

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, JULY 13, 2021 AT 12:30 P.M.

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

President Watkins called the regular meeting to order at 12:29 p.m. and Legal Counsel Zolezzi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at roll call at the District were Directors Atkins, Cortopassi, McGaughey, McGurk, Panizza, Sanguinetti and Watkins. Also present were Assistant Manager Hopkins, Finance Director Vega, Administrative Services Manager Carido, Legal Counsel Zolezzi and Consultant Barkett. Manager Moody was absent.

**B. CONSENT CALENDAR** (None)

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT** (None)

**D. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Minutes 07/06/21 Regular Meeting

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the July 6, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

2. Warrants – California Public Employees’ Retirement System

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the July 13, 2021 Warrants, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

3. Stockton East Water District – Vegetation Issues Update Memo, 07/13/2021

Assistant Manager Hopkins presented information to the Board on the vegetation issues. Assistant Manager Hopkins reported 3-weeks ago staff presented issues with vegetation in the lower Farmington canal; and the Board directed staff to inquire if Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) have the same issues, and what they use. Assistant Manager Hopkins reported staff has consulted with OID and SSJID, State Water Resource Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and UPL Aquatics (UPL). While reaching out to consult, staff rented a long reach excavator and cleaned up ~13,500 feet of canal that had the worst vegetation. Director Atkins inquired if the vegetation is deteriorating from the removal. Assistant Manager Hopkins replied yes.

Assistant Manager Hopkins reported both OID and SSJID apply the product Magnacide H which is very effective and very dangerous; and, are not applied upstream from the treatment plant. UPL recommended products are Cascade and Teton, and the District will continue working with UPL and DDW to decide what aquatic herbicide could be used. DDW did recommend mechanical cleaning and to avoid using chemicals all together. Director McGurk inquired on Magnacide H and how dangerous it is. Assistant Manager Hopkins replied very dangerous to people, the hazard level is equivalent to gas chlorine. President Watkins added it was safe for the crops. Assistant Manager Hopkins reported staff has also reached out to the Department of Parks and Recreation – Division of Boating and Waterways to participate in their program to treat invasive species in an effort to treat the vegetation issues in the New Hogan system. Director McGurk inquired if our canals fall within their jurisdiction. Assistant Manager Hopkins replied our canals do not but the New Hogan system will. Director Sanguinetti commented that OID and SSJID quit mechanical cleaning because of costs. Assistant Manager Hopkins replied SSJID continues to do chaining but OID discontinued a few years ago due to labor demands and the amount of debris generated. Director Panizza inquired on OID’s status now if they are not chaining. Assistant Manager Hopkins replied they are applying Magnicide H downstream of the lateral to Knights Ferry Community Service Treatment Plant and SSJID applies downstream of Woodward Reservoir.

Director Atkins inquired on the vegetation problem this year. Assistant Manager Hopkins replied we have always had aquatics but this year it is exceptionally aggressive because of the early heat which led to growth that took over the canal early. Director Atkins inquired on the growth rate. UPL advised the application scheduled depends, and will be determined by trial and error. President Watkins commented that the mechanical cleaning and removal of the screen gates at the siphons have caused the water levels to come up and things have gotten better, according to the reports from the growers. President Watkins commented on the staff recommendation to add to the budget process for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 to purchase an excavator and an additional trash bucket. Discussion followed regarding the maintenance budget of \$195,000 for the whole New Melones system. Director McGurk inquired on staff recommendation for an excavator purchase. President Watkins replied that item will be part of the budget discussions for the next Fiscal Year which is FY 2022-2023.

Director Panizza inquired on staff recommendation for purchase of an Aquatic Vegetation Rake (AVR) in the amount of \$30,000 from the New Melones General Maintenance Budget of \$195,000, and if any of this Budget is committed to labor costs. Assistant Manager Hopkins replied the labor is assumed in a different part of the Budget, but the excavator rental costs are expensed to this Budget. President Watkins inquired if all excavators have universal pins or if are they different. Director Sanguinetti replied it depends on the excavator size.

President Watkins recommended staff look into universal excavator mounting and bring the purchase back to the Board. Director Cortopassi commented on the Budget of \$195,000 that started April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, stated that the County currently has an excavator and recommended staff inquire with the County if they would sell or let the District take over their lease as an option.

## **E. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Ad-Hoc Meeting with Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District, 07/08/21  
Directors McGurk, Panizza and Sanguinetti, Manager Moody and Assistant Manager Hopkins attended the July 8, 2021 Ad-Hoc Meeting with Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District. Director McGurk reported there was 100% attendance from both Districts and the Committee

discussed the status of Stockton East Water District's Rate Cap Legislation and the plans to accomplish consolidating. Director McGurk reported on the Terms and Conditions for the Consolidation regarding two Central Directors not authorized to vote and abstaining from voting on any items exclusive to the Municipal Division, noting a comment was made on the inverse, M&I not voting on items. Director McGurk reported Manager Moody will be working with staff to put together a Budget and the Committee would like to schedule another meeting in a month.

