Carrie Buckman, DWR's Environmental Program Manager for the Delta Conveyance Project.

The Community Benefits Program is a recognition that while the benefits of the project are in other parts of California, the construction effects are local. While DWR remains committed to all mitigation adopted to address local environmental impacts, the Community Benefits Program will provide a grant fund for local projects, in addition to business development set-asides for job training and local business utilization, and potential "leave-behinds" like broadband or other infrastructure.

"The Community Benefits Program is going to pick up steam," Buckman said. "We would like to work with communities to identify their priority projects and earmark those funds." Later this year, a draft implementation plan will be published for community review and input. It will include details about funding criteria and program administration.

## **Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$81 Million From President's Investing In America Agenda For Drought Resilience In San Joaquin Valley**

U.S Bureau of Reclamation, 05/22/24

The Department of the Interior today announced \$81 million from President Biden's Investing in America agenda for water conservation and drought resilience south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Acting Deputy Secretary Laura Daniel-Davis, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Sarah Krakoff, and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton joined federal and state leaders and Central Valley Project water agencies today at the Stewart Lee Udall building to announce the funding and sign a Memorandum of Understanding outlining a new long-term drought plan for the region.

Funding for today's announcement comes from the Inflation Reduction Act – the largest climate investment in history – which includes \$500 million for conservation efforts along with ecosystem and habitat restoration for basins outside the Colorado River Basin experiencing similar levels of long-term drought. The Biden-Harris administration has already invested \$428 million in the San Joaquin Valley from the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

For several decades, the Central Valley Project has served the communities and economies of central California. The project, extending 400 miles, is a complex, multi-purpose network of dams, reservoirs, canals, hydroelectric powerplants and other facilities, which reduces flood risk for the Central Valley and supplies domestic and industrial water supplies across the region. The project supports about 2.5 million people a year, providing supplies to 250 contractors in 29 of California's 58 counties.

"Water resources in the San Joaquin Valley support food production and agricultural output across California, deliver water to urban centers in the greater Sacramento and San Francisco Bay areas, and support fish and wildlife throughout the region. When we invest in the San Joaquin Valley, we invest in people, in wildlife, in economies and in our future," said Acting Deputy Secretary Laura Daniel-Davis. "These resources from President Biden's Investing in America agenda, paired with historic collaboration amongst water agencies in the region, will help build resilient communities and protect our water supplies for people and the natural environment."

The Memorandum of Understanding commemorated today between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Valley Project South-of-Delta contractors – including the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority and Friant Water Authority – identifies a framework, long-term drought

plan, and a 2024 Pilot Program, including a “drought pool,” to build drought resiliency in the region.

“Access to clean and reliable water is essential for feeding families, growing crops, sustaining wildlife and the environment, and powering agricultural businesses. It also creates incredible potential for economic opportunity and job creation,” said Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Sarah Krakoff. “This new drought plan will help provide critical water supplies to refuges and cities, save permanent crops from being fallowed in drought years, and keep water in the San Joaquin River in the worst of drought years.”

“Today's announcement reaffirms our commitment to building more resilient communities from the impacts of drought and climate change in the basins in which we operate, and including in the California Central Valley,” said Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton. “This funding from the Inflation Reduction Act demonstrates the Biden-Harris administration’s investments South of Delta to implement projects that will safeguard our water supplies and restore the San Joaquin River ecosystem for future generations.”

Central Valley Project water deliveries south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are dependent on Reclamation’s ability to pump water from the Delta, San Luis Reservoir water storage, and conveyance through Central Valley Project canals. Seasonal shifts in water availability and worsening droughts impact operational flexibility and increase regulatory uncertainty.

Through the new drought plan, Central Valley Project South-of-Delta contractors will share a portion of their wet water year supplies for use in driest years. This will help provide critical water supplies to refuges and cities, save permanent crops from being fallowed in drought years, and keep water in the San Joaquin River in the worst of drought years.

The plan provides major benefits both to farmers and to salmon in the San Joaquin, California’s second longest river. The river restoration program has junior water rights and is vulnerable to severe water cutbacks in the driest of years. The creation of a “drought pool” of additional water supplies in these driest of years will help ensure that there is water for the salmon when they most need it.

To realize the benefits of the drought plan, the contractors, in collaboration with Reclamation, have identified a number of critical infrastructure projects that are key to successful implementation. The \$81 million investment from the Inflation Reduction Act announced today will help fund a majority of the projects. The funding will also help to establish additional aquifer storage, recharge and recovery wells, re-operations of existing surface storage, and conveyance capacity expansion.



## SAN JOAQUIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

MEETING TODAY'S CHALLENGES / PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

Subject: Support for the Stockton East Water District Clements Pipeline In-Lieu Recharge Project

On behalf of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau, I would like to express our support for the Stockton East Water District (SEWD) Clements Pipeline In-Lieu Recharge Project (Project).

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau is our counties oldest and largest general agriculture organization, representing nearly 1,400 members. We are deeply involved in the protection of groundwater supplies throughout the county and work closely with the Stockton East Water District on a number of issues.

The Project, a continuation of the Water Supply Enhancement Project (WSEP), is a proposal by SEWD to install a pipeline to distribute surface water to 11 farmers that currently only have access to groundwater.

The proposed Project would generate multiple benefits. Completion of the project will:

- **Improve groundwater sustainability** by providing 1,200 acre feet per year of in-lieu recharge;
- **Improve on-farm energy efficiency** by providing surface water to 11 different agricultural properties, less energy is required compared to pumping groundwater.
- **More resilient water delivery** to urban customers in drought years by providing surface water in addition to groundwater for conjunctive use on approximately 432 acres of ag land.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for SEWD's Project. We strongly urge your thoughtful consideration of the Project. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew Genasci".

