

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, APRIL 16, 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 Director Watkins 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, and Administrative Assistant Rodriguez. Legal Counsel Zolezzi was present via teleconference.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR (None)

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

D. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS

1. Department of Water Resources – Calaveras River Study Update Presentation

Manager Hopkins introduced David Arrate, James Wiekling and Ajay Goyal with Department of Water Resources to present the Calaveras River Watershed Study. Ajay Goyal is the program manager for the Flood-MAR Program. The program started six years ago and one of the major studies Flood-MAR did under the program was the Merced River Watershed Study which resulted in legislative funding to do a similar study for the rest of the San Joaquin River tributaries. Mr. Goyal reported his team is in hopes to complete all the technical analysis by the end of June for the five San Joaquin Basin Watershed studies which include Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Merced and Upper San Joaquin.

Mr. Arrate reported the Calaveras Watershed Study includes the Calaveras River, Mormon Slough, Farmington Detention Basin, Lone Tree and Littlejohns Creek. An integrated watershed modeling tool was used to model the entire watershed and to look at climate vulnerability and Flood-MAR adaptations. Per Mr. Arrate, Eco-System, Flood Risk and Water Supply are three multi-sector effects. The Calaveras Watershed project schedule is almost complete. The baseline modeling and baseline metrics processing has been complete. Flood-MAR Adaption Modeling will be complete by June 2024, Flood-MAR Metrics Processing by December 2024 and Watershed Study Report by March 2025. Mr. Arrate reported there are eight modeling integration software being utilized for the study which are Basinwide Precipitation Runoff, Local Root Zone Model, Local recharge Operations, Basinwide System, Local Reservoir Operations, Basinwide Groundwater Operations, Climate Parameters and Local Precipitation Runoff (Creeks). Mr. Arrate also reported the climate vulnerability takeaways of decreased average annual reservoir inflow, increased average annual agricultural demands, decreased average annual surface water deliveries, increased average groundwater pumping and no change in maximum peak flood release. There are three Flood-MAR Adaptive Strategies for short-term action which include 1. high flow diversion – streamlined permitting guidelines (90th/20%), 2. narrow time window (Dec-Mar) and 3. targeted recharge vs long-term action in which project elements include 1. high flow diversions (90th), 2. expand time window, 3. reservoir reoperation (FIRO-MAR) 4. targeted recharge, 5. expand recharge area and 6. infrastructure improvements.

Director McGurk inquired when does the upper San Joaquin become the lower San Joaquin. James replied at the Merced River discharge to the San Joaquin River.

Director Nakaue inquired what is considered short-term and long-term. Department of Water Resources has been working with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) on recharge and short-term is considered within one or two years, whereas long-term is between 4 and 10 years. Department of Water Resources has streamlined permitting which makes the process faster and is included in the short-term approach. Manager Hopkins replied for the short-term action the streamline permitting is something Stockton East Water District has been doing now for the last two years. The District has secured temporary storm water diversion permits from the State Board. On the other hand, the long-term actions for reservoir reoperation (FIRO-MAR) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will take the USACE four years to go through the update and they have just started. Discussion followed.

2. Minutes 04/09/24 Regular Meeting

Director McGurk made the following correction to the minutes:

- On Page 1, section A, paragraph 2 add Water Operations Manager Wunderlich to present at roll call.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the April 9, 2024 Minutes, as amended.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. Warrants – California Public Employees’ Retirement System

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the April 16, 2024 Warrants, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Stockton East Water District – Hatch Out of District Contract

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with Hatch Out of District Contract. Manager Hopkins reported each year the District reaches out to it’s out of District customers to solicit water orders for the irrigation season. Manager Hopkins also reported while performing the outreach this year the District was contacted by Douglas Hatch who is interested in also receiving out of District water when available. The District worked with Mr. Hatch on the agreement which is included as item D-4 on page 9 submitted for Board approval. Manager Hopkins also reported Mr. Hatch will potentially not take water this year, yet he did want to have the agreement set up to invest in infrastructure to divert water next year should it be available.

President Atkins inquired if Douglas Hatch has infrastructure at the moment. Manager Hopkins replied that Mr. Hatch wants the contract in place before making the investment.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve Hatch Out of District Contract, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

5. Cancellation of May 7, 2024 Stockton East Water District Regular Board Meeting
Manager Hopkins presented the Board with the Cancellation of May 7, 2024 Stockton East Water District Regular Board Meeting. Manager Hopkins reported the majority of the Board members will not be present for the May 7th Regular Board Meeting. Staff is recommending the Board cancel the May 7th Regular Board Meeting.

Director Watkins inquired who will not be present for the May 7th Regular Board Meeting. Manager Hopkins replied, three Directors will be attending the One Voice Trip in Washington D.C. and one Director will be attending the ACWA Conference in Sacramento.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the Cancellation of May 7, 2024 Stockton East Water District Regular Board Meeting, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Special Steering Committee Meeting, 04/10/24
Director Watkins and Manager Hopkins attended the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Special Steering Committee Meeting. Director Watkins reported Stantec presented on Communication and Engagement provided by Department of Water Resources (DWR) Facilitation Support Services on public outreach, stake holder advisory working groups, interfacing coordination and management. Director Watkins also reported the possible adoption of the budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. Manager Hopkins reported the new San Joaquin County Water Resources Manager is scheduled to start working on April 22nd.

F. REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

1. Water Supply Report as of 04/09/24
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 263,074 AF in storage at New Hogan Reservoir. Current releases are set at 25 cfs. There is 2,032,257 AF in storage at New Melones Reservoir. Current releases are set at 855 cfs. Current release at Goodwin Dam to Stanislaus River is set at 500 cfs and release to all water users is set at 981 cfs. The District Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is currently processing 26 mgd. North Stockton is currently utilizing 4 mgd. South Stockton is currently utilizing 4 mgd. Cal Water is currently utilizing 10 mgd. The City of Stockton WTP is currently processing 11 mgd.

2. Information Items:
None.
3. Report on General Manager Activities

a. ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting, 04/11/24

Manager Hopkins attended the ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting. Manager Hopkins reported there are three bills of interest for Stockton East Water District being proposed related to advanced clean fleet (ACF) regulation. Manager Hopkins reported ACWA took a favor position on all three bills being proposed even though it is improbable the three bills will move forward. Manager Hopkins also reported the bills will postpone ACF compliance, allow for cost considerations to exempt zero emission vehicle purchases, and establish an appeals committee to review advance clean fleet exemptions which were denied by the California Air Resource Board staff. AB2735 will authorize the private water utilities to enter into risk pooling insurance such as ACWA JPIA and AB2079 will further complicate well permitting and or deny well permitting for large capacity wells. Manager Hopkins reported the wells impacted are essentially those that are part of groundwater banking programs and Central Valley agricultural wells. ACWA will be proposing some amendments to the proposed legislation to keep the requirements which outlines coordination between the local enforcement agency, which would be San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department, and the GSA's. The last amendment being proposed would remove all of the limiting language.

Director Atkins inquired what the California Air Resource Board (CARB) staff denied. Manager Hopkins replied, it was one of the three advanced clean fleet bills which will require CARB to establish an appeals committee of certain members to review any exceptions denied by CARB staff.

b. Stockton Area Water Suppliers (SAWS) Meeting, 04/12/24

Manager Hopkins reported this meeting was cancelled on Friday.

c. Stockton East Water District Activities Update

Manager Hopkins reported the eight-foot weir was installed at Bellota. The rain over the weekend disrupted the Water Supply dam installation schedule and the original order of installation had to be changed since some of the dams on Mormon Slough were inaccessible. Water Supply staff have been installing accessible dams to keep dam installation on schedule. Manager Hopkins also reported the rain impacted Maintenance Department work since everything was planned to be completed by April 19th but probably would be completed by April 23rd.

Manager Hopkins reported doing some recent work with the District's water rights consultant on the Water Supply Enhancement Plan update since some of the documents which are pertinent to the water rights application and underground storage supplement for those water rights are being updated. The District is reviewing the work at the moment in hopes of giving some updated resources to the State Board so the permit application on the Calaveras River could advance.

Manager Hopkins reported the Project Management Committee had a meeting last week for the five-year update of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Everything is moving along very well. The committee decided to add the recent years of hydrology since the modeling currently ends in the water year 2020. Manager Hopkins also reported the model will capture one more drought period and one more wet year period to provide the GWA better model results with the additional data. For the future conditions, the committee agreed to continue using the full build out which is specified by the cities and their urban growth plans. Manager Hopkins also reported there will be a call for projects and project update request for Category A projects which are part of the management actions of the current Groundwater Sustainability Plan. This request will go to all the GSAs to receive those updates.

4. Stockton East Water District Engineering Update
District Engineer Evensen provided the Board with a presentation on the District's projects which included the Variable Frequency Drive Replacement on the Sodium Hypochlorite Project, Flocculation/ Sedimentation Basins 3 and 4, Chemical System Switches, Levels and Gauges for SCADA, Automatic Transfer Switch for Water Treatment Plant Power Improvements, Air Conditioning Units for High Service Pump Station, Extraction Well #2, Gate Replacement at the Old Calaveras River Headworks, Concrete Pour at the Delucchi Low-Water Crossing, Well 74-01 for the Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) Well and Long Crested Weir Preliminary Design for Old Calaveras River (OCR) Stockton Diverting Canal (SDC) Fish Barrier. District Engineer Evensen provided an update on the design and permitting process for projects which include the Solids Dewatering Lagoon, Water Supply Master Plan and CIP, Water Treatment Plant Master Plan and CIP, George Watkins Low-Water Crossing, Eight Mile Dam and Grants (\$21.3M) including the SWEEP Block Grants.

G. DIRECTOR REPORTS

1. Ag Venture Days (Tracy, CA), 04/10/24
Director Sanguinetti attended the Ag Venture Days in Tracy, CA. Director Sanguinetti reported nineteen hundred kids attended the event which took place at the Durham Ferry.

H. COMMUNICATIONS

I. AGENDA PLANNING/UPCOMING EVENTS

1. San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Advisory Commission Meeting, 1:00 p.m., 04/17/24
This meeting has been cancelled
2. Groundwater Resources Association of California – 2024 Groundwater Law and Legislative Forum, 8:00 a.m., 04/18/24
3. Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce – 2024 State of the City, 10:30 a.m., 04/18/24
4. CVP Water Association – Executive and Financial Affairs Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., 04/19/24

J. REPORT OF THE COUNSEL

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: EXISTING LITIGATION
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance vs. Stockton East Water District, et al. – Government Code 54956.9 (a)
2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Potential exposure to litigation – Government Code Section 54956.9 – one case

President Atkins adjourned the meeting to closed session at 2:09 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 2:26 p.m., with no reportable action.

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Atkins adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Justin M. Hopkins
Secretary of the Board

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