# 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 12:29 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Waterhouse on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 12:29 p.m., at the Semitropic Water Storage District (District) office located at 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California.

| | |
|---|---|
| Directors Present: | Dan Waterhouse, Philip Portwood, Jeff Fabbri, Chad W. Carroll, Todd Tracy, and David Daniel |
| Directors Absent: | Tim Thomson |
| Other Participants: | General Manager, Jason Gianquinto<br>District Engineer, Isela Medina<br>District Controller, Bobby Salinas<br>District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz<br>Receptionist, EmmaRose Lowe<br>District Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani<br>Special Projects Manager, Larry Rodriguez<br>Justin Murray (AG Thought Consulting)<br>Grace Martin (GEI Consultants)<br>Erina Szeto (Valley Water)<br>Jeff Mathiowetz (WM Lyles)<br>Steve Pistoresi (Mid-Valley)<br>Ralph Pistoresi (Mid-Valley)<br>Oscar Lopez (Wonderful Orchards)<br>Jessica Birrueta (Oro Vista Farms)<br>Noel Howard (Wonder One Ag)<br>Dean Florez (BPR)<br>Steven Piggott (Nuveen Natural Capital)<br>Michelle Paul (California Farm Water Coalition)<br>Jay Kroeker (KCWA/Starrh Family Farms)<br>Andrew Koetsier (Pistachio Global) |

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ralph Pistoresi addressed the Board regarding his concept of having Semitropic be the lead agency for a State grant funded recharge project on 2500 acres of land, which he owns, and a proposed MOU regarding the same.

Michelle Paul, with California Farm Water Coalition, introduced herself as the new executive director of the Farm Water Coalition, provided an overview of the Coalition's focus, thanked the District for its continued support.

ACTION ITEMS

**Approval of Agenda**

President Waterhouse noted that there was an additional item on the agenda. Agenda item (n) Consider Request by High Speed Rail for Special Purpose Construction Water for 2026.

As a matter in need of immediate action that came to the attention of the District after the posting of the agenda, on motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Fabbri and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda with the addition of Agenda Item (n).

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 9, 2026, and the SWSD GSA Board Meeting of September 9, 2026, were presented for approval.

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Daniel and unanimously carried, the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of September 9, 2026, and the SWSD GSA Board Meeting of September 9, 2026, were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Reports**

The Treasurer's Reports for September 2026 were presented for review and approval.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Carroll and unanimously carried, the Treasurer's Reports for September 2026 for the Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District were approved for filing.

**Financial Report**

District Controller, Bobby Salinas, reviewed the Income Statements and the Financial Report for September 2026.

**Accounts Payable**

The Cash Disbursement List for October 14, 2026, was presented for review, approval, and payment.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Tracy and unanimously carried, the Board authorized payment of the Accounts Payable as listed on the October 14, 2026, Disbursement List for Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District. A copy of the Disbursement List listing the payments that were approved is attached hereto as "Exhibit A."

**Consider Adoption of Resolution No. ST 26-05 Adopting Annual Reserve Policy for the Semitropic Water Storage District and Resolution No. ST 26-06 Adopting an Annual Investment Policy for the Semitropic Water Storage District**

District Controller, Bobby Salinas, provided an overview of the Reserve and investment policies and as included in Resolution No. ST 26-05 and Resolution No. ST 26-06.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Daniel and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. ST 26-05 Adopting Annual Reserve Policy for the Semitropic Water Storage District, and adopted Resolution No. ST 26-06 Adopting an Annual Investment Policy for the Semitropic Water Storage District.

**Consider Adoption of Resolutions No. BW 26-05 and No. PP 26-05 Fixing Preliminary SWP Water Charge and Preliminary Additional Water Use Charge for 2027 and Setting Noticed Public Hearing Thereon and Approving Associated Letters to Landowners.**

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, provided an overview of the proposed charges for 2027 as included in Resolution No. BW 26-05 and Resolution No. PP 26-05 and noted the Hearing is proposed to be held on November 11, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the District's office.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Carroll and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. BW 26-05 and Resolution No. PP 26-05 Fixing Preliminary SWP Water Charge and Preliminary Additional Water Use Charge for 2027 and Setting Noticed Public Hearing Thereon and Approving Mailing of Letters Thereof to Landowners.

**Consider Adoption of Resolutions No. ST 26-07 and No. SID 26-04 regarding Adoption of 2027 Budget**

District Controller, Bobby Salinas, provided an overview of the 2027 budget.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Fabbri and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. ST 26-07 and Resolution No. SID 26-04 regarding Adoption of 2027 Budget.

