

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, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 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 President Atkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at roll call at the District were Directors Atkins, Cortopassi, McGaughey, McGurk, Panizza and Sanguinetti. Also present were Manager Hopkins, Assistant Manager Vega, Finance Director Ram, District Engineer Evensen, Administrative Services Manager Celestine, Water Supply Manager Donis, Administrative Assistant Wood, Legal Counsel Zolezzi and Consultant Barkett. Director Watkins was absent.

**B. CONSENT CALENDAR (None)**

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**D. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS AND AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Third Pillar Solar – Floating Solar Exploration for Stockton East Water District Presentation  
Collin Ackerman, Senior Development Manager and Jaimeet Gulati, Chief Technical Officer with Third Pillar Solar (TPS) provided the Board with a presentation on a floating solar project. Floating solar is widely recognized as the third pillar in the photovoltaic (PV) solar market after ground-mounted and rooftop systems. There are many benefits from installing floating solar on existing bodies of water such as reservoirs, wastewater plants, and quarries. The project would allow TPS to lease the East Reservoir from the District. TPS will utilize the leased premises for constructing, installing, operating, maintaining, expanding and removing solar facilities, and for other incidental rights and activities. Benefits of floating solar projects include; the solar panels perform more efficiently due to the cooling effect of the water surface, evaporation from the waterbody can be significantly reduced, improved water quality by a reduction in algal growth, and allows for on-site clean energy generation utilizing existing waterbodies without impacting other uses of the water. Additionally, the system will be enrolled in California’s forthcoming community solar program which will allow local residents to access green power at a discount to their current PG&E rates with carveouts for Low and Moderate Income (LMI) communities. The floating structure designs are divided into two categories; High-density polyethylene (HDPE) structure or a stainless-steel frame structure that are affixed to pontoons. These floating structures will be secured by specialized anchoring and mooring systems which provide mechanical stability and resilience, even in hurricane-strength wind conditions. Through the lease option, TPS is proposing an annual lease payment of \$27,000 to be paid to the District. The lease option term would be three years with two 1-year extensions. During the lease option term, TPS will pay \$2,500/year for the exclusive option to lease, and right to evaluate development of solar facilities on, the leased premises. The design, construction and implementation process would take two years to complete.

Director Sanguinetti inquired how maintenance will be performed on the canals if the panels are covering the body of water. Mr. Gulati replied the island of panels can be reduced to a smaller size to allow room for any required maintenance. The structural engineers would consider these concerns during the design process.

Director McGurk inquired if the panels are adjusted throughout the year to obtain the maximum generation possible. Mr. Gulati replied the panels are at a fixed angled. An analysis is conducted utilizing satellite imagery data to optimize generation.

Director McGurk inquired if TPS has considered other bodies of water located on-site at the District. Mr. Ackerman replied there was some discussion with Manager Hopkins regarding the North Reservoir however the East Reservoir is a great starting point based on the size of the project which coincides with the anticipated solar size of the community solar project. Director Cortopassi suggested utilizing another reservoir that is not used for raw water storage.

President Atkins inquired if a storage facility will be constructed to house a solar battery. Mr. Gulati replied the electrical equipment and battery facilities would require a small area located on the bank of the reservoir.

Director Cortopassi inquired why TPS leases water as opposed to leasing land. Mr. Gulati replied there are a couple reasons why floating solar panels are preferred. 1) floating solar panels allows for on-site clean energy generation without impacting the primary use of the land, and 2) the cost of construction is significantly lower.

Director Panizza inquired how much reduction in vegetation growth will occur in the reservoir. Mr. Gulati replied you may still see vegetation growth however, there will be a more significant reduction in algal growth.

Director Cortopassi inquired who would be liable for system costs should TPS go bankrupt. Mr. Ackerman replied TPS carries a bond for decommissioning the system.

Director McGurk inquired on the pH resistance of the floats. Mr. Gulati replied the floats are designed to sustain a wide range of pH levels of 4-10 without sustaining any damage to the system. Director McGurk inquired if there is a way to make the water more positive. Mr. Gulati replied TPS can look into that further.

Director Sanguinetti inquired if the solar panel material would cause contamination in the water. Mr. Gulati replied the panels are constructed of food-grade HDPE plastic and contains no lead. The modules are double glass structures with no leaching into the water. Mr. Ackerman added TPS can provide data from other facilities installed on raw water reservoirs.

Director Panizza inquired which community would this project benefit. Mr. Ackerman replied it would benefit the local community.

The Board thanked Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Gulati for their presentation.

## 2. Minutes 09/19/23 – Regular Board Meeting

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the September 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.

### Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGaughey, McGurk, Panizza, Sanguinetti

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Watkins

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3. Warrants — ~~California Public Employees' Retirement System~~
  - a. Fund 68 – Municipal & Industrial Groundwater Fund
  - b. Fund 70 – Administration Fund
  - c. Fund 71 – Water Supply Fund
  - d. Fund 91 – Vehicle Fund
  - e. Fund 94 – Municipal & Industrial Fund
  - f. Summary
  - g. Short Names/Acronym List
  - h. SEWD Vehicles & Heavy Equipment

Director Panizza inquired on the expense on page 37, line item 106 for Morgan Tire of Sacramento, Inc. for Flat repairs on Unit 82 and Unit 83 in the amount of \$81.80. Manager Hopkins replied Morgan Tire has a local shop here in Stockton. Director Sanguinetti suggested using the same shop for all tire purchases and repairs.

Director Cortopassi inquired on the expenses on page 34, for the line items related to the Hosie Crossing Replacement Project expenses. Manager Hopkins replied staff is tracking the total cost of the project. Director Cortopassi inquired how labor costs are being tracked. Manager Hopkins replied labor activities are tracked on employee timecards.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the September 26, 2023 Warrants, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGaughey, McGurk, Panizza, Sanguinetti

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Watkins

4. Vernon Gogna Farms – Surface Water Sale and Amortization Agreement  
Manager Hopkins provided the Board with a Surface Water Sale and Amortization Agreement between Stockton East Water District and Vernon Gogna Farms. Manager Hopkins thanked District Staff and the landowner for their diligent effort in working through the agreement process. Vernon Gogna Farms has installed improvements to allow access to surface water off of the Calaveras River at Clements Road. The landowner paid for these improvements upfront in the amount of \$24,730.11. The landowner would like to enroll into the District's Surface Water Incentive Program to recover these costs. As surface water is used on the property, the landowner pays only the groundwater charge for water rather than the currently applicable surface water rate, until the landowner recovers the entire cost of the improvements or until seven years, whichever occurs first.

Director Sanguinetti inquired how the District will monitor the use of water. Manager Hopkins replied a meter will be installed to measure the amount of surface water used. Counsel Zolezzi added the more water the landowner uses, the faster the costs will be recovered.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve a Surface Water Sale and Amortization Agreement with Vernon Gogna Farms, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGaughey, McGurk, Panizza, Sanguinetti

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Watkins

5. Preliminary Base Monthly Payment – Fiscal Year 2024/2025

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- a. Public Hearing  
President Atkins opened the Public Hearing at 1:36 p.m., to receive comments on the Preliminary Base Monthly Payment (BMP) for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

Manager Hopkins provided proof of publication of the public hearing. Manager Hopkins reported this process is dictated by the Second Amended Contract. Manager Hopkins reported the Preliminary Base Monthly Payment is \$2,183,480.

Seeing no public comment, President Atkins closed the Public Hearing at 1:38 p.m.

- b. Resolution No. 23-24-09 – Setting the Preliminary Base Monthly Payment for Period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

A motion was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 23-24-09 – Setting the Preliminary Base Monthly Payment for Fiscal Year 2024/2025, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

6. Resolution No. 23-24-10 – Authorization To Accept The Grant Award With The California Department of Food and Agriculture Under the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant Pilot Program, Execute Any Required Documents and Provide Delegation Of Authority  
Manager Hopkins provided the Board with Resolution No. 23-24-10. Manager Hopkins reported Stockton East Water District (SEWD), North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD), and South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) have been awarded \$5M by the California Department of Food and Agriculture through the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant Pilot Program (SWEEP BGP). The Districts' award from the SWEEP BGP provides \$5M for installing new surface water diversions that result in measurable water and energy savings. The District is the sole awardee and intends to administer the SWEEP BGP on behalf of the Districts. Any administration costs will be reimbursed by the SWEEP BGP.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 23-24-10 – Authorization To Accept The Grant Award With The California Department of Food and Agriculture Under the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant Pilot Program, Execute Any Required Documents and Provide Delegation Of Authority, as presented.

Roll Call:

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

7. Stockton East Water District – 2024 180-Day Ground Water Recharge Pilot Project NOE 30-Day Circulation Memo

Manager Hopkins provided the Board with a 180-Day Ground Water Recharge Pilot Project NOE 30-Day Circulation Memo. Manager Hopkins reported District Staff has worked with MBK Engineers, a consultant of the Department of Water Resources who assists local agencies with securing temporary storm water diversion permits. The District has submitted a permit to the State Water Resources Control Board for processing which would allow the District to divert water from

the Farmington Dam to the Stockton East Water District treatment plant for groundwater storage. Part of the process is complying with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) however, under the Governor's executive order N-7-22 this project is exempt. The District is still required to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE).

a. 2024 180-Day Ground Water Recharge Pilot Project Notice of Exemption

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the 2024 180-Day Ground Water Recharge Pilot Project and file a Notice of Exemption, as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Atkins, Cortopassi, McGaughey, McGurk, Panizza, Sanguinetti

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Watkins

## E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### F. REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

1. Water Supply Report as of 09/19/23

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 192,590 AF in storage at New Hogan Reservoir. Current releases are set at 182 cfs. There is 1,899,022 AF in storage at New Melones Reservoir. Current releases are set at 1,293 cfs. Current release at Goodwin Dam to Stanislaus River are set at 351 cfs and release to all water users are set at 1,337 cfs. There are 6 irrigators on New Hogan, 4 irrigators on New Melones, and 2 irrigators out of District. The water treatment plant is currently processing 42 mgd. The City of Stockton is currently processing 19 mgd.

