



**MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
MEETING  
AUGUST 15, 2023  
MINUTES**

**Directors Present:** James Erickson, President  
Tim DaSilva  
Brian Davis  
Carl Janzen, Vice President  
David Loquaci

**Directors Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** T. Greci, General Manager (GM Greci)  
D. Cadenazzi Nolan, Assistant General Manager (AGM Nolan)  
A. Kwock Sandoval, Secretary to the Board  
J. Furstenburg, Controller  
C. Contreras, Operations & Maintenance Manager (OMM Contreras)

**Others Present:** General Counsel John Kinsey, Wanger Jones Helsley; Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau; and others in-person or on Zoom that did not identify themselves

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

President Erickson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the business office of the District at 12152 Road 28 ¼, Madera, California 93637.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Director Loquaci / Director Janzen to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE: ROLL CALL

AYES: Directors Loquaci, Janzen, DaSilva, and Erickson

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Director Davis

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Closed Session**

General Counsel Kinsey stated Director Erickson will voluntarily recuse himself from item 1i.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Closed Session**

President Erickson opened and closed public comment due to no public in attendance.

*Director Erickson exited the meeting from 1:02 p.m. – 1:13 p.m. due to a conflict of interest.*

**1. CLOSED SESSION Closed Session items not concluded prior to Regular Session may be continued at the end of the Regular Session.**

- 1a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 (3 potential cases)
- 1b. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – Potential initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 (2 potential cases)
- 1c. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9; Petition for the Adjudication of Rights to the Fresno River, before the State Water Resources Control Board
- 1d. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9; Madera Irrigation District v. Smith-Adobe Ranch Family Limited Partnership, Case No. MCV081757
- 1e. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9; Jose Hernandez v. Madera Irrigation District, et. al., Case No. MCV084802 and consolidated cases
- 1f. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9; Madera Irrigation District and Madera Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency v. Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Madera County Board of Supervisors, County of Madera, Case No. MCV086277
- 1g. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9; Madera Irrigation District and Madera Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency v. Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Madera County Board of Supervisors, County of Madera, Case No. MCV087598

- 1h. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9; *NRDC v. Rogers*, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California (Sacramento Division), Case No. 88-CV-1658-JAM-GGH
  
- 1i. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8
  - Property: 047-060-018 and 047-060-006
  - Agency Negotiator: Thomas Greci and Dina Nolan
  - Negotiating Party: Shawn Lilles
  
- 1j. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8
  - Property: 031-173-001, 031-173-002, 031-173-003, and 031-161-012
  - Agency Negotiator: Thomas Greci and Dina Nolan
  - Negotiating Party: Taisto Smith

**CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Erickson called regular session to order at 2:05 p.m. with staff in attendance and the public in attendance.

**REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

There was no reportable action taken during Closed Session.

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no potential conflicts of interest noted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: MID Groundwater Sustainability Agency & Regular Session**

Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau announced there will be recharge policy meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Madera County Farm Bureau. The meeting will focus on recharge credits in the Madera County GSA.

**ADJOURN AS MID BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CONVENE AS MID GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY – 2:07 p.m.**

- a. Update on MID Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

AGM Nolan provided an update on MID GSA projects. She noted the District had a 2023 Incentive Program that was approved by the Board at the June meeting. There are several people participating in the program, and it was successful. The Incentive Program began in 2022 and continued into 2023. The District is currently in the process of acquiring an additional parcel for a basin. The Board approved the purchase at the June Board Meeting. It is two parcels that are approximately 45 acres off of the Big Main system. The property is currently in escrow.

AGM Nolan reported discussions has begun with the other GSAs in the Madera Subbasin regarding facilitation for the GSP approval. AGM Nolan stated agenda item 5f. is to establish an Ad Hoc Committee for the facilitation process. AGM Nolan stated we are in the infancy stages of the process.

