

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, APRIL 7, 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., Director Watkins 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, District Engineer Evensen, Operations Manager Wunderlich, Maintenance and Construction Manager Higaes, Water Supply Manager Donis, Administrative Clerk Barraza, Legal Counsel Zolezzi.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR (None)

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

D. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS AND AGENDA ITEM

1. Minutes 03/24/26 Regular Board Meeting

President McGurk made the following corrections to the minutes:

- On Page 4, Section F-3a, Paragraph 7, Line 2: replace: “Rodesia” with “Rhodesia”

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the March 24, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nayes: 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 Improvements Fund
- e. Fund 91 – Vehicle Fund
- f. Fund 94 – Municipal & Industrial Fund
- g. Payroll
- h. Summary
- i. Short/Acronym List
- j. SEWD Vehicles & Heavy Equipment

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the April 7, 2026, Warrants, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the April 7, 2026, California’s Public Employees’ Retirement System, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Well Untapped Fellowship Presentation

Manager Hopkins introduced Councilmember Mario Enriquez, who provided an overview of the Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) Untapped Fellowship Program for the Summer 2025 cohort. Councilmember Enriquez described the program as a selective leadership initiative for California elected officials, focused on advancing knowledge in water policy, governance, equity, and informed decision-making. The 2025 cohort consists of nine elected leaders representing diverse regions and perspectives across the state.

The fellowship included five in-person sessions held throughout California, incorporating site visits, expert panels, leadership development, and engagement with communities directly impacted by water issues. Program locations included Richmond, San Diego, the San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento, and Los Angeles, providing hands-on exposure to a variety of water systems. Key topics covered in the program included water quality and environmental justice, with an emphasis on water as a human right and a focus on affordability and access for underserved communities. The program also addressed California water systems and infrastructure, climate change and resilience, leadership development and governance strategies.

Councilmember Enriquez highlighted the importance of collaboration among agencies and water districts, underscoring that strong partnerships are critical to effective water management. He noted the program’s impact on Stockton includes strengthened policy decision-making, improved regional collaboration, and the advancement of equity-focused leadership. He further emphasized the program’s relevance to the District, explaining that it supports better alignment with city leadership, strengthens infrastructure planning, and enhances long-term water strategy.

5. Stockton East Water District – 2026 Water Rates

Manager Hopkins introduced Brian Bass from Raftelis to present the 2026 Water Rate Study. Mr. Bass provided an overview of the study’s goals and objectives, which include ensuring rate revenues are sufficient to meet annual operating expenses and capital expenditures, planning maintenance proactively to keep rates low and avoid costly emergency repairs and minimizing impacts on customer bills. He presented a five-year rate plan.

Mr. Bass reported on the Financial Plan, explaining that Phase 1 involves evaluating the financial impacts of rate options selected by the District, identifying the revenue increases needed to meet cash requirements, and applying proposed percentage increases to existing rates. He reported Phase 2 focuses on revenue requirements and cost of service, in which the District will use the revenue requirements developed in Phase 1 to allocate costs between groundwater and surface water and to establish corresponding rates that recover the same level of revenue projected in Phase 1.

Mr. Bass presented one rate based on the rate study and three alternatives per direction from the Agricultural committee to the Board, each outlining the Financial Plan, agricultural rates, and associated bill impacts. These alternatives provided the Board with a comparative overview of potential water rate structures, including percentage adjustments and their respective impacts on the District. Discussion followed.

a. Public Hearing

President McGurk opened the Public Hearing at 2:30 p.m., to receive comments on the 2026 water rates. Seeing no public comment, President McGurk closed the public hearing at 2:31 p.m.

b. Ordinance No. 52

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with Ordinance No. 52. He reported that staff drafted the proposed ordinance to establish water rates for the District's current fiscal year. Manager Hopkins reported staff are seeking recommendations regarding the establishment of municipal groundwater assessments, agricultural groundwater assessments, domestic groundwater assessments, as well as charges for stream-delivered water and out-of-district water for calendar year 2026.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 52 – Setting Agricultural Groundwater Assessment at \$6.73 per acre-foot, Domestic Groundwater Assessment at \$57 per Domestic Unit, Stream Delivered New Hogan Water at \$25 per acre-foot, Stream Delivered New Melones Water at \$25 per acre foot, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Director Watkins left the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 52 – Setting Agricultural Groundwater Assessment at \$8 per acre-foot, Domestic Groundwater Assessment at \$56 per Domestic Unit, Stream Delivered New Hogan Water at \$25 per acre-foot, Stream Delivered New Melones Water at \$28 per acre foot, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Director Watkins returned to the meeting after the vote.

