

THE 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, MARCH 3, 2026, AT 12:30 P.M.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

President McGurk called the regular meeting to order at 12:30 p.m., Assistant Manager Vega led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at roll call at the District were Directors Atkins, Hansen, McGurk, Nakaue, Panizza, Sanguinetti and Watkins. Also present were Manager Hopkins, Assistant Manager Vega, Director of Finance and Administration Ram, Water Operations Manager Wunderlich, Maintenance & Construction Manager Higaes, Procurement Specialist Cahoon, Water Supply Supervisor Bonnesen, Administrative Assistant Rodriguez, Legal Counsel Zolezzi and Consultant Barkett.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR (None)

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS AND AGENDA ITEM

1. Minutes 02/17/26 Regular Board Meeting

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Hansen, 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 89 – Fish Passage Improvement Fund
- e. Fund 91 – Vehicle Fund
- f. Fund 94 – Municipal & Industrial Fund
- g. Summary
- h. Short Names/Acronym List
- i. SEWD Vehicles & Heavy Equipment

Director Atkins and Director McGurk inquired about the expenses and staff provided responses to questions.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the March 3, 2026, Warrants, as amended.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None
Absent: None

3. Warrants – California’s Public Employee’s Retirement System

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the California’s Public Employee’s Retirement System, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

4. Stockton East Water District – Staff Report – Consider Approval of Implementation of District - Wide Salary Survey Adjustments and Associated Budget Amendments

Manager Hopkins provided the Board with a staff report to Consider Approval of Implementation of District -Wide Salary Survey Adjustments and Associated Budget Amendments. Manager Hopkins reported in alignment with the District’s MOU; a salary survey is conducted every three years to ensure employee compensation remains competitive with regional public agencies.

Shellie Anderson from Bryce Consulting provided the Board with a presentation on the 2026 Salary Survey. Ms. Anderson provided an overview of the compensation study process, including the comparable agencies selected, the data collected, the classifications reviewed, and the resulting findings. The data collection included salary and benefit information as well as job descriptions, which were analyzed to ensure appropriate comparisons based on organizational level, such as supervisor and journey-level positions. Required certifications and education were also considered to ensure accurate and equitable comparisons. Ms. Anderson explained the purpose of the study is to determine the compensation an employee could expect to receive for performing the same job at another agency and to evaluate whether the District’s compensation is consistent with those agencies. Ms. Anderson defined several compensation components used in the comparison. The base comparison evaluated the maximum salary of the range against the labor market mean and median at the maximum step, as well as the percentage above or below the market. Total cash compensation was calculated by combining the maximum salary with the employer-paid employee share of retirement for the classic tier, employer contributions to deferred compensation, longevity pay at year ten, and any education or certification pay. Total compensation was defined as total cash compensation plus the value of employer-paid benefits, including health, dental, vision, life, and long-term disability insurance, as well as Employee Assistance Program benefits.

Additionally, under Section 6 of Ordinance 13, dated June 27, 2023, the Board is responsible for determining annually, whether to approve a 5% increase in per diem compensation before April 1 each year.

A motion was moved and seconded to accept 2026 Salary Survey from Bryce Consulting, approve implementation of the 2026 Salary Survey adjustments as recommended by Bryce Consulting effective April 1, 2026, and authorize the budget amendments shown in Table 3, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

5. Stockton East Water District – Staff Report Consider Approval of Tree Clearing for the Clements Pipeline & Reservoir Property
Manager Hopkins presented a staff report to the Board for consideration of approval for tree clearing at the Clements Pipeline & Reservoir Property. Assistant Manager Vega reported that District staff solicited three quotes and received two for clearing trees around the pond areas on the Marciano property. The quotes were submitted by Larry’s Tree Care Inc. and Jesse the Tree Guy Inc., with Jesse the Tree Guy Inc. providing the lowest bid at \$132,000 for both the East and West properties. Assistant Manager Vega reviewed the staff report, and staff responded to questions from the Board.

No action was taken, and the staff report will be brought back for approval at a future Regular Board Meeting.

6. Stockton East Water District – Staff Report – Consider Approval of a Professional Service Agreement for Design of Old Calaveras River and Stockton Diverting Canal Confluence Fish Barrier
Manager Hopkins provided the Board with a staff report to Consider Approval of a Professional Service Agreement for Design of Old Calaveras River and Stockton Diverting Canal Confluence Fish Barrier. Assistant Manager Vega reported the District is advancing this HCP-required project under the 2023 Strategic Plan to improve water supply resiliency and protect existing water rights. Assistant Manager Vega reviewed the staff report, and staff responded to questions from the Board

No action was taken, and the staff report will be brought back for approval at a future Regular Board Meeting.

