

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SEMITROPIC  
WATER STORAGE DISTRICT AND ITS GSA AND  
SEMITROPIC, BUTTONWILLOW, POND-POSO,  
AND WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Convened at 12:31 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Waterhouse on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 12:31 p.m., at the District office located at 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California.

Directors Present: Dan Waterhouse, Todd Tracy, Tim Thomson,  
Tom Toretta, David Daniel, Jeff Fabbri, Philip  
Portwood

Directors Absent: None

Other Participants: General Manager, Jason Gianquinto  
District Engineer, Isela Medina  
District Controller, Bobby Salinas  
District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz  
District Superintendent, John Lynch  
District Secretary, Laura Gage  
District's Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani  
Larry Rodriguez (GEI)  
Rick Amigh (W.M. Lyles Co)  
Floyd Wicks (Agua Via)  
Kaho Kong (Valley Water)  
Lindsay Cederquist (Maricopa Orchards)  
Chad Carrol (CJ Farmside/Whiteside Dairy)  
Maddie Reyes (Illume Agriculture)  
Douglas Jackson (Water Land Solutions)  
John Gaugel (Wonderful Orchards)

President Waterhouse opened the meeting and welcomed all guests. Attendance was taken and recorded.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Agenda

No Action; no changes to the Agenda

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Regular Semitropic Water Storage District Board Meeting and Semitropic Water Storage District GSA Board Meeting of February 14, 2024, and the Special Board Meeting on February 28, 2024, were presented for approval.

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Fabbri, the Minutes of the Regular Semitropic Water Storage District Board Meeting and Semitropic Water Storage District GSA Board Meeting of February 14, 2024, and the Special Board Meeting on February 28, 2024, were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Reports**

The Treasurer's reports for February 2024 were presented for review and approval.

On Motion by Director Toretta, seconded by Director Portwood, the Treasurer's Reports for February 2024 for Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District were approved for filing.

**Financial Reports**

The District Controller, Bobby Salinas, reviewed the Financial Reports, including the Income Statement along with the Actual and Projected Cash Flow Report for February 2024.

**Accounts Payable**

The Cash Disbursement List for March 13, 2024, was presented for review and payment.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Toretta, the Board authorized payment of the Accounts Payable as listed on the March 13, 2024, Disbursement List for Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District, with the exception of line items #37 and #41, which payment will be held until confirmation and backup is received.

A copy of the Disbursement List presenting the payments that were approved is attached hereto as "Exhibit A."

**Consider Cost Proposals for Procurement of Pump Equipment for Inventory**

The District Engineer, Isela Medina, provided an overview of the Cost Proposals for Procurement of Pump Equipment for Inventory and recommended Board approval.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Tracy, the Board approved the Cost Proposals for Procurement of Pump Equipment for Inventory.

**SEMITROPIC WSD GSA UPDATE**

At 12:42 p.m., the Board President, Dan Waterhouse declared a meeting of the Semitropic Water Storage District Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

**SGMA Updates and Discussion**

The General Manager, Jason Gianquinto and GEI Consultant, Larry Rodriguez provided an update on the District’s SGMA related activities.

**Consider Adoption of Resolution ST GSA 24-02: Determination of Whether to Preliminarily Fix Any Penalties for Any Landowner Water Budget Exceedances for Calendar Year 2023**

The General Manager, Jason Gianquinto provided an overview of the 2023 ET Statements and the Landowner Water Budgets, Proposed Charges Report with a recommendation for no penalties be applied for 2023 for the reasons stated in the proposed resolution, which were summarized by the General Manager.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Thomson, upon roll call vote the Board adopted Resolution No. ST GSA 24-02 re Determination of Whether to Preliminarily Fix Any Penalties for Any Landowner Water Budget Exceedances for Calendar Year 2023.

- Ayes: Directors Thomson, Fabbri, Tracy, Toretta, Daniel, Portwood, and Waterhouse
- Noes: None
- Abstain: None
- Absent: None

The GSA meeting concluded at 1:05 p.m.

**CONSULTANT REPORTS**

**SWRU – Construction Update by W.M. Lyles**

W.M. Lyle’s Representative, Rick Amigh, provided an overview of W.M. Lyle’s progress report which was included with the Board Packet.

**Consulting Engineer’s Report**

Larry Rodriguez from GEI Consultants presented and summarized GEI's "Consulting Engineers Report on Projects for February 2024" for work during February 2024, which was accepted for filing.