**ADJOURN AS MID GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY & RECONVENE AS MID BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2:09 p.m.**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 2a. Approval of June 6, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 2b. Approval of June 13, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 2c. Approval of June 16, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 2d. Discussion / possible action on approval of warrant list payments through July 31, 2023
- 2e. Discussion / possible action on monthly financial reports for May and June 2023

MOTION: Director Janzen / Director DaSilva to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Christina Beckstead commented on the minutes of June 16, 2023. She noted the wording under the O&M report regarding the new turnouts was confusing to her.

VOTE:

AYES: Unanimously approved

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORT – DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

OMM Contreras reported the new SCADA integrator has been working out well. OMM Contreras stated the District has been working to move the cell phone and tablet service to AT&T FirstNet from Verizon. It is approximately \$5,000 per year savings and the cell phones would still work in an emergency.

The meter accounting software is currently being merged into STORM. It will be integrated into the current system utilized for water and billing tracking. The new Engineering Building has been delivered.

Maintenance staff continues to be busy and has repaired leaks throughout the District. The canal mowing has been completed at 32.2-99W and 32.2-8.9-1.3 canal.

OMM Contreras noted staff has been placing totes with non-hazardous materials in various locations for algae treatment. Staff monitors and refills the totes as needed. OMM Contreras stated so far it has been working out.

Director Janzen questioned the status of the Stockton project and if the project would begin this off season. AGM Nolan stated the project will likely occur in the next off season because the District will need to hire a contractor and is coordinating with the City of Madera and other agencies.

#### 4. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

##### 4a. Update of Activities

- Madera-Chowchilla Water & Power Authority Update
- ACWA JPIA Wellness Grant
- Water Supply Update

GM Greci provided an update on the Madera-Chowchilla Water & Power Authority. He noted the power plants have been running most of the water season at capacity. GM Greci stated he is happy to report through July the plants have generated approximately \$720,000 of revenue in power sold to PG&E. There were a few gopher holes that showed up and MID staff responded to fix it before there was an issue. The Madera Canal has been running at capacity and should likely run through this month at capacity. GM Greci stated the canal is a little bit down and we are at about 1,100 cfs.

GM Greci stated with harvest ramping up, the District will begin recharging water to its basins. The District is completely off of the turnout from the Madera Canal to the Fresno River and back on releases from Hidden. GM Greci stated uncontrolled season ended on July 29, 2023 and is now running contract supplies. The residual Class 2 allocation is 15%, which we will likely use through the end of this week. GM Greci stated we will carryover what we can and likely run into November. GM Greci stated hopefully we can go into a recharge program later in the fall. GM Greci stated the Madera Canal has been running at capacity since May.

GM Greci stated the District received the Wellness Grant from ACWA/JPIA this year in the amount of \$2,000. It will give the District the opportunity to provide wellness programs for staff. GM Greci stated the Defensive Driving training will be held on September 7, 2023.

Director Loquaci questioned when the repairs for the middle reach will occur on the Friant Kern Canal. President Erickson replied the Friant Kern Canal will be down beginning around November 10, 2023 through January 20, 2024.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 5a. Presentation from the Department of Water Resources on the San Joaquin River Watershed Studies – **Timed Item 2:30 p.m.**

DISCUSSION: A presentation was provided by Ajay Goyal and David Arrate of the Department of Water Resources on the San Joaquin River Watershed Studies.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Erickson opened public comment and closed public comment due to no comments from the public in attendance.

- 5b. Discussion / possible action on surplus of equipment, Resolution No. 2023-25

MOTION: Director Janzen / Director Loquaci to approve Resolution No. 2023-05 to surplus the equipment listed.

DISCUSSION: There are three Dell computers and 2010 F-150 listed in the resolution for surplus. The vehicle has 230,000 miles.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Erickson opened public comment and closed public comment due to no comments from the public in attendance.

VOTE: ROLL CALL

AYES: Directors Loquaci, Janzen, Davis, DaSilva, and Erickson

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

- 5c. Discussion / possible action on approving the Human Resources Technician job description and filling of position, Resolution No. 2023-26

MOTION: Director Loquaci / Director DaSilva to approve the Human Resources Technician job description, Resolution No. 2023-26.