Andrew Genasci

Executive Director, San Joaquin Farm Bureau

[andrew@sjfb.org](mailto:andrew@sjfb.org)

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Date: 05/28/24

**THE CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

*"67,000 acres of diversified family farms in San Joaquin County, California"*  
**11 S. San Joaquin St., Ste. 306, Stockton, California 95202**  
**(209) 466-7952 • FAX 466-7953**

**DIRECTORS**  
EUGENE CAFFESE  
TONY CHIAPPE  
RICHARD WAGNER  
GRANT THOMPSON  
RICHARD VELDSTRA

**COUNSEL**  
REID W. ROBERTS

May 21, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSMART Grants

**RE: Support for the Stockton East Water District Clements Pipeline In-Lieu Recharge Project**

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

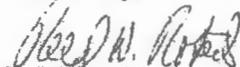
On behalf of Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District, I would like to express our support for the Stockton East Water District (SEWD) Clements Pipeline In-Lieu Recharge Project (Project). The Project, a continuation of the Water Supply Enhancement Project (WSEP), is a proposal by SEWD to install a pipeline to distribute surface water to 11 farmers that currently only have access to groundwater.

The proposed Project would generate multiple benefits. Completion of the project will:

- **Improve groundwater sustainability** by providing 1,200 acre feet per year of in-lieu recharge;
- **Improve on-farm energy efficiency** by providing surface water to 11 different agricultural properties, less energy is required compared to pumping groundwater.
- **More resilient water delivery** to urban customers in drought years by providing surface water in addition to groundwater for conjunctive use on approximately 432 acres of ag land.

We strongly urge your thoughtful consideration of the Project.

Sincerely,



Reid W. Roberts, Secretary  
Central San Joaquin Water  
Conservation District

CC: SEWD

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## CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE

Stockton District 1505 East Sonora Street  
Stockton, CA 95205 Tel: (209) 547-7900

May 22, 2024

### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

California Water Service  
Stockton District  
1505 East Sonora Street  
Stockton, CA 95205

### **RE: Support for the Stockton East Water District Clements Pipeline In-Lieu Recharge Project**

On behalf of California Water Service (Cal Water), I would like to express our support for the Stockton East Water District (SEWD) Clements Pipeline In-Lieu Recharge Project (Project).

The Project, a continuation of the Water Supply Enhancement Project (WSEP), is a proposal by SEWD to install a pipeline to distribute surface water to 11 farmers that currently only have access to groundwater.

The proposed Project would generate multiple benefits. Completion of the project will:

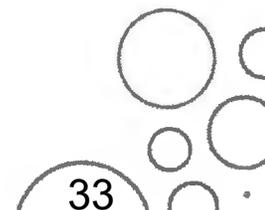
- **Improve groundwater sustainability** by providing 1,200 acre feet per year of in-lieu recharge;
- **Improve on-farm energy efficiency** by providing surface water to 11 different agricultural properties, as less energy is required compared to pumping groundwater.
- **Provide more resilient water delivery** to urban customers in drought years by providing surface water in addition to groundwater for conjunctive use on approximately 432 acres of agricultural land.

Cal Water is in support of projects that provide additional recharge benefit to the groundwater basin, and that help promote groundwater basin sustainability. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for SEWD's Project, and we encourage your consideration of this Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Carrasco".

Anthony Carrasco  
Interim District Manager – Stockton District



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# INVITATION TO LEARN

## ABOUT THE MOKELUMNE INTEGRATED CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM (MICUP)

MICUP Project  
Coordinating Committee

On behalf of the MICUP Project Coordinating Committee, you are invited to an in-person informational meeting:

**Date:** June 3, 2024  
**Time:** 9:00 am-10:30 am  
**Location:** San Joaquin Council of Governments  
555 E Weber Ave, Stockton

Informational  
Meeting



NSJWCD



STOCKTON  
EAST WATER  
DISTRICT



*The **Mokelumne Integrated Conjunctive Use Program (MICUP)** is a regional effort to prioritize basin-wide water reliability through local and multi-jurisdictional projects to secure additional water supplies for San Joaquin County agencies.*

MICUP seeks a State Water Resources Control Board Water Rights Permit to utilize available Mokelumne River water during wet years to divert and store as groundwater for beneficial use in dry years. Successful implementation of MICUP will result in benefits including:

- 💧 **Water Reliability for Municipal and Industrial Use:** Our inter-dependent communities and industry will be able to use existing water infrastructure to reliably access locally managed watersheds.
- 💧 **Improved Surface Water Management and Groundwater Sustainability:** Excess Mokelumne River water will be diverted for direct irrigation and groundwater basin recharge for use in dry years with potential watershed and ecosystem health benefits.
- 💧 **Support for the Agricultural Economy:** A supplemental water supply for our local and regional agricultural economy will benefit from improved reliability of both surface water and groundwater.
- 💧 **Assess Potential for Flood Risk Reduction:** MICUP projects that utilize excess Mokelumne River flows downstream of Camanche will be assessed to potentially reduce flooding impacts on orchards, farm structures, roads, residential areas, and commercial developments.

We look forward to discussing MICUP and any questions you may have about its potential benefits and impacts.

In the meantime, if you would like additional information, or to schedule a presentation about MICUP specifically for your organization, please contact Ellen Cross, MICUP Facilitator, at 1-510-316-9657 or [ecross@rinconconsultants.com](mailto:ecross@rinconconsultants.com). For planning purposes, **please accept or decline** this meeting invitation.

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