7. Stockton East Water District – Staff Report – Consider a Professional Services Agreement for Design of Mormon Slough Railroad Bridge Fish Passage Project
Manager Hopkins presented the Board with a staff report to Consider a Professional Services Agreement for Design of Mormon Slough Railroad Bridge Fish Passage Project. Assistant Manager Vega reported the Mormon Slough Railroad Crossing Fish Passage Project supports the Stockton East Water District’s 2023 Strategic Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan by addressing a fish passage barrier at the existing Mormon Slough bridge structure that supports the District’s 60-inch Peters Pipeline. Assistant Manager Vega reviewed the staff report, and staff responded to questions from the Board.

A motion was moved and seconded to authorize the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with HDR for \$488,382 plus a 10% contingency of \$48,838, for a total Board approval of \$537,220, and make all other necessary approvals as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Hansen, McGurk, Nakauae, Panizza
Nayes: Sanguinetti, Watkins
Abstain: None
Absent: None

8. Stockton East Water District – Staff Report – Consider Approval of a Business Consultant Agreement for Anthony Barkett and a Professional Services Agreement for The Gualco Group
Manager Hopkins provided the Board with a staff report to Consider Approval of a Business Consultant Agreement for Anthony Barkett and a Professional Services Agreement for The Gualco Group. Manager Hopkins reported Stockton East Water District (District) utilizes professional consulting services to support its strategic objectives, regulatory engagement efforts and advocacy

priorities at the local, state and federal level. Manager Hopkins reviewed the staff report, and staff responded to questions from the Board.

A motion was moved and seconded to authorize the General Manager to enter into a Business Consultant Agreement with Anthony Barkett for an annual amount of \$66,000, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

A motion was moved and seconded to authorize the General Manager to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with The Gualco Group, Inc., for an annual amount of \$78,000, plus up for four one-year extensions, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Agriculture Operations Committee Meeting, 02/18/26
Directors Atkins, Nakaue, Hansen, Manager Hopkins, Assistant Manager Vega and Director of Finance & Administration Ram attended the Agriculture Operations Committee Meeting. Director Atkins reported Brian Bass from Raftelis provided the committee with a presentation of the Water Rate Study. Director Atkins stated that the committee recommended several revisions to the report. Raftelis will incorporate those changes and return with an updated version for further committee review.
2. Municipal Operations Committee Meeting, 02/18/26
Directors McGurk, Panizza, Nakaue, Manager Hopkins, Assistant Manager Vega and District Engineer Evensen attended the Municipal Operations Committee Meeting. Director McGurk reported Brian Bass from Raftelis provided the committee with a presentation of the Water Rate Study. The committee also discussed Design of Old Calaveras River and Stockton Diverting Canal Confluence Fish Barrier and Design of Mormon Slough Railroad Bridge Fish Passage Project.
3. San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation Monthly Water Committee Meeting, 02/18/26
Water Supply Manager Donis attended the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation Monthly Water Committee Meeting.

F. REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

1. Water Supply Report as of 02/17/26
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 207,037 AF in storage at New Hogan Reservoir. Current releases are set at 248 cfs. There is 1,845,328 AF in storage at New Melones Reservoir. Current releases are set at 34 cfs. The current release at Goodwin Dam to Stanislaus River is set at 137 cfs and release to all water users is set at 326 cfs. The District Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is currently processing 28 mgd. The City of

Stockton WTP is currently processing 11 mgd. The District groundwater production is currently 5 mgd.

2. Information Items: F-2a and F-2b

3. Report on General Manager Activities

a. ACWA Regional Briefing on New ACWA Initiatives – Regions 2, 3 & 4, 02/17/26

Manager Hopkins attended the ACWA Regional Briefing on New ACWA Initiatives – Regions 2, 3 & 4. Manager Hopkins reported he attended several meetings, which primarily consisted of discussions and member feedback sessions with ACWA staff and member agencies to identify issues and priorities important at the District level.

b. Surface Transportation Reauthorization Roundtable, 02/18/26

Manager Hopkins attended the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Roundtable. Manager Hopkins reported on behalf of the U.S. Chamber/Stockton Chamber, a roundtable with Congressman Harder was held focusing on transportation, with additional discussion on energy. Attendees included representatives from the Port of Stockton, the City of Stockton, local trade organizations, the Builders Exchange, and San Joaquin Partnership.

c. Stockton East Water District Activities Update

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with the February Employee Spotlight, which featured Administrative Clerk Emily Mason and Water Supply Operator Justin Scheffel. Manager Hopkins reported the Employee Spotlight has been posted on the District's website and LinkedIn.

