

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 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Waterhouse on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 12:30 p.m., at the Semitropic Water Storage District (District) office located at 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California.

Directors Present: Dan Waterhouse, Tim Thomson, Philip Portwood, David Daniel, Tom Toreta, Todd Tracy. Director Jeff Fabbri arrived at 12:37p.m.

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 Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani
Rick Amigh (WM Lyles)
Greg Allen (REDtrac)
Larry Rodriguz (GEI)
Madonna Lang (Laborde Land)
Geoff Vanden Heuvel (Milk Producers Council)
Rayme Mackinson (Poso Creek Family Dairy)
Chad Carroll (CJ Farmside)
Maddie Reyes (Illume Ag.)
Justin Murray (AG Thought)
Travis Millwee (Pacific Resources)
Jesus Alonso (Clean Water Action)
Vincent Solema (Nuveen)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Agenda

The General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, noted that Item 5(h) has been added to the agenda.

On motion by Director Toretta, seconded by Director Tracy, the Board approved revising the agenda to include Item 5(h) as a matter arising after the posting of the agenda and in need of immediate action.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2024, and the GSA Meeting November 13, 2024, were presented for approval.

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Portwood, the minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2024, and the GSA Meeting November 13, 2024, were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Reports

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

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

Financial Report

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

Accounts Payable

The Cash Disbursement List for December 11, 2024, was presented for review, approval, and payment.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Tracy, the Board authorized payment of the Accounts Payable as listed on the December 11, 2024, Disbursement List for Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District.

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

Consider Appointment of Director for Southern California Water Bank Authority – JPA

The General Manager, Jason Gianquinto stated the need to take action on this item with the recommendation that Director David Daniel will be appointed the Director for the Southern California Water Bank Authority, a joint exercise of powers agency (JPA) of which the District is a member entity. Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani, explained that the District is entitled to have two representatives on the JPA's Board of Directors and recommended that it be clarified that Director Daniel, or some other District Board member, be appointed as the District's representative on the JPA Board, in addition to Director Waterhouse.

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Toretta the Board appointed Director David Daniel as the Director for the Southern California Water Bank Authority.

Consider Cost Proposal from Pacific Tank for the Replacement of Standtank Hatches

District Engineer, Isela Medina, provided an overview of the Cost Proposal from Pacific Tank for the Replacement of Stand Tank Hatches.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Fabbri, the Board approved the Cost Proposal from Pacific Tank for the Replacement of Stand Tank Hatches.

Consider BHK for 2024

District Controller, Bobby Salinas presented a consulting service agreement letter submitted by Barbich, Hooper & King (BHK), for preparation of the 2024 Annual Audit.

On motion by Director Toretta, seconded by Director Daniel, the Board authorized the General Manager to execute the consulting services agreement with BHK for the 2024 Audit for the District.

SEMITROPIC WSD GSA UPDATE

At 12:43 p.m., the Board President, Dan Waterhouse declared a meeting of the Semitropic Water Storage District Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

SGMA Updates and Discussion

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto provided an update on the District's SGMA related activities.

1:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING – Consider the adoption of the 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Semitropic Water Storage District Groundwater Sustainability Agency

President Waterhouse opened the public hearing at 12:57 p.m. and stated that this was now the time and place for the public hearing regarding the proposed adoption of the 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Semitropic Water Storage District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which replaces the existing 2022 GSP. At this time President Waterhouse turned over to staff for the staff presentation.

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto provided a background and timeline of events leading to the Final 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan dated December 2024. Mr. Gianquinto noted that the goal was to have a final 2024 plan by December of 2024 for submittal to the State Water Resources Control Board and that with the adoption today the District is on schedule. Mr. Gianquinto presented an overview of the 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

President Waterhouse asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none presented at the hearing and none received prior to the hearing.

The Public Hearing was closed at 1:29 p.m.

Adoption of 2024 GSP

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, recommended Board approval of the 2024 GSP.

On motion by Director Fabbri, seconded by Director Thomson, the Board approved the adoption of the 2024 GSP.