President Atkins inquired when dams will be removed on the Old Calaveras River. Water Supply Manager Donis replied October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Director McGurk inquired if the District has applied for a variation request to Central Valley Flood Protection Board. Manager Hopkins replied no, a variation request was not submitted.

Director Cortopassi inquired how much cfs the District is receiving from Farmington Dam. Manager Hopkins replied 95 cfs.

2. Information Items:

Manager Hopkins noted items: F2a-1, F2a-2, F2a-3 and F2a-4

3. Report on General Manager Activities

a. Stockton East Water District Activities Update

Manager Hopkins provided the Board with an update on the pictures of the Hosie Low-Water Crossing Project. Manager Hopkins presented a few pictures showing the completed crossing. Manager Hopkins reported he met with South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID). SSJID has discussed a project to construct a two-mile tunnel to tie back into their canal to prevent rock slides from damaging their water conveyance. The proposed alignment is close to the District's tunnel and their proposed right-of-way does have some overlap with the District's right-of-way. Staff is researching easement documents to see how the District can negotiate a shared

opportunity. SSJID is also proposing installing a ferry from the South side to the North side of the river. The ferry would transport equipment back and forth. Discussion followed.

Manager Hopkins reported he had a phone call with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding the Watershed Resilience Program. There are two benefits to the program. They are: 1) to take the District's independent plans and combine into one plan to develop projects that would benefit all plans, and 2) DWR is expecting future funding for projects that have a plan in place.

Manager Hopkins requested the Board form an Ad-Hoc Committee to discuss the District's plan for the Advanced Clean Fleet regulation.

#### 4. Stockton East Water District Water Supply Update

Water Supply Manager Donis provided the Board with an update on the District's water supply. Every month the monitoring well data is collected.

From September 2022 to September 2023, the 3 monitoring wells located between Administration and the South Raw Water Reservoir are up 34.73ft. The 3 monitoring wells located east of the recharge site and the East Reservoir are up 24.46ft. The 3 monitoring wells located on the eastside of the nursery are up 30ft. The well located in the northwest corner of the property is up 20.4ft. The well located in the center of the Bozzano property is up 27.3ft. The 4 wells located on the eastside of the North Raw Water Reservoir are up 33.57ft. SEWD's groundwater recharge is totaling 6,900 AF from January to August. The New Melones total to SEWD is 37,078 AF from January to August. That is 49.6% of SEWD's 75,000 AF allocation. Of that, 29,862 AF was M&I and 7,216 AF was AG. Central received 32,740 AF which is 41% of the 80,000 AF allocation. New Hogan storage on April 1<sup>st</sup> was 239,629 AF. As of today, the New Hogan storage is 192,430 AF which is a decrease of 47,199 AF. That totals to 56.1 % of Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) and SEWD's 84,100 AF allocation

Director McGurk inquired if this information is very helpful when determining the District's compliance with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations. Manager Hopkins stated there are representative wells referenced in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that are the indicators for how the DWR perceives our efforts however, the District's local monitoring wells are not those representative wells. These wells being reported are local monitoring wells that help identify the improvements to groundwater made by recharge efforts.

## G. DIRECTOR REPORTS

## H. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Natural Resources Conservation Service - California Nevada Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference Tour - November 1-2, 2023 Letter  
Manager Hopkins provided the Board with information on the California Nevada Soil and Water Conservation Society Conference Tour. The registration deadline is October 4<sup>th</sup>. President Atkins, Director McGurk and Director Sanguinetti is interested in attending the event.
2. Federal Highway Administration - Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program - Stockton East Culvert Crossing Projects Letter  
Manager Hopkins provided the Board with a notice from the Federal Highway Administration awarding the District as a grant recipient for the Culvert Aquatic Organism (Culvert AOP) Grant Program. The District applied for \$1M to help assist in the costs for the George Watkins Low Water

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Crossing Replacement, Fujinaka Low Water Crossing Replacement and the McGurk Low Water Crossing Replacement projects. The Federal Highway Administration is working to finalize the grant agreement.

**I. AGENDA PLANNING/UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation Water Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m., 09/26/23
2. Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, 1:15 p.m., 09/28/23  
*\*This meeting was cancelled\**

**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 2:23 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 2:36 p.m., with no reportable action.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

President Atkins adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Justin M. Hopkins  
Secretary of the Board

hmw

