

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 2, 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 Sanguinetti 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, Administrative Assistant Rodriguez. Legal Counsel Zolezzi was present via teleconference. Consultant Barkett was absent.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR (None)

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (None)

D. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS

1. Minutes 03/26/24 Regular Meeting

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the March 26, 2024 Minutes, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. Warrants - California Public Employees' Retirement System

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the April 2, 2024 Warrants, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. Stockton East Water District – 2024 Water Rates

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with information regarding the 2024 water rates. Manager Hopkins reported Staff presented different rates to the Agricultural Operations Committee for the committee's feedback. Manager Hopkins reported the Agricultural Operation Committee recommended to present to the Board water rates of \$6.39 per acre foot for groundwater, \$23.00 per acre foot for surface water and \$54.00 for domestic wells.

a. Public Hearing

President Atkins opened the Public Hearing at 12:33 p.m., to receive comments on the 2024 water rates. Seeing no public comment, President Atkins closed the public hearing at 12:34 p.m.

b. Ordinance No. 50

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with Ordinance No. 50. Manager Hopkins reported Staff drafted the proposed Ordinance No. 50 to establish the water rates for the District's current fiscal year. Staff is recommending the Board adopt Ordinance No. 50 with the proposed water rates.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve Ordinance No. 50, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

c. Rule No. 178

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with Rule No. 178. Manager Hopkins reported the District is also required to adopt a rule for rate equalization each year. Manager Hopkins also reported the rate equalization is established via calculation of treatment plant expenditures within the District's approved fiscal year budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. Staff is recommending the Board adopt proposed Rule No. 178 setting the rule for rate equalization in the calendar year 2024.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve Rule No. 178, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Stockton East Water District – Consideration Adoption of Legislative Position Policy Memo

a. Stockton East Water District Policy Manual – Legislative Position Policy No. 5005

Manager Hopkins presented the Board with Consideration Adoption of Legislative Position Policy Memo. Manager Hopkins reported Staff set 2024 strategic priorities presented to the Board in January this year. Manager Hopkins reported one of the priorities related to regulatory engagement was drafting a legislative position policy. The proposed policy found on page 23 was developed using similar policies as those adopted by South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) and California Special Districts Association (CSDA). Manager Hopkins also reported on March 28, 2024 the proposed policy was presented to the Administration Committee for feedback. The Administration Committee made a modification on page 25 section D6 clarifying any legislative position sent out on behalf of the District will be provided to the Board at a regular meeting. Further, Manager Hopkins added there is no fiscal impact for adopting this policy. Therefore, Staff recommended the Board of Directors consider adoption of the Legislative Position Policy.

Director Watkins informed the Board the correction on page 25 section D6 is also stated on page 26 section D8.

Director McGurk inquired if the Board supports legislation via the policy and then realizes the Board is opposed to said legislation, will the Board of Directors be able to change it even though the position was already submitted. Manager Hopkins replied that the position would have to be amended.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve, Consideration Adoption of Legislative Position Policy Memo as, duly noted.

Roll Call:

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

5. Stockton East Water District – Employee Handbook (April 2, 2024)

Manager Hopkins presented the Employee Handbook to the Board, noting that the current version, adopted in 2020, needed updates due to changes in legislation. These changes required the District to operate differently from what was outlined in the existing handbook. Manager Hopkins reported the District’s human resource legal counsel reviewed the employee handbook and provided all the necessary updates to ensure compliance with current laws. Manager Hopkins reported the updated version of the handbook was presented to the Administration Committee, which provided feedback and corrections. The suggestions have been implemented, and Staff recommends that the Board approve the updated version of the Employee Handbook.

Director Watkins inquired if the twelve- and eight-hour work days were clarified. Manager Hopkins replied yes.

Director Cortopassi inquired why the District is choosing forty years of age or older as part of the language in the handbook. Manager Hopkins replied state laws determine that if a person is forty years or older, it is one of several “protected classes”.

Director Panizza inquired if the employee handbook conforms with the MOU. Manager Hopkins replied yes. Manager Hopkins added that, with some of the changes, the District is striving to ensure better alignment within both the employee handbook and the MOU, to allow for independent updates without the documents conflicting with each other.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve, Stockton East Water District – Employee Handbook (April 2, 2024), as presented.