c. Rule No. 180

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with Rule No. 180 – Rule for Rate Equalization for Calendar Year 2026. Assistant General Manager Vega reported that the District is required to adopt a rate equalization rule annually. He reported the rate equalization is established based on the calculation of water treatment plant expenditures included in the District's approved fiscal year 2026–2027 budget.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve Rule No.179, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

6. Stockton East Water District – Staff Report – Consider Acceptance of Completion of MOV1 Valve Replacement Project

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with a staff report to Consider Acceptance of Completion MOV1 Valve Replacement Project. Manager Hopkins reported the MOV1 Valve replacement Project located at the Dr. Joe Waidhofer Water Treatment Plant was substantially completed by TNT Industrial Contractors, Inc. on February 23, 2026 with final Project completion on March 20, 2026.

Director Atkins and Nakaue inquired about the staff report and staff provided responses to the questions

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the Project as complete and authorize the General Manager to proceed with signing of the Notice of Completion and file it with the San Joaquin County Recorder's Office, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

7. Stockton East Water District – Staff Report – Consideration of Approval to Purchase up to 5,000 Acre-Feet of Water from Rock Creek Water District

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with a staff report for Consideration of Approval to Purchase up to 5,000 Acre-Feet of Water from Rock Creek Water District (RCWD). Manager Hopkins reported staff is requesting the Boards approval to exercise a water purchase option under the existing agreement for the Transfer of Water between Stockton East Water District (SEWD) and Rock Creek Water District (RCWD).

A motion was moved and seconded to authorize the General Manager to purchase up to 5,000 acre-feet of water from Rock Creek Water District for a total cost of \$1,000,000 and transfer up to \$644,275 from Ag Reserves, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

8. Stockton East Water District – Staff Report – Consideration of Approval to Purchase 20,000 Acre-Feet of Water for Municipal Use

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with a staff report for Consideration of Approval to Purchase 20,000 Acre-Feet of Water for Municipal Use. Manager Hopkins reported staff is requesting the Boards approval to purchase up to 20,000 acre-feet of water from Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) pursuant to the existing agreement for the Transfer of Water.

A motion was moved and seconded to authorize the General Manager to purchase up to 20,000 acre-feet of water from Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District for a total cost of \$6,000,000, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

9. Resolution No. 26-27-01 – Designating an Authorized Representative for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Financial Assistance Application

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with Resolution No. 26-27-01 – Designating an Authorized Representative for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Financial Assistance Application. Assistant Manager Vega reported the General Manager, or his designee will be authorized and directed to sign and file for and on behalf of the District, a Financial Assistance Application for a financing agreement from the State Water Resources Control Board for the planning, design and construction of the Bellota Weir Modifications Project.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 26-27-01 – Designating an Authorized Representative for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Financial Assistance Application, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

10. Cancellation of April 14, 2026 Stockton East Water District Regular Board Meeting

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with the Cancellation of April 14, 2026 Stockton East Water District Regular Board Meeting. Manager Hopkins reported that he and Assistant Manager Vega will be attending the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) 2026 Water Policy Conference.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve Cancellation of April 14, 2026 Stockton East Water District Regular Board Meeting, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Agricultural Operations Committee Meeting, 03/31/26

Directors Atkins, Hansen, Nakaue, along with Assistant Manager Vega and Director of Finance and Administration Ram attended the Agricultural Operations Committee Meeting. Director Atkins reported the committee reviewed and discussed the 2026 Water Rate Study conducted by Raftelis.

F. REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

1. Water Supply Report as of 03/24/26

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 210,049 AF in storage at New Hogan Reservoir. Current releases are set at 96 cfs. There is 1,883,940 AF in storage at New Melones Reservoir. Current releases are set at 1,760 cfs. The current release at Goodwin Dam to Stanislaus River is set at 2,203 cfs and release to all water users is set at 2,305 cfs. The District Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is currently processing 40 mgd. The City of Stockton WTP is currently processing 13 mgd. The District groundwater production is currently 11 mgd.

2. Information Items: F-2a

3. Report on General Manager Activities

a. ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting, 03/27/26

Manager Hopkins reported he attended the ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting. Manager Hopkins reported several bills of importance to the District were discussed. He reported the committee announced it is coordinating with the Governor's office regarding the Governor's staff reduction proposal.

