

**MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
MEETING  
JUNE 18, 2024  
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)  
J. Furstenburg, Controller  
C. Contreras, Operations & Maintenance Manager (OMM Contreras)

**Others Present:** General Counsel John Kinsey, Wanger Jones Helsley; Joel Hastings, WaterWrights; Tom Coleman; 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 Janzen / Director Loquaci to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE:

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

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Closed Session**

General Counsel Kinsey reported there were no potential conflicts of interest for Closed Session.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Closed Session**

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

*The Board convened to Closed Session at 1:02 p.m.*

**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 (3 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; *NRDC v. Rogers*, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California (Sacramento Division), Case No. 88-CV-1658-JAM-GGH
- 1f. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9; Madera Irrigation District v. Allstate Insurance Company, Case No. MCV090064
- 1g. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6  
Agency Designated Representatives: Board of Directors  
Employee Organization: Madera Irrigation District Employees' Association
- 1h. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54957  
Title: Assistant General Manager

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

President Erickson called regular session to order at 2:00 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**

Tom Coleman commented on the poor audio when utilizing Zoom.

**RECESS AS MID BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CONVENE AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION –  
TIMED ITEM – 2:00 P.M.**

The Board of Directors, acting as the Board of Equalization will hear and determine objections to the valuation, acreage, or any other matter pertaining to assessments.

Controller Furstenburg stated the Board of Directors will convene as a Board of Equalization (BOE) pursuant to California Water Code Section 25550 to hear and determine objections to the valuations, acreage, and/or any matter pertaining to assessments. The BOE meetings begin today and end on Friday, June 21, 2024.

The annual unequalized assessment roll was presented to the Board Secretary on Monday, May 20, 2024 as required by the California State Water Code. This roll provides the total assessed value of properties within the Madera Irrigation District boundaries for city, city ag, and rural parcels and is used as a base of the computation of the ad valorem assessment rate for the assessment year. Besides the assessments that are collected annually, the District collects other revenues in the form of crop water tolls, standby fees, and other miscellaneous charges that are allocated in addition to those assessments toward District expenditures such as Transmission and Distribution, General and Administrative, Interest, and Source of Supply expenses.

The approximate assessment revenue based on the unequalized roll for 2025 is \$6,258,166.20, which is shown on “Exhibit A”. This is determined by using the current assessment rates as shown in the staff report. As part of the Board of Equalization process, parcels are updated when new parcel maps are received from the County of Madera. These changes could consist of lot line adjustments, parcel splits, category changes and subdivision changes. Those changes are shown on “Exhibit B”, Listing of Individual Parcel Changes.

“Exhibit C” identifies those parcels partaking in the District’s Non-Irrigated Lands Program.

“Exhibit D” provides the current definitions of the District categories.

“Exhibit E” is informational as it shows the assessment rates for the period 2015 through 2025 and the average increase each year.

Controller Furstenburg stated approval of the assessment rates will occur at the meeting on Friday, June 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. AGM Nolan noted typically there are not any changes on Exhibit A and Exhibit B between today's Board of Equalization and the Board of Equalization on Friday. However, there will be minor changes that will be shown on Friday. Controller Furstenburg noted there are approximately 100 changes that will be made due to modifications made by Madera County.

**ADJOURN AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & CONVENE AS MID GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

a. Update on MID Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

AGM Nolan stated the consultant for the 5 Year Update for the Joint GSP has started to ask for information, which the District has provided. The update is scheduled to be completed in January 2025; there is a lot of work that needs to be done between now and then. AGM Nolan stated some meetings have been set up and they are wanting to start discussing the domestic well program. AGM Nolan stated we have been wanting to discuss and move the program forward for some time.

AGM Nolan stated MID continues to work on our GSA projects. A request for proposals for potential basin acquisition was released a few months ago and the District received some proposals. AGM Nolan stated staff met and reviewed the proposals. There was also a board meeting last week and the District decided not to move forward with any of the proposals. The District will continue to look for opportunities.

AGM Nolan reported there have been new and improved basin signs installed at a few of the basins and the remainder are being installed soon.

**ADJOURN AS MID GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY & RECONVENE AS MID BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 2a. Approval of April 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 2b. Approval of May 1, 2024 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 2c. Discussion / possible action on approval of warrant list payments through May 7, 2024
- 2d. Discussion / possible action on monthly financial reports for March, April, and May 2024

MOTION: Director Janzen / Director Davis to approve the Consent Agenda items 2a. – 2d.

