

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
TRANQUILLITY IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**November 15, 2023**

**PRESENT:** President Jerome F Salvador, Director William Pucheu, Director George Ayerza Jr, General Manager Danny M Wade, Assistant Manager Rodney D Wade, Counsel Lauren Layne, Engineering Consultant Joe Hopkins & Secretary/Treasurer Liz Reeves

**ABSENT:** none

President Salvador called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** none

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2023 was approved on voice count. Director Ayerza motioned for approval and Director Pucheu seconded the motion.

**TREASURER REPORT:** The Cash Flow statement was presented for the month of October 2023 including the cash disbursements and receivables. Director Pucheu motioned for approval of the Treasurer report. Director Ayerza seconded the motion.

**WATERMASTER'S REPORTS:** Water use – irrigation and drinking water: Watermaster Wade reported on the usage totals for the month of October 2023, along with the well pumping totals and the Mendota pool reporting. The well depths and the PH/TDS readings were presented to the Board.

**DIRECTOR REPORT:** none

**COUNSEL REPORT:** In regards to legal matters affecting the District – Public Agency updates have been sent out. SGMA: at the coordination meeting revisions to the MOA have been made and have been unanimously approved. The MOA will go out to the GSA's for approval. The work is moving forward to finish the single GSP and have it completed by July 2024.

Two Action Items were brought to the Board:

1. The Water Rate Fee Study for Tranquillity Irrigation District dated November 2023 was presented to the Board. The recommendation was to increase the surface water rate to \$120/af and ground water to \$250/af. The Board agreed with the recommendation. Director Pucheu motioned for approval of the rate study and Director Ayerza seconded the motion.
2. The Board agreed to take action to set a public hearing date to consider the increases to **agricultural** water rates and authorize the mailing of notices to water users regarding same. The public hearing is set for January 17, 2024. Director Ayerza made a motion to approve sending out the notice for the public hearing and Director Pucheu seconded the motion.
3. Easement Agreement with Tranquillity Public Utilities District (sewer lift station): we need the legal description before we can proceed with this item. Still tabled for now.

**ENGINEERING CONSULTANT REPORT:**

SGMA: See Counsel Report

Projects: Meter Project: the contractor wants to come back December 1<sup>st</sup> to begin installing the 1" meters. We are still waiting on the refunds from the Grants. We will be having more contractor payment requests soon.

Mendota Pool Group: P&P is working with them for the location of the water quality sensor. There is a 50/50 grant out for small scale improvements. P&P would like to investigate for a potential data management system which would also

be a benefit for SGMA data collection. Joe also spoke about putting excess funds in an account to earn extra interest. Joe will bring back more info.

**MANAGER REPORT:**

1. 2023 Critical Water Year Tracking: Updated report was presented.
2. 2024 Water Rate/Well Rate: see Counsel report
3. Meters Update: We have made another payment to Dawson for about \$5k.
4. City Well #8 sign: a sign has been installed for the County showing they gave grant money for the construction
5. Mendota Pool/Draw Down: they will start December 4 or 5.
6. BBQ – Mike & Tito's

**CLOSED SESSION:**

1. Closed Session Pursuant to California Government Code [Section 54956.8](#)

**CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

Property: Temporary Water Transfer

Agency Negotiator: Danny M Wade & Rodney D Wade

Negotiating Parties: TID & SLWD

Under Negotiation: Price & Terms

*(no reportable action)*

2. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS** Pursuant to California Government Code [Section 54956.8](#)

Property: Water Rights

Agency negotiator: Danny M Wade & Rodney D Wade

Negotiating parties: Various Water Users, unspecified for the benefit of the public agency

Under negotiation: Instruction to negotiator will concern price and terms of payment

*(no reportable action)*

3. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: Kings River Water Rights

Agency negotiator: Danny M Wade & Rodney D Wade

Negotiating parties: Lower River Units of the Kings River Water Association

Under negotiation: Instruction to negotiator will concern price and terms of payment for rental agreement.

*(no reportable action)*

4. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

Closed session pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9.

Name of Case: NRDC v. Jewell – U.S. District Court – Eastern District of California (Case No. 1:05-cv-01207LJO-EPG)

*(no reportable action)*

5. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

Name of Case: James Irrigation District v. KRWA, et al.

*(no reportable action)*

**6. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – POTENTIAL LITIGATION – 1 case**

Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)  
*(no reportable action)*

**7. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

Closed Session Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8  
Property: Fresno Slough Water District land  
Agency Negotiator: Danny M Wade & Rodney D Wade  
Negotiating Parties: TID & Angiola WD  
Under Negotiation: Price & Terms  
*(no reportable action)*

**8. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

Closed Session pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1).

- i. Name of case: California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Validity of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan, et al., Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-20-001748 [Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA Challenge]. *(no reportable action)*
- ii. Name of case: Center for Biological Diversity, Restore the Delta, and Planning and Conservation League v. United States Bureau of Reclamation, Tranquillity Irrigation District, et al. In the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Case No. 1:20-cv-00706 DAD-EPG. *(no reportable action)*

**9. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**


Closed Session pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1).

NORTH COAST RIVERS ALLIANCE, CALIFORNIA SPORTSFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE, PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS, SAN FRANCISCO CRAB BOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., and INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESOURCES v. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, et al. – United States District Court, Eastern District of California (Case No. 1:16-CV-307 DAD-SKO). *(no reportable action)*


The Board adjourned at 9:50 am.

The next meeting will be held at 8:30 am on December 20, 2023 at the TID office.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Elizabeth Reeves, Secretary/Treasurer

Approved By,

  
Jerome F Salvador, Chairman