Manager Hopkins reported he will work with the Board President to form an ad hoc committee to review the draft MOU. A new MOU is required by the end of the month, and meeting dates will be coordinated accordingly.

Manager Hopkins reported annual carbon replacement for treatment plant filters is wrapping up; contractor is on site adding carbon back into filters.

Manager Hopkins reported that Senator McNerney declined to submit a funding request for the District due to competing priorities and the request not being ranked as a high enough priority.

Manager Hopkins reported he received an invitation to provide testimony before the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee regarding temporary floodwater diversion permits. The District has obtained these permits for approximately three years.

Manager Hopkins provided the Board with the 03/23/26 equipment use.

4. Stockton East Water District Water Supply Update

Water Supply Supervisor Bonnesen provided the Board with a Water Supply update. Water Supply Supervisor Bonnesen reported New Melones year to date release is 1,670AF, New Hogan flood release is 35,859AF and year to date release 88,530AF. Water Supply Supervisor Bonnesen reported 15 well average are down 7ft and the total Water Treatment Plant percolation is 9,277AF.

G. DIRECTOR REPORTS

1. ACWA Region 4 Board Meeting and Orientation, 02/18/26
Director Watkins attended the ACWA Region 4 Board Meeting and Orientation. Director Watkins reported ACWA planning efforts were discussed, including engagement with candidates for the next gubernatorial election, potential appointees, and other state offices, as well as interest in hiring a public relations firm to help present a unified voice among member agencies. Region 4 reported a checking account balance of \$1,109 and will be responsible for hosting the Spring 2027 forum at the conference. A board vacancy was filled by Vince Lucchesi of Patterson Irrigation District from a pool of three applicants. Dave Weisenberg and Jay Boatwright were appointed as alternates for the Chair and Vice Chair positions, and a review of committees found no vacancies. Additionally, a Region 4 tour of Putah Creek with a salmon-related component is planned for November 4, 2026.
2. ACWA DC 2026 Conference, 02/24/26 – 02/26/26
Directors Atkins, Watkins and Manager Hopkins attended the ACWA DC 2026 Conference. Director Atkins reported they met with Congressman Josh Harder, Senator Padilla, EPA, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and staff from Senator Adm Schiff's office. Director Atkins reported the Bureau is currently understaffed; ACWA DC staff support was described as providing guidance on whom and where to speak, with staff available to assist during meetings. An earlier lobbying trip organized by The Gualco Group in September 2025 included coordination with ACWA DC staff, resulting in two highly productive meetings. Dave Reynolds was noted as retired, with Ian Lyle identified as the lead, supported by a highly capable staff.

H. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Oakdale Irrigation District & South San Joaquin Irrigation District – Appreciation Letter, 02/05/26
Manager Hopkins presented the Board with a letter from Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

I. AGENDA PLANNING/UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Eastern Water Alliance Quarterly Meeting, 10:00 a.m., 03/05/26
This meeting has been cancelled
2. Pacific Southwest Irrigation 19th Annual Open House & Exhibition, 11:30 a.m., 03/05/26
3. Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce – March Circus Tradeshow Monthly Mixer, 5:15 p.m., 03/05/25
4. ACWA Legislative Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., 03/06/26
5. Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Ad-Hoc Meeting, 9:00 a.m., 03/09/26
6. San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition Steering Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m., 03/09/26
7. SJCOG One Voice Trip 2026
 - a. One Voice Notice
 - b. Ethical Guidelines for Stockton East Water District Directors

I. REPORT OF THE COUNSEL

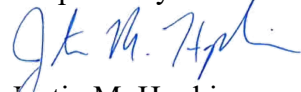
1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – Real Property Negotiations Government Code 54956.8
Property: San Joaquin County APNs 105-050-15, 105-050-17, 105-050-19, 105-110-45
Agency Negotiation; Justin Hopkins, Jeanne Zolezzi
Under Negotiation: Terms of Easement
2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Potential exposure to litigation – Government Code Section 54956.9 – one case

President McGurk adjourned the meeting to closed session at 2:25 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 2:36 p.m., with no reportable action.

K. ADJOURNMENT

President McGurk adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Justin M. Hopkins
General Manager