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

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

VOTE:

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

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORT – DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

Controller Furstenburg reported on the cash balance summary. The Sweep account was established in 2012 and was currently making 0.1% interest. Controller Furstenburg stated the Sweep account was closed on May 8, 2024 and the funds were moved to California Class and LAIF. LAIF is making 4.33% interest and California Class is making 5.39% interest. The funds are readily available if needed.

OMM Contreras reported Heat Illness Prevention, Workplace Violence Prevention, and Hazard Communication training was held. The spray staff completed their yearly National Pollutant Discharge Elimination training and engineering staff completed survey equipment training.

The Maintenance Department replaced approximately 2,600 linear feet of old cast-in-place with 30-inch high density polyethylene pipe. The crop survey data collection has been completed. The Rubicon gates are undergoing routine maintenance. OMM Contreras reviewed the project photos from the Maintenance Department. The spray staff continues to treat algae and have set up field tanks for microbes treatments. OMM Contreras discussed the various system leaks that have been repaired.

Director Loquaci questioned where we are with the facility replacement plan and if it needs to be updated. AGM Nolan replied last year a presentation was provided on the Capital Improvement Plan and we are on track. AGM Nolan stated after the water season, staff can identify projects that can be completed during the maintenance season. Director Loquaci stated last year there was no time to complete any maintenance projects due to the long water season. GM Greci stated it has been more reactive and fixing items as they arise because of the long water seasons.

Director Davis questioned if we are running on a rotation schedule on any of the canals. OMM Contreras stated there are some locations that are running on a rotation. OMM Contreras stated we are seeing growers turn off on the weekends now and come back on Monday. It can cause issues for the canal operators. Director Davis stated with the incomes on the property shrinking and reduction of hours of operations, growers are more likely to shut down on the weekend. AGM Nolan stated we are looking strategically at properties to utilize as regulating basins.

**4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 4a. Update of Activities
- Madera-Chowchilla Water & Power Authority
  - Water Season

- Cancellation of July Regular Board Meeting

GM Greci stated there are big swings in demand on the weekends for Chowchilla Water District and on the Friant-Kern Canal. GM Greci stated when there are big swings in demand it does cause issues on the Madera Canal and for the power plants. GM Greci reported uncontrolled season ended on June 17, 2024. Any extra water in the MID system was put into our recharge basins during uncontrolled season and did not impact water supply. We are at 100% Class 1 and 0% Class 2 allocation from the Bureau of Reclamation. GM Greci stated the District will likely run into September with our current supplies.

GM Greci reported on the Madera-Chowchilla Water & Power Authority. The power plants are currently running. There is an issue with one of the meters on one of the power plants that reports to CAISO.

GM Greci noted the July regular board meeting will be cancelled and we will likely have a combined July/August meeting in early August.

GM Greci stated the Friant Water Authority Annual dinner was successful and well attended. There was a nice presentation on Kole Upton. It was the first time the event had been held in Madera.

AGM Nolan stated Director Janzen has been on the Board of Directors for 25 years. AGM Nolan stated staff contacted the Irrigation Leader Magazine and Carl will be featured in an issue later this year. Director Janzen stated it has been a short 25 years.

GM Greci stated the ribbon cutting for the Friant-Kern Canal will be held on Friday, June 21, 2024. AGM Nolan noted the MID Centennial book will be in the Library of Congress.

## **5. DIRECTOR REPORTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director DaSilva stated he has heard from some growers that they can't get water.

Director Davis – nothing to report

Director Janzen provided a written report on the ACWA/JPIA and ACWA conference meetings he attended in May. He stated the main thing is the liability and property insurance costs continue to increase. Director Janzen stated Friant Power Authority met and the budget was approved.

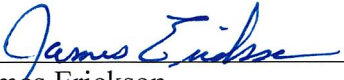
Director Loquaci commented that he has spoken to a lot of growers and location matters. Some growers have complained the cost of water is too high and others have said it's a great price.

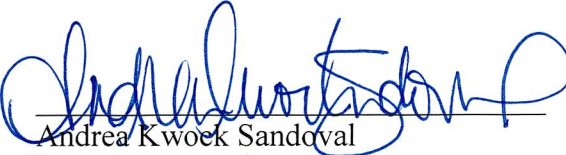
Director Erickson reported he has been to Washington, D.C and Sacramento on Friant Water Authority business. He attended the ACWA spring conference with Directors Janzen and Davis.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Erickson adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

**APPROVED FOR THE BOARD:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Erickson  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrea Kwoek Sandoval  
Secretary to the Board

Date: 8/8/24