Roll Call:

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

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. San Joaquin County Farm Bureau Federation Monthly Water Committee Meeting, 03/26/24
Manger Hopkins attended the San Joaquin County Farm Bureau Federation Monthly Water Committee Meeting. Manager Hopkins reported North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD) will have water this year and will put it to use within their District, Central Delta, South Delta and Reclamation Districts are still struggling related to the delta conveyance project and water rights, Oakdale Irrigation District (OID) and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) started providing irrigation water the middle of last month and San Joaquin County is hopeful to have a new Water Resource Manager to fill in Matt Zidar’s position by the end of April.
2. Administration Committee Meeting, 03/28/24
Directors Sanguinetti, Nakaue, Watkins, **Panizza** and Manger Hopkins attended the Administration Committee Meeting. Director Sanguinetti reported the committee spoke about the approach the District would like to employ with regards to renewing the water supply contract with the Urban

Board Meeting – 04/02/24

Draft Approved

Contractors. Director Sanguinetti reported the Administration Committee also recommended presentation to the full board of the legislative position policy and the proposed changes to the employee handbook.

F. REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

1. Water Supply Report as of 04/02/24

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 225,648 AF in storage at New Hogan Reservoir. Current releases are set at 27 cfs. There is 2,051,250 AF in storage at New Melones Reservoir. Current releases are set at 1,113 cfs. Current release at Goodwin Dam to Stanislaus River is set at 810 cfs and release to all water users is set at 1,266 cfs. The District water treatment plant (WTP) is currently processing 32 mgd. North Stockton is currently utilizing 4 mgd. South Stockton is currently utilizing 6 mgd. Cal Water is currently utilizing 17 mgd. The City of Stockton WTP is currently processing 7 mgd.

2. Information Items:

a. Manager Hopkins noted item: F-2a, F-2b, F-2c and F-2d

3. Report on General Manager Activities

a. Stockton East Water District Activities Update

Manager Hopkins reported the annual granular activated carbon (GAC) replacement regeneration was completed last week and all the filters are back in service.

Manager Hopkins reported the annual update of the District's Groundwater Sustainability plan was sent to California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the Groundwater Authority (GWA) consultant last week. Manager Hopkins also reported California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be providing comments on the new updates this year.

Manager Hopkins reported the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) will be releasing pulse flows down Stanislaus River for the whole month of April to promote fish migration, they range from a couple hundred cfs to up to twenty-three hundred cfs.

Manager Hopkins advised the Board of Directors he plans on taking April 3-5 off.

4. Stockton East Water District Finance Update

Finance Director Ram provided an update on investments stating the current interest rate for LAIF is 4.122%, and California class is 5.453%. The District's year to date interest income for California Class is \$253K and LAIF is \$1.35M. Additionally, Finance Director Ram reported that for the 2022-2023 fiscal year 86% of the budget was expended and 2023-2024 fiscal year is progressing well and is expected to be in line with the budget.

G. DIRECTOR REPORTS

1. San Joaquin County Town Hall – Water Solutions Meeting, 03/26/24

Directors Atkins, Watkins and Manger Hopkins attended the San Joaquin County Town Hall – Water Solutions Meeting. Director Atkins reported the meeting was to talk about the water solution at Milton Rd, Fine Rd and Dynasty Rd which get flooded. The county has advised the homeowners on what to do in case of a flood, however it has not worked since the flooding has continued.

H. COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce – 2024 State of the City, 10:30 a.m., 04/18/24
 Manager Hopkins reported Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce will be hosting 2024 State of the City. Manager Hopkins inquired with the Board of Directors on who would want to attend.

I. AGENDA PLANNING/UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1. Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce Monthly Mixer – Collins Electric, 4:30 p.m., 04/04/24
- 2. San Joaquin County Delta Water Quality Coalition Steering Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m., 04/08/24

J. REPORT OF THE COUNSEL

- 1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Potential exposure to litigation – Government Code Section 54956.9 – two cases

President Atkins adjourned the meeting to closed session at 1:12p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 1:19 p.m., with no reportable action.

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Atkins adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Justin M. Hopkins
Secretary of the Board

bra

