

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, JULY 28, 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. Legal Counsel Selke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at roll call at the District were Directors Atkins, McGurk, Hansen, Panizza, Sanguinetti and Watkins. Also present were Manager Hopkins, Director of Finance and Administration Ram, Senior Engineer Verduzco, Maintenance & Construction Manager Higaes, Administrative Assistant Rodriguez, Legal Counsel Selke and Consultant Barkett. Director Nakaue was absent.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes 07/21/26 Regular Board Meeting

President McGurk made the following correction to the minutes:

- On Page 3, Section D-2, Paragraph 5, Line 1: replace: “27-27-09” with “26-27-09”

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the July 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, as amended.

Roll Call:

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

D. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS AND AGENDA ITEM

1. California Farm Coalition – New Executive Director Michelle Paul

Michelle Paul new Executive Director from California Farm Coalition reported the coalition's communications efforts are guided by four core values: being factual, positive, respectful, and committed to correcting misinformation. Outreach includes proactive media interviews, guest commentaries, and letters to the editor to ensure agriculture's perspective is represented in discussions related to water policy. Ms. Paul reported the coalition also continues to expand its public outreach initiatives. The "Food Grows Where Water Flows" sign campaign is being revitalized, fact sheets are regularly prepared for lobbyists working at the State Capitol, and educational programs, including a digital display at Sacramento's Museum of Science and Curiosity, are helping teach children about the water required to grow food. The "Cultivate California" consumer outreach campaign has been particularly successful in reaching urban audiences through social media, influencer partnerships, and targeted promotions. This year, the campaign has grown to more than 100,000 followers, generated nearly five million content views, and reached approximately 1.7 million unique users, with a primary audience of women with disposable income living in urban areas, particularly within the Los Angeles Basin. Ms. Paul emphasized that developing proactive relationships with members of the media is critical, noting that many news stories are relationship-driven and that educating reporters has become increasingly important as the number of journalists specializing in water issues has declined. Ms. Paul encouraged the Board members to notify the coalition whenever they encounter misinformation regarding agricultural

water use, such as the frequently repeated but misleading claim that agriculture uses 80 percent of California's water.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

F. REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

1. Water Supply Report as of 07/21/26
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.
2. Information Items: None
3. Report on General Manager Activities
 - a. Stockton East Water District's Activities Update
Manager Hopkins reported he has been selected to be part of the U.S. Water Delegation to Denmark, where he will engage in discussions on water regulation, policy, and management practices. The trip is being organized by the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies in partnership with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
4. Stockton East Water District Finance & Administration Update
Director of Finance & Administration Ram presented the Board with a Finance update. Director of Finance & Administration Ram reported the District has earned approximately \$343,000 in investment income for the first quarter of fiscal year 2026–2027, with just over \$11,000 generated through California CLASS and approximately \$332,000 earned through LAIF. Director Ram also provided an update on the Tyler Technologies implementation, which remains on schedule to go live on August 17. Finance staff recently completed eight hours of hands-on training, and over the next few weeks will focus on final testing and system validation to ensure successful implementation.

G. DIRECTOR REPORTS

H. COMMUNICATIONS

I. AGENDA PLANNING/UPCOMING EVENTS

1. STAART South County Truck Unveiling – West Valley Mall, 8:30 a.m., 07/29/26
2. Annual Grower's Meeting, 10:00 a.m., 07/29/26

J. REPORT OF THE COUNSEL

1. 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 12:46 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 12:56 p.m., with no reportable action.

K. Stockton East Water District Board of Directors Tour

1. Operations Conference Room
2. Booster Pump Station
3. Bellota Weir Project

L. ADJOURNMENT

President McGurk adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Justin M. Hopkins
General Manager

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