Consider approving the Second Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement among subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, presented the Second Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement among subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

On motion by Director Toretta, seconded by Director Portwood the Board approved and authorized execution of the Second Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement among subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

The GSA meeting concluded at 1:32 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 November 2024" for work during November 2024, which was a part of the Board Packet.

Balance Public Relations

Dean Florez of Balance Public Relations was not present, but provided a report which was included with the Board Packet

REDtrac

Greg Allen of REDTrac gave a brief report.

INFORMATIONAL AND UP-DATE ITEMS

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

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto provided a brief update of the administrative portion of the Staff Report, noting that initial State Water Project allocation for 2025 is 5%.

District Contract Coordinator, Becky Ortiz, provided an update on water banking activity and an overview of the Water Supply portion of the Staff Report.

District Engineer, Isela Medina provided an summary of the District's Engineer's activities and stated that staff had an internal meeting regarding winter work. Ms. Medina discussed work that will take place in the near future and a change in the District's operations, noting that everything should be completed by the 1st or 2nd week of February.

District Superintendent, John Lynch, provided an overview of the Operations and Maintenance Report.

At 2:08 p.m. President Waterhouse adjourned the Regular Board meeting, and it was reported that there was a need for the Board to reconvene to closed session.

Closed Session

At 2:17 p.m. the meeting continued with Closed Session.

Participants included:

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

Tracy, Jeff Fabbri

Directors Absent: None

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

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.; Petition 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) 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 (consolidated), Third Appellate Dist., Case No. C100552
- 3) Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District v. Kern County Water Agency, et al., Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-21-100418
- 4) Semitropic Water Storage Dist. v. The Dow Chemical Co., et al., Kern County Sup. Ct., Case No. BCV-21-102528
- 5) Macut v. Wabash National, et al., Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-22-100318
- 6) Sierra Club, et al., v. DWR, Sacramento County Sup. Ct., Case No. 24WM000008, and related cases, challenging DCP EIR

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

- 1) Two Items.

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

- 1) Two Items.

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*
- 3) *Property: Various*
 - a. *Negotiation with: Nuveen*
- 4) *Property: Acquisition of Water Supply*
 - a. *Negotiation with: Wonderful Nut Orchards LLC*

At 3:04 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 3:05 p.m. by President Waterhouse.

APPROVED:



Daniel Waterhouse, President



Todd Tracy, Secretary

Board Day Presentation
SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED AT December 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER AFTER BOARD MEETING

Special Projects

1	G3 Engineering, Inc.- Floway assembly pumps for inventory	\$	82,880.42
2	GEI Consultants*		108,711.00
		\$	<u><u>191,591.42</u></u>

SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Operation Maintenance

3	Arvin Edison Water Storage District- SWSD share of Ernest Conant's Retirement party expenses	\$	733.98
4	B&B Surplus, Inc.- material to fabricate shop window bar assemblies		443.83
5	California Department of Tax and Fee Administration- water rights for 7/1/24-6/30/25		8,268.80
6	Clark Pest Control- office maintenance		98.00
7	FedEx- packages		31.54
8	Frontier Communications - data communication for substation		134.53
9	Gas Company- office utilities		146.26
10	Golden State Air Charter- charter flight		9,345.00
11	Greer's Banner Air of Bakersfield, Inc.- placement of new fuse and test operations		182.00
12	Jeffries Bros., Inc. - gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products		6,873.92
13	Kern County Public Works- shop drilling yard waste		82.09
14	Office Depot- office supplies		237.31
15	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		354,299.68
16	Praxair- monthly FS6 cylinder rental for O&M and liner for MIG welder		88.77
17	Quinn Company- repair CAT 430F2 backhoe		1,851.03
18	Resa Power- 1200A Westinghouse Molded case breaker		1,150.00
19	SBS of Bakersfield, Inc.- office copier (copy charges for November)		488.42
20	Sparkle Uniform & Linen Service- uniforms, shop mats, & towels rental & office apparel		746.17
21	Springbrook- accounting software conversion		585.00
22	Strategic Policies LLC- consulting services and expenses for October		5,060.00
23	unWired Broadband, LLC- internet		59.99
24	Uppal Partners of Colorado- request of overpayment		5,879.53
25	Verizon Wireless - cell phones substation, solar site, on call, superintendent, dispatch, IT, CFO, & General Manager		405.86
26	Waterbender LLC - scale inhibitor		2,935.90
27	Well Rehabilitation Services, Inc.- Well #7A Monitoring		15,230.00
	Operating Expense Subtotal	\$	<u><u>415,357.61</u></u>

TOTAL BILLS FOR NOVEMBER AFTER BOARD MEETING \$ 606,949.03

+ (Additional disbursements or adjusted amounts.)