DISCUSSION: GM Greci stated the District has an unfilled Human Resources Administrator / Risk Manager position. This is not that position; it is a new position in the Finance Department. It would be a point person for the HR components. The position is not a management position and will not include any of the risk management components. It is for the day to day human resources tasks.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Erickson opened public comment and closed public comment due to no comments from the public in attendance.

VOTE: ROLL CALL

AYES: Directors Loquaci, Janzen, Davis, DaSilva, and Erickson

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

- 5d. Discussion / possible action on Soquel Letter Agreement Extension with Pacific Gas & Electric, Resolution No. 2023-27

MOTION: Director Loquaci / Director Janzen to approve the Soquel Letter Agreement Extension with Pacific Gas & Electric, Resolution No. 2023-

DISCUSSION: GM Greci stated this is the annual extension of the Soquel Agreement with Pacific Gas & Electric. The District entered the agreement with PG&E in 1977. There was an extension to 1995 and since 1995 annual agreements have been entered into.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Erickson opened public comment and closed public comment due to no comments from the public in attendance.

VOTE: ROLL CALL

AYES: Directors Loquaci, Janzen, Davis, DaSilva, and Erickson

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

- 5e. Discussion / possible action on adopting responsible agency findings pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and approving the Cooperative Agreement for implementation of the new guidelines for accepting water in the Friant-Kern Canal, Resolution No. 2023-28

MOTION: Director Janzen / Director Loquaci to adopt responsible agency findings pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and approve the Cooperative Agreement for implementation of the new guidelines for accepting water in the Friant-Kern Canal, Resolution No. 2023-28.

DISCUSSION: GM Greci stated this is an item that has been worked on for many years. This document addresses accepting water into the Friant Kern Canal that is not a part of Friant. It could be water coming from the Kings River, groundwater, or water from other watersheds. It could also be recirculation water that makes its way back through the Cross Valley Canal. GM Greci stated MID would rarely have water that is not Friant water going through the Friant Kern Canal, but could have recirculation water.

GM Greci stated this includes a CEQA component and an EIR was prepared by FWA. MID will file a Notice of Determination. There were a lot of meetings over years to get to this agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Erickson opened public comment and closed public comment due to no comments from the public in attendance.

VOTE: ROLL CALL

AYES: Directors Loquaci, Janzen, Davis, DaSilva, and Erickson

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

5f. Discussion / possible action on Ad Hoc Groundwater Sustainability Plan Facilitation Committee, Resolution No. 2023-29

MOTION: Director Loquaci / Director Davis to approve the Ad Hoc Groundwater Sustainability and appoint Director Loquaci and Director DaSilva to the Committee, Resolution No. 2023-29.

DISCUSSION: AGM Nolan stated we are working through the process of the GSP facilitation. It will involve meetings with the facilitator and other GSAs. The resolution requires two directors to be appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee. There are no alternates.

President Erickson suggested Director Loquaci stay involved since he has been closely involved. Director DaSilva volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Erickson opened public comment and closed public comment due to no comments from the public in attendance.

VOTE: ROLL CALL

AYES: Directors Loquaci, Janzen, Davis, DaSilva, and Erickson

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**6. DIRECTOR REPORTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director DaSilva – nothing to report

Director Davis stated he is looking forward to harvest starting.

Director Janzen reported on San Joaquin River Conservancy and Friant Power Authority.

Director Loquaci reported on the Governor's Executive Order regarding cleaning out the channels.

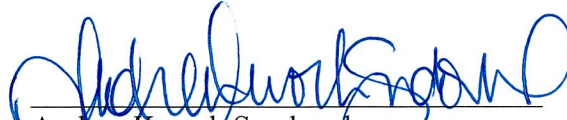
Director Erickson reported on Friant Water Authority.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Erickson adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

**APPROVED FOR THE BOARD:**

  
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James Erickson  
President

  
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Andrea Kwock Sandoval  
Secretary to the Board

Date: 10/17/23