2. Stockton East Water District Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting – Bellota Project, 07/09/21  
Directors Atkins, Cortopassi, Sanguinetti, Assistant Manager Hopkins, and District Engineer Evensen attended the July 9, 2021 Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Bellota Project. Director Cortopassi reported a presentation was given by Elizabeth Schlegel of Kjeldsen, Sinnock, Neudeck (KSN) and Joy Terry of HDR. The presentation was on 35% Project design and was understandable, well presented and addressed a lot of engineering aspects of the Project such as the construction time of 2-years, and start-stopping of construction. Assistant Manager Hopkins added the Committee reviewed the engineering design report language for any further edits, and the Committee also discussed using lobbyists for funding of the Project.

Director Sanguinetti reported the Consultants knew the Project, knew the answers and really studied the design and that was good. The Committee discussed concerns during irrigation season and how to maneuver the water during construction so the irrigators would have water supply during irrigation season; Project contingency and issues during bad weather. Director Sanguinetti commented on needing a Lobbyist to work specifically on this Project to secure funding because the Project expense could be \$60 Million. Assistant Manager Hopkins reported staff, KSN, HDR and fish agencies are meeting next week, the next step is 65% Project Design which is a few months out.

Director Atkins commented it was a very nice presentation that had pictures of elevation of the water and how the dams work. The Committee suggests one change of raising a wall and having one bay for the dams instead of three. Director Cortopassi reported the changes from the fisheries included moving the coffer dam on the (old) Calaveras River further up and moving the roughened channel more to the north side of the River.

Director McGurk inquired if the fish agencies are integrating information from FishBIO. Assistant Manager Hopkins replied FishBIO has been playing an active role in the design process. Director Sanguinetti added the Consultant firms have deal with how to do the Project, FishBIO provides input on the fish. President Watkins reported the Committee also identified potential changes in the pilings if an earthquake event were to happen, and the Consultants have yet to determine how much more that will add to the Project.

3. San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition Meeting, 07/12/21  
This meeting was cancelled.

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

1. Water Supply Report as of 07/05/21  
Assistant 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 119,290 AF in storage at New Hogan Reservoir. Current releases are set at 197 cfs. Current release at Goodwin Dam to Stanislaus River are set at 1,506 cfs and release to all water users are set at 230 cfs. There are 12 irrigator(s) on New Hogan, 3 irrigator(s) on New Melones and 1 Out-of-District irrigator. The water treatment plant is currently processing 33 mgd. The City of Stockton is currently processing 22 mgd.

2. Information Items:

Manager Moody noted items: F2a-1 and F2a-2.

3. Report on General Manager Activities

a. San Joaquin County Agricultural Drought Task Force Kick-off Meeting, 06/30/21

Assistant Manager Hopkins attended the June 30, 2021 San Joaquin County Agricultural Drought Task Force Kick-off Meeting. Assistant Manager Hopkins reported most raw water agencies have not seen too many impacts from drought, South San Joaquin Irrigation District has a 5% reduction for their urban customers and several cities have reported moving into stages 2 and 3 of their conservation plans. The Task Force will reconvene in September.

b. ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting, 07/09/21

Administrative Services Manager Carido attended the July 9, 2021 ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting. Administrative Services Manager Carido reported there were ~7 bills in the packet, 3 in favor and 4 in watch status and AB 361 – Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences (favor) is a CSDA sponsored bill and continues suspension of the Brown Act’s teleconferencing requirements. Staff is assessing how the rest of the year goes before making changes to the Brown Act. Cindy Tuck, ACWA Deputy Executive Director for Government Relations reported out on Dave Eggerton’s behalf as he was on vacation, and gave a brief update on Executive Order N-10-21 recently signed by the Governor, calling for all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15% and a DC Update on the Headwaters Working Group efforts for \$10 billion for wildfire related items. Administrative Services Manager Carido reported the Legislature will be recessing Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> through August 16<sup>th</sup> and the Committee may be meeting in hybrid format for the Committee’s annual planning meeting scheduled in October. The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2021.

c. Stockton East Water District Activities Update

Assistant Manager Hopkins inquired on the Ad-Hoc Committee for the Solids Handling Project. President Watkins advised on assigning Committee members and directed staff to reach out and schedule a meeting once assigned.

Assistant Manager Hopkins gave an update to the Board on the District partnering with SAJAFCA for their improvement project consisting of the District volunteering to develop and provide SAJAFCA with borrowed materials from the western side of the District property. Assistant Manager Hopkins received a call last week that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) would be out to collect borings, however the District’s tenant is in the process of planting crops. Assistant Manager Hopkins reported SAJAFCA needs ~1.2 million cubic yards of dirt. Legal Counsel Zolezzi inquired on how much space is needed for testing. Assistant Manager Hopkins reported the USACE wants to put in 18 borings and 8 test pits. Discussion followed. President Watkins advised on getting back to them with an answer. Assistant Manager Hopkins advised he is meeting with the USACE and the tenant tomorrow to look at the site.

**G. DIRECTOR REPORTS** (None)

**H. COMMUNICATIONS** (None)

**I. AGENDA PLANNING/UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m., 07/14/21
2. Central Valley Project Water Association – Executive & Financial Affairs Committee, 10:00 a.m., 07/16/21

**J. REPORT OF THE COUNSEL**

1. Closed Session - Potential Litigation  
Government Code 54956.9 (c) – one case

President Watkins adjourned the meeting to closed session at 1:16 p.m. to discuss closed session agenda items. The regular meeting reconvened at 2:07 p.m., with no reportable action.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Watkins adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scot A. Moody  
Secretary of the Board

kmc