*(See page 2 for Special Project Funds)

** (See page 2 for breakdown)

EXHIBIT A

****BREAKDOWN OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR December 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

2 GEI Consultants, Inc. - *

General engineering fees, GW Modeling & expenses	\$	16,309.68
Delta Pipeline Conv. Improv. Project		55,548.32 G
SGMA Implementation		33,774.36
Schuster Subsurface Recharge		1,720.05 G
Tulare Lake Flood Control Project		<u>1,358.59</u>
	\$	<u>108,711.00</u>

G Grant	\$	57,268.37
R Reimbursed		0.00
	\$	<u>57,268.37</u>

DECEMBER 2024 BOARD MAILING

SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Special Projects

28	Concepts in Controls, Inc.- SCADA System Upgrade Phase 2	\$	62,022.00
29	W.M. Lyles Co- SWRU Phase 2 System X		1,696.80
30	Kenneth Schmidt and Associates- Groundwater Monitoring Program		5,744.14 R
31	Woodard & Curran- October - November 2024 engineering consulting for Tulare Lake Flood Storage & Recovery Project		992.75
32	Young Wooldridge*		27,897.40
	Special Projects Subtotal	\$	98,353.09

Operation Maintenance

33	A&P Diesel Electric, Inc.- alternator for Kubota M8030 tractor	\$	248.98
34	AT&T- telephone services		1,211.27
35	Avadine- engineer/analyst - senior & monthly software products license maintenance/support agreement (November)		950.00
36	Balance Public Relations- lobbying services		13,500.00
37	B&B Surplus, Inc.- material to fabricate upstream and downstream canal level indicator stilling Wells for "A" check gate		1,467.88
38	Berchold Equipment Company- parts to replace clutch in Kubota M8030 tractor and credit		3,573.98
39	Budget Bolt, Inc.- shop supplies		30.31
40	Charter Communications (Spectrum)- internet		346.20
41	Chester Avenue Brake- Unit #301 International dump truck and credit		9,681.69
42	Coastline Equipment - part for John Deere 524L loader		649.65
43	Collins, Ron- gardening (November)		600.00
44	Farm Pump and Irrigation Co., Inc.- PP1030 E DGW ground water pump installation		1,018.28
45	FedEx- packages		128.76
46	Grapevine MSP Technology Services- MSP Agrmnt, Patch Mgmt.,Secure offsite data backup,adv.email security (December)		4,124.30
47	H&H Automotive- Kubota M8030 tractor radiator		140.00
48	Jeffries Bros., Inc. - gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products		2,817.78
49	Jim Burke Ford- November parts and supplies		2,461.36
50	Kern Delta Water District- billing for share of Kern Subbasin Legal Representation		2,500.00
51	Knight's Pumping & Portable - portable toilet & services		471.85
52	Komin Medical Group- DMV physical/ DOT		100.00
53	McMaster-Carr- part to modify Semi #3 Hydro generator wicket gate indicator		33.37
54	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		4,994.80
55	Praxair- monthly FS6 cylinder rental for O&M		51.76
56	ReadyRefresh by Nestle- water for shop		452.94
57	RedTrac, LLC.- Well Telem Monitoring (November)		5,354.00
58	Richland Chevrolet- November shop supplies		456.34
59	Sparkle Textile Rental- uniforms, shop mats, & towels rental & office apparel		736.04
60	Tel-Tec Security Systems, Inc.- shop monitoring services (December)		220.00
61	T-Mobile - internet access for communication with Solar Site		20.00
62	Verizon Wireless - cell phones substation, solar site, on call, superintendent, dispatch, IT, CFO, & General Manager		650.12
63	City of Wasco- water, sewer, and trash services for office (November)		802.73
64	Wasco Automotive & Smog- smog inspection on unit #197		60.00
65	Wells Fargo Business Cards-**		2,129.23
66	Zultys, Inc.- monthly charges for phone system		998.60
	Operating Expense Subtotal	\$	62,982.22