Manager Hopkins reported the committee reviewed several pieces of legislation, including Assembly Bill 1881, the California Indian Freedom Act of 2026; Assembly Bill 2215, regarding water rights permits and the State Water Project; Assembly Bill 2216, related to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy; Assembly Bill 2568, concerning water district director compensation; Assembly Bill 2026, addressing water diversion, groundwater recharge, and permitting; and Assembly Bill 2032, related to fish and wildlife and golden mussels.

b. Stockton East Water District Activities Update

Manager Hopkins reported this month that the District is featuring two new employees on its website and LinkedIn page. He reported the featured employees are David Strohm, Engineering Technician, and Martin Wunderlich, Water Supply Operator.

Manager Hopkins reported on his meeting with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), during which they reviewed and are considering the proposed allocation policy revision to provide the District with an initial allocation of 10,000 acre-feet based on reservoir levels. He reported USBR is open to a proposal from the District to address the operations and maintenance (O&M) payment issue for the Central Valley Project (CVP).

Manager Hopkins reported on his meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Farmington Dam Study. He reported the study is not included in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget and not considered for inclusion in Fiscal Year 2028, but the study may be able to move forward under the Section 203 process.

Manager Hopkins reported that the STAART Program will be hosting a Retail Theft and Illegal Dumping Workshop on Wednesday, April 15 at 8:00 a.m.

Manager Hopkins reported that this Friday will be the District's first Friday closure.

Manager Hopkins provided the Board with the equipment use for the week of 03/30/26.

4. Stockton East Water District Water Supply Update

Board Meeting – 04/07/26

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Water Supply Manager Donis presented the Board with a Water Supply Update. Water Supply manager Donis reported New Melones Reservoir year-to-date supply for 2026 is 0 acre-feet. He reported New Hogan Lake flood releases total 26,978 acre-feet, with 9,063 acre-feet attributed to the District, for a combined year-to-date total of 36,041 acre-feet. Water Supply Manager Donis reported on groundwater monitoring wells, noting that the 13-well average is currently down 6.6 feet. He reported total Water Treatment Plant percolation is 558.6 acre-feet. He also provided an update on dam installations, reporting work at Mormon Slough and Potter Creek is complete, while Lower Calaveras and Mosher Creek remain in progress.

G. DIRECTOR REPORTS

1. North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD) & Lodi District Grape Association – Local Water Forum, 04/01/26
Director Watkins and Assistant Manager Vegas attended the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD) and the Lodi District Grape Association – Local Water Forum. Director Watkins reported Stockton East Water District (SEWD), East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), and Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID) provided presentations at the forum. He reported Jennifer Spaletta presented on behalf of the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, offering perspective on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).
2. Great Stockton Chamber of Commerce – Business Mixer at the San Joaquin County Office of Education FabLab, 04/02/26
Director Watkins attended the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce – Business Mixer at the San Joaquin County Office of Education FabLab. He reported Frank Ferral provided remarks on the STAART Program and how it relates to retail theft.

H. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Stockton East Water District – Time Variance Request for Permit No. 5838; 7594; 8064; 8175 & 9101
Manager Hopkins presented the Board with the Stockton East Water District – Time Variance Request for Permit No. 5838; 7594; 8064; 8175 & 9101. Manager Hopkins reported this permit is to continue construction activities prior and until April 15, 2026.
2. AB 2180 (Ward) – Support Letter, 03/19/26
Manager Hopkins presented the Board with the AB 2180 (Ward) Support letter. Manager Hopkins reported the support letter stating the strong support for AB 2180 which would clarify how water agencies comply with proposition 218 when setting water rates.

I. AGENDA PLANNING/UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Stockton East Water District Financing Corporation Meeting, 2:30 p.m., 04/07/26
2. Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m., 04/08/26
3. San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation Water Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m., 04/08/26
4. Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce – A Toast to Time, 5:30 p.m., 04/09/26
5. AMWA 2026 Water Policy Conference, 04/12/26 – 04/15/26
6. Agricultural Operations Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., 04/15/26
This meeting has been cancelled

Board Meeting – 04/07/26

~~Draft~~Approved

7. Municipal Operations Committee Meeting, 12:30 p.m., 04/15/26
This meeting has been cancelled
8. San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Advisory Water Commission Meeting, 1:00 p.m., 04/15/26
9. ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., 04/17/26

J. REPORT OF THE COUNSEL


1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - Existing Litigation
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA)
vs. Stockton East Water District
Government Code 54956.9 (a)
2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED
LITIGATION Potential exposure to litigation – Government Code
Section 54956.9 – three cases

President McGurk adjourned the meeting to closed session at 3:35 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 4:08 p.m., with no reportable action.

K. ADJOURNMENT

President McGurk adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Justin M. Hopkins
General Manager

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