



**FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 7:00 PM

**YCFC&WCD Offices
34274 State Highway 16
Woodland, CA 95695**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) was held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Mayer convened the meeting. The following people were in attendance:

District Board

Jim Mayer, Chair
Shane Tucker
Tom Barth
Mary Kimball
Erik Vink

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
Erik Cadaret, Assistant General Manager
Ryan Bezerra, Legal Counsel

Members of the Public

Jim Barrett
Duane Chamberlain
Maddie Munson

1. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes

M/S/C approved the minutes of the October 1, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes with a minor revision made to include District Finance Director Kim Villa as a listed attendee.

Ayes: Directors Mayer, Kimball, Barth, Tucker, Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

2. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Chamberlain asked about the status of the inflatable dam replacement project and provided comments on the slough that runs by County Road 96 and 29. Director Mayer noted that Mr. Chamberlain's comments will be addressed later in the meeting.

3. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

There were no changes made to the agenda.

4. CONSIDERATION: Reschedule December 3, 2024 Board Meeting

General Manager Sicke shared that some District staff and Director Barth will be attending the Fall 2024 Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference the first week of December. Due to this conference, staff are requesting the December 3 meeting be rescheduled to the following Tuesday on December 10, 2024.

M/S/C approved the request to reschedule the December 3 Board Meeting to December 10, 2024.

Ayes: Directors Mayer, Kimball, Barth, Tucker, Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

5. CONSIDERATION: Adopt Resolution 24.06 Entering into an Agreement with DWR for Grant Reimbursement of the Indian Valley Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Project

General Manager Sicke informed the Board that District staff submitted a grant to DWR seeking funds to support the following capital projects associated with Indian Valley Reservoir:

- Rehabilitation of the spillway
- Recoating of the spillway gates
- Recoating the penstocks and valve casings
- Replacement of the 60-inch hollow-jet-valve

The total grant request is \$2,693,250, and the District anticipates at least a partial grant funding award when announced in Spring 2025. Sicke also noted that the resolution would be submitted as part of the grant agreement execution process.

M/S/C approved adopting Resolution 24.06 Entering into an Agreement with DWR for Grant Reimbursement of the Indian Valley Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Project.

Ayes: Directors Mayer, Kimball, Barth, Tucker, Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

6. CONSIDERATION: Adopt Resolution 24.07 Adopting the Yolo County Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

General Manager Sicke shared details on the Yolo County Hazard Mitigation Plan and the District's historical participation in the plan.

Director Mayer asked if