### **Balance Public Relations**

Dean Florez of Balance Public Relations was not present but provided "Monthly Report: March 2024" and a Legislative bill list, which includes ACWA recommendations until the subcommittee meets via email which was included with the Board Package

### **REDtrac**

Greg Allen of REDTrac did not have a report this month. /

### **INFORMATIONAL AND UP-DATE ITEMS**

Manager Gianquinto noted that the Staff Report, titled "District Activity During February 2024," dated March 8, 2024, was included with the Board Packet. In addition, the following items were discussed:

DWR certified the EIR for the Delta Conveyance Project on December 21, 2023, and, in light of the EIR, approved the Bethany Reservoir Alignment as the project alternative that would move forward. On February 22, 2024, DWR submitted the permit for the change of point of diversion for the project to allow for diversion of water from the North Delta. Once filed and notices, there is a 60-day period for interested parties to file protests. In DWR's Letter to the SWRCB regarding the petition, DWR noted that the petition seeks to add two points of diversion and re-diversion to the water rights for the State Water Project necessary for the construction and operation of new SWP water diversion and conveyance facilities for the DCP. DWR also noted that the project is a critical element of a broader State effort to protect the reliability of statewide water supplies from earthquakes and weather-driven climate extremes.

As previously noted in November, the DCP Design and Construction Authority (DCA) staff informed the State Water Contractors that there is a need for additional interim funding associated with additional Planning and Design activities. The current funding is adequate to fund activities to 2025. This additional funding is needed to fund the period from 2025 to the issuance of bonds for the project which is currently expected in 2029. DWR will need a decision as to participation in the additional interim funding this year (2024) such that the interim funding costs can be included in the Statement of Charges issued in 2025 for 2026. The DCA is also planning to provide updated project cost information by the end of Q1 2024 and an updated cost-benefit analysis by the end of Q2 2024. DWR noted that the cost-benefit analysis will focus on the project costs relative to the following major benefit categories: Water Supply, Seismic Resilience, and Water Quality. DWR did note that the expected water quality benefits for the approved

project are relatively small.

At 1:44 p.m. President Waterhouse adjourned the Regular Board meeting, and it was reported that there was a need for the Board to reconvene in closed session.

**Closed Session**

At 1:56 p.m. the meeting continued with Closed Session.

Participants included:

Directors Present: Dan Waterhouse, Todd Tracy, Tim Thomson,  
Tom Toretta, David Daniel, Jeff Fabbri, Philip  
Portwood

Directors Absent: None

Other Participants: General Manager, Jason Gianquinto  
District Engineer, Isela Medina  
District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz  
District Controller, Bobby Salinas  
District Secretary, Laura Gage  
District's Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani  
Larry Rodriguez (GEI)

During open session, the District's legal counsel, Steve Torigiani, stated that a closed session was needed to discuss various closed session matters, including reporting on the following items of pending and anticipated litigation:

- a. **Conference with legal counsel Re: Litigation (Govt. Code § 54956.9(d))**
- 1) *Various applications filed for Kings River Water by Semitropic WSD, et al.; Pétition for Change of Points of Diversion, etc. (License 11521) filed by Kings River Water Assn.; and related matters and proceedings, before the State Water Resources Control Bd.*
  - 2) *Cal. Dep't of Water Res. V. All Persons Interested, "Complaint for Validation" Re: SWP Contract Extension Amendment, Sacramento Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-00246183, Third Appellate District, Case No. C096316*
  - 3) *State of CA Dept. of Trans. V. Semitropic WSD, Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-19- 100326*
  - 4) *State v. Pond Poso Improvement District of Semitropic Water Storage District, Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-19-100786*
  - 5) *Sierra Club v. California Department of Water Resources (DWR), etc. Re: Consolidated CEQA Case and "Complaint for Validation" Re: Delta*

*Program Revenue Bonds, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2020-80003517*

- 6) *Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District v. Kern County Water Agency, et al., Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-21-100418*
- 7) *KWBA, et al. v. Kern LAFCo, et al., Kern County Sup. Ct., Case No. BCV-21-101310*
- 8) *Semitropic Water Storage Dist. v. The Dow Chemical Co., et al., Kern County Sup. Ct., Case No. BCV-21-102528*
- 9) *Macut v. Wabash National, et al., Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-22-100318*

**b. Conference with Legal Counsel Re: Anticipated Litigation: Possible exposure to litigation pursuant Gov't Code § 54956.9(d)(2).**

- 1) *Two Potential Cases.*

**c. Conference with Legal Counsel Re: Anticipated Litigation: Possible initiation of litigation pursuant to Govt. Code § 54956.9(d)(4)**

- 1) *Two Potential Cases.*

**d. Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Govt. Code § 54956.8)**

*District's Designated  
Representative: General Manager  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms  
of Payment*

- 1) *Property: State Water Project Supplies*
  - a. *Negotiation With: California Department of Water Resources, Kern County Water Agency and its Member Units, And State Water Contractors*
- 2) *Property: Acquisition of Water Supplies*
  - a. *Negotiation with: Multiple sellers*

At 3:05 p.m. the Board reconvened to open session.