**Consider Resolution No. ST 26-08 Directing Publication of Notice of General Water**

**Storage District Election of Directors as Prescribed by Water Code Section 41308**

District Counsel, Steve Torigiani reported that the board member seats for the following divisions are up for election, and, under the Water Storage District Law, the District is required to publish notice of the election in accordance with Water Code section 41308. Mr. Torigiani mentioned that there will be election on March 2, 2027, for any division where there is more than one qualified person timely nominated. In the event there is only one nominee for a division, the District will have the ability for that nominee to appointed in lieu of holding an election. Mr. Torigiani recommended that the Board adopt Resolution No. ST 26-08 directing publication of the required notice of the election.

| | |
|---|---|
| Jeff Fabbri | Division 1 |
| Chad William Carroll | Division 2 |
| Dan Waterhouse | Division 3 |
| Tim Thomson | Division 4 |
| Todd Tracy | Division 6 |

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Carroll and unanimously carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. ST 26-08 Directing Publication of Notice of General Water Storage District Election of Directors as Prescribed by Water Code Section 41308.

**Consider Continuation of Emergency Declaration (Public Contract Code Sect. 22050 (a)(1)) to Address Immediate Treatment of District's Facilities for Golden Mussels**

District Engineer, Isela Medina, provided an update on the treatment of the District's facilities for Golden Mussels and recommended the continuation be approved.

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Fabbri and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Continuation of Emergency Declaration (Public Contract Code Sect. 22050 (a)(1)) to Address Immediate Treatment of District's Facilities for Golden Mussels.

**Consider Cost Proposal from IPS Powerserve for Performing On-Site Preventative Maintenance and Testing Services for Highway 46 and Pond Road Substations**

District Engineer, Isela Medina, provided an overview of the maintenance and testing services.

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Portwood and unanimously carried, the Board approved Cost Approval from IPS Powerserve for Performing On-Site Preventative Maintenance and Testing Services for Highway 46 and Pond Road Substations.

**Consider Landowner Request to Reallocate Contract Water (Ludy)**

District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz, provided a summary of the contract water reallocation request.

On motion by Director Fabbri, seconded by Director Daniel and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Landowner Request to Reallocate Contract Water (Ludy).

**Consider Consultant for 2027 WSD Legislation**

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, and District Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani, provided an overview of this item.

On motion by Director Fabbri, seconded by Director Tracy and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of amount not-to-exceed $10,000.00 for 2027 WSD Legislation lobbyist services.

**Consider Request by High Speed Rail for Special Purpose Construction Water 2026**

District Engineer, Isela Medina, provided an overview of the request. General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, recommended to keep the pricing at $1,500 per acre foot.

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Carroll and unanimously carried, the Board approved the General Manager's recommendation regarding Request by High Speed Rail for Special Purpose Construction Water 2026.

**SEMITROPIC WSD GSA UPDATE**

At 1:23 p.m., Board President, Dan Waterhouse, opened the meeting of the Semitropic Water Storage District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SWSD GSA), and the Board proceeded to consider SWSD GSA agenda items.

**SGMA Updates and Discussion**

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, and Special Projects Manager, Larry Rodriguez, provided an update regarding the SWSD GSA's SGMA-related activities.

The SWSD GSA meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m., at which time the Board resumed consideration of the remainder of the District's non-GSA items below.

**CONSULTANT REPORTS**

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

W.M. Lyle's Representative, Jeff Matthews, provided a summary of W.M. Lyle's monthly progress report, which was included in the Board Packet.

**Consulting Engineer's Report**

Grace Martin, GEI Consultants, provided an overview of the GEI Consulting Engineering's Report for September 2026, which was included in the Board Packet.

**Balance Public Relations**

Dean Florez of Balance Public Relations was present and provided an overview of his report on BPR's activity, which was included in the Board Packet.

**INFORMATIONAL AND UP-DATE ITEMS**

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, provided a summary of the General Administrative Activities discussed in the Staff Report.

District Engineer, Isela Medina, provided a summary of the Engineering Activities discussed in the Staff Report.

Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz, provided a summary of the Water Operations Activities discussed in the Staff Report.

At 2:05 p.m., President Waterhouse adjourned the Regular Board meeting and reported that there was a need for the Board to reconvene to closed session.

**Closed Session**

At 2:11 p.m., the meeting continued with Closed Session to discuss the following matters.

Participants included:

Directors Present: Dan Waterhouse, Jeff Fabbri, Chad Carroll, David Daniel, Todd Tracy, and Philip Portwood

Directors Absent: Tim Thomson

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

***a. Conference with legal counsel Re: Litigation (Gov. 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) *Sierra Club, et al., v. DWR, Sacramento County Sup. Ct., Case No. 24WM000008, and related cases, challenging DCP EIR*
6) *DWR v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Authorization of Delta Conveyance Program Bonds, etc., Sacramento County Sup. Ct., Case No. 25CV000704*

**b.** ***Conference with Legal Counsel Re: Anticipated Litigation: Possible exposure to litigation pursuant Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(2).***

1) *Two Items.*

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

1) *Two Items*

**d.** ***Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov. 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*

At 3:27 p.m., the Board reconvened to open session. The President stated that several items were discussed, but no reportable action was taken in closed session.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

APPROVED:

_____
Todd Tracy, Secretary

_____
Daniel Waterhouse, President