TOTAL BILLS FOR DECEMBER BOARD MAILING \$ 161,335.31

S.W.S.D - Payroll Accounts - transfer of funds from S.I.D. for November payroll \$ 460,748.54

DECEMBER 2024 AFTER BOARD MAILING

SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Special Projects

67	Ken W Smith Construction Inc.- Hydro Building removal roof panels	\$	45,528.00
68	Michael K. Nunley & Associates, Inc.- engineering services for California High Speed Rail		7,708.20
69	Remy Moose Manley, LLP- Subsurface Recharge Evaluation		1,080.00
Special Projects Subtotal \$			<u>54,316.20</u>

Operation Maintenance

70	American Refuse- trash service for shop	\$	308.54
71	AT&T- long distance charges		48.90
72	Aviva Energy Corp.- energy consulting for December 2024		575.00
73	Coverall - cleaning services for December		702.00
74	De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc.- office copier (December)		401.17
75	Department of Industrial Relations- shop propane bulk storage pressure vessel inspection		195.00
76	FedEx- packages		27.50
77	Home Depot- November supplies for O&M		680.39
78	Jeffries Bros., Inc. - gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products		4,129.72
79	McMaster-Carr- B & CE P.P Air/Water Tank repair, nitrogen bottle outlet adapter, Semi #3 Hydro Gen repair part		429.30
80	Shafter Parts and Supply, Inc.- November shop supplies for O&M		1,696.34
81	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		1,389.14
82	South Tulare Richgrove Refuse Inc.- trash service for drilling yard		506.88
83	Strategic Policies LLC- consulting services and expenses for November		5,060.00
84	Torres, Jesse- safety boots		100.00
85	Verizon Wireless - cell phones substation, solar site, on call, superintendent, dispatch, IT, CFO, & General Manager		405.86
86 +	Wells Fargo Business Cards-**		2,274.77
Operating Expense Subtotal \$			<u>18,930.51</u>

TOTAL BILLS FOR DECEMBER 2024 AFTER BOARD MAILING \$ 73,246.71

TOTAL BILLS FOR NOVEMBER 2024 AFTER BOARD MEETING \$ 606,949.03
TOTAL BILLS FOR DECEMBER 2024 BOARD MAILING \$ 161,335.31
TOTAL BILLS FOR DECEMBER 2024 AFTER BOARD MAILING \$ 73,246.71
TOTAL BILLS TO BE APPROVED AT BOARD MEETING \$ 234,582.02

+ (Additional disbursements or adjusted amounts.)

*(See page 5 for Special Project Funds)

** (See page 5 for breakdown)

****BREAKDOWN OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR December 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

65/	Wells Fargo Business Cards**		
86			
	Operating Supplies- Ralph Sanchez	\$	359.75
	Operating Supplies - Bobby Salinas		27.58
	Operating Supplies- John Lynch		128.83
	Operating Supplies- Yesenia Ramirez		1,315.53
	Travel expenses - Isela Medina		297.54
	Fuel & Operating Supplies- Jason Gianquinto		<u>2,274.77</u>
		\$	<u><u>4,404.00</u></u>
<hr/>			
32	Young, Wooldridge, LLP - *		
	Legal fees & expenses		17,497.40
	High Speed Rail Project Phase 7		7,442.50 R
	Delta Pipeline Conv. Improv. Project		1,478.75 G
	Schuster Subsurface Recharge		<u>1,478.75 G</u>
		\$	<u><u>27,897.40</u></u>
	G Grant	\$	2,957.50
	R Reimbursed		<u>20,894.84</u>
		\$	<u><u>23,852.34</u></u>