President Waterhouse stated that several items were discussed, but no reportable action was taken in closed session.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m. by President Waterhouse.

APPROVED:



Daniel Waterhouse, President



Todd Tracy, Secretary

Board Day Presentation  
**SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT**

**DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED AT March 13, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

**FEBRUARY AFTER BOARD MEETING**

**SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Special Projects**

1	Dee Jaspar and Associates, Inc.- North Pintail Slough Easement work	\$	28,042.15
2	GEI Consultants*		98,937.10
3	W.M. Lyles Co- Leonard System Extension Project Progress (January)		122,730.98 G
		\$	<u><u>249,710.23</u></u>

**Operation Maintenance**

4	AC Electric Company- R&M Electrical for Gooselake Pole Project	\$	39,805.00
5	AC Electric Company- PGE Hwy 46 substation DTT clearance work		4,349.00
6	AECA Membership Invoice - 2024 Membership Dues		10,000.00
7	Barbich Hooper King Dill Hoffman- accounting and audit services		6,425.00
8	Buena Vista Water Storage District- expense reimbursement		12,454.10
9	Clark Pest Control- office maintenance		93.00
10	Fastenal- Operating Supplies		192.91
11	FedEx- packages		21.72
12	Frontier Communications - data communication for substation		58.67
13	Gas Company- office utilities		293.13
14	Grapevine MSP Technology Services- MSP Agrmnt, Patch Mgmt.,Secure offsite data backup,adv.email security (March)		4,085.30
15	H & A Plumbing Inc. - labor and materials for office building wall hose bib		300.00
16	IFG Services, Inc. - repair 12" and 16" slant disc valves		24,917.45
17	Knight's Pumping & Portable - portable toilet & services		471.85
18	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		8.24
19	Praxair- cylinder rental for O&M		84.71
20	Rain for Rent - district spreading recharge on PP73 & 6B		9,625.69
21	ReadyRefresh by Nestle- water for shop		757.47
22	Sanchez, Jose Alberto- burning of tumbleweeds		1,751.00
23	SBS of Bakersfield, Inc.- office copier (copy charges for February)		383.82
24	Sunbelt Rentals- Equipment rental for Gooselake Recovery Proj. & service		11,692.24
25	Sunbelt Rentals- Equipment Rental supporting recharge		7,157.45
26	Velosio- Semitropic - consulting services		411.25
	<b>Operating Expense Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u><u>135,339.00</u></u></b>

**TOTAL BILLS FOR FEBRUARY AFTER BOARD MEETING \$ 385,049.23**

+ (Additional disbursements or adjusted amounts.)

\*(See page 2 for Special Project Funds)

\*\* (See page 2 for breakdown)

**EXHIBIT A**

**\*\*BREAKDOWN OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR March 13, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

2 GEI Consultants, Inc. - \*

General engineering fees, GW Modeling & expenses	\$	7,628.65
High Speed Rail - UA 2.0		45,407.66 R
Tulare Lake Flood Control Project		410.90
Leonard Ave Intertie Project		19,756.27 G
SGMA Implementation		21,168.24
IRWMP Expense		817.36 R
Subsurface Recharge		3,748.02
	\$	<u><u>98,937.10</u></u>

G Grant	\$	142,487.25
R Reimbursed		46,225.02
	\$	<u><u>188,712.27</u></u>



**FEBRUARY AFTER BOARD MEETING**

**Wire Transactions**

27	Sun Trust Bank - 2006 Swap Agreement (February)	\$	41,506.29
		\$	<u>41,506.29</u>

**MARCH 2024 BOARD MAILING**

**SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Special Projects**

28	Downey Brand- professional services Tulare Lake Flood control proj.	\$	15,315.00
29	W.M. Lyles Co- TCP Treatment Project		58,775.68
30	W.M. Lyles Co- JPP Valve Actuator Mods and New PLC and Enclosure		120,019.74
31	W.M. Lyles Co- SWRU Phase 2 System X		3,812.96
32	W.M. Lyles Co- Radial Arm Gate Replacement		160,291.60
33	Michael K. Nunley & Associates, Inc.- engineering services for California High Speed Rail		32,093.83 R
34	Kenneth Schmidt and Associates- Groundwater Monitoring Program		977.39 R
35	Young Wooldridge*		18,146.80
	<b>Special Projects Subtotal</b>	\$	<u>409,433.00</u>

**SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Operation Maintenance**

36	ADS LLC - Meter ST#3 repair	\$	13,415.00
37	AmeriGas - propane for well drilling		282.15
38	American Refuse- trash service for shop		324.04
39	American Tire Tec- used tire disposal		12.00
40	AT&T- telephone services		689.69
41	Avadine- engineer/analyst - monthly software products license maintenance/support agreement February		950.00
42	Bakersfield Drug Testing- drug tests		55.00
43	Balance Public Relations- lobbying services		13,500.00
44	Big Brand Tire and Service- high speed wheel balance on pickup #206		97.37
45	Buena Vista Water Storage District- expense reimbursement 50% cost share of 3 Stooges meter repair		2,627.92
46	Buena Vista Groundwater Sustainability Agency- sixth funding request due for the SGMA CC		11,818.18
47	CDW Government- monitor for security cameras		293.90
48	Charter Communications (Spectrum)- internet		314.95
49	Chester Avenue Brake- part to repair dump truck		57.72
50	Computershare -Semitropic 2nd Lien Rev Bds 15A Trustee Fee		4,500.00
51	Coverall - cleaning services for March		702.00
52	DAHL Consultants- engineering fees SWSD bridges		11,228.19
53	Downs Equipment Rentals, Inc.- excavator rental to remove tumbleweeds from canals		8,386.48
54	Grainger- engineering supplies, transformer sump pumps		532.24
55	Grainger- Red Pass Plus Annual Membership fee		139.64
56	Grapevine MSP Technology Services- Domain-Yr ( 02/01/2024-01/31/2025)		35.00
57	H & A Plumbing Inc. - R&M building, install narrow wall hydrant		908.00
58	HCC Surety Group- bond (contractor license Doug Geivet) 04/18/2024-04/18/2028		546.00
59	Jeffries Bros., Inc. - gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products		13,923.76
60	Jeffries Bros., Inc. - diesel for various pumps supporting recharge		8,335.67
61	Jim Burke Ford- vehicle service supplies		2,276.96
62	Kern County Assessor's Office - Assessment Roll		220.00
63	Kern County Water Agency- deferred payment 2024 Table A		3,549,061.00
64	Kern County Water Agency- CVC estimated billing for O&M and power "Stand-by" Costs 2nd Quarter		22,529.72
65	King Door Co.- drilling yard shop door repair		5,719.00
66	McMaster-Carr- parts to repair pumping plant low suction probes		141.18
67	Office Depot- office supplies		1,052.50
68	O'Reilly Auto Parts- shop supplies		558.61
69	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		26,705.31
70	Rain for Rent - 42D & 44D pipeline rental for Dist. Sprd		832.27

**SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Operation Maintenance**

71	Rain for Rent - 8B & 30B equipment rental SprdGrnd recharge	5,564.78
72	RedTrac, LLC.- Well Telem Monitoring (March)	5,354.00
73	Richland Chevrolet- duct for pickup #215, re program throttle body on pickup #214, repair wiper circuit	1,644.26
74	Shafter Parts and Supply, Inc.- February shop supplies for O&M	1,658.21
75	South Tulare Richgrove Refuse Inc.- trash service for drilling yard	478.91
76	Sparkle Textile Rental- uniforms, shop mats, & towels rental & office apparel	1,672.41
77	State of California - D.W.R. - Prop. 13 Ground Water Recharge Bond #E77007	159,791.73
78	State of California - D.W.R. - B-369 Pumping Plant & raise BR Canal Lining Loan #E77004	162,180.87
79	Sunbelt Rentals- Equipment Rental supporting recharge	13,883.83
80	Sunbelt Rentals- Equipment rental for Gooselake Recovery Proj.	1,244.88
81	Taylor Equipment & Repair, Inc. - labor on motorgrader	979.79
82	Tel-Tec Security Systems, Inc.- shop monitoring services (March) and service labor	563.75
83	T-Mobile - internet access for communication with Solar Site	27.00
84	Trinity Safety Company- R&M Meters	2,411.54
85	Verizon Wireless - cell phones substation, solar site, on call, superintendent, dispatch, IT, CFO, & General Manager	627.10
86	City of Wasco- water, sewer, and trash services for office (February)	608.55
87	Waterbender LLC - scale inhibitor	3,375.29
88	Wells Fargo Business Cards-**	2,140.85
89	Wesco- electrical supplies	1,238.93
90	Zultys, Inc.- monthly charges for phone system (March)	994.95
	<b>Operating Expense Subtotal \$</b>	<b><u>4,069,213.08</u></b>

**TOTAL BILLS FOR MARCH BOARD MAILING \$ 4,478,646.08**

**S.W.S.D - Payroll Accounts - transfer of funds from S.I.D. for February payroll \$ 402,460.41**

**MARCH 2024 AFTER BOARD MAILING**

**SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Special Projects**

91	Concepts in Controls, Inc.- SCADA Upgrade Phase 1	\$ 36,669.00
92	Dee Jaspar and Associates, Inc.- North Pintail Slough Easement work	22,214.52
93	GEI Consultants*	100,434.37
94	Michael K. Nunley & Associates, Inc.- engineering services for California High Speed Rail	27,221.79 R
	<b>Special Projects Subtotal \$</b>	<b><u>186,539.68</u></b>

**Operation Maintenance**

95	AT&T- long distance charges	\$ 46.73
96	Collins, Ron- gardening (February)	600.00
97	De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc.- office copier (March)	401.17
98	Frontier Communications - data communication for substation	75.86
99	Home Depot- December supplies for O&M	585.98
100	Larry Cross Tire Repair- repair unit #321 dump truck	330.82
101	Jeffries Bros., Inc. - gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products	4,898.82
102	Jeffries Bros., Inc. - diesel for various pumps supporting recharge	1,471.13
103	Jim Burke Ford- parts for Unit #197	465.41
104	Office Depot- office supplies	442.39
105	Pacific Tank & Construction, Inc.- R&M on Standtanks	46,453.46
106	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines	1,444.47
107	A.C. Poettgen- monthly cylinder rental (February)	119.00
108	Rain for Rent - 8B & 30B equipment rental SprdGrnd recharge	3,290.35
109	Rain for Rent - Equip. rental 10B, 12B, 14B Recharge	3,704.82

**SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Operation Maintenance**

110	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District- permit for agricultural burning	760.00
111	Strategic Policies LLC- consulting services and expenses for February	5,060.00
112	Target Specialty Products- roundup custom & roundup pro	7,851.78
113	Verizon Wireless - cell phones substation, solar site, on call, superintendent, dispatch, IT, CFO, & General Manager	773.61
114	Wesco- CE/CW pumping plant low suction stilling Well installation	12.75
	<b>Operating Expense Subtotal \$</b>	<b><u>78,788.55</u></b>

**TOTAL BILLS FOR MARCH 2024 AFTER BOARD MAILING \$ 265,328.23**

**TOTAL BILLS FOR FEBRUARY 2024 AFTER BOARD MEETING \$ 385,049.23**  
**TOTAL BILLS FOR MARCH 2024 BOARD MAILING \$ 4,478,646.08**  
**TOTAL BILLS FOR MARCH 2024 AFTER BOARD MAILING \$ 265,328.23**  
**TOTAL BILLS TO BE APPROVED AT BOARD MEETING \$ 5,129,023.54**

+ (Additional disbursements or adjusted amounts.)

\*(See page 6 for Special Project Funds)

\*\* (See page 6 for breakdown)

**\*\*BREAKDOWN OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR March 13, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

93 GEI Consultants, Inc. - \*

General engineering fees, GW Modeling & expenses	\$	24,811.48
High Speed Rail - UA 2.0		21,010.95 R
Tulare Lake Flood Control Project		2,069.92
Leonard Ave Intertie Project		11,775.63 G
SGMA Implementation		39,256.88
IRWMP Expense		1,509.51 R
	\$	<u><u>100,434.37</u></u>

88 Wells Fargo Business Cards\*\*

Operating Supplies- Ralph Sanchez	\$	340.16
Operating Supplies - Yesenia Ramirez		738.70
Operating Supplies- John Lynch		460.62
Operating Supplies & Travel Expenses- Isela Medina		242.46
Fuel & Operating Supplies- Jason Gianquinto		358.91
	\$	<u><u>2,140.85</u></u>

35 Young, Wooldridge, LLP - \*

Legal fees & expenses	\$	10,947.71
High Speed Rail Project Phase 7 -		2,600.00 R
Tulare Lake Flood Control Project		4,599.09
	\$	<u><u>18,146.80</u></u>

G Grant	\$	11,775.63
R Reimbursed		85,413.47
	\$	<u><u>97,189.10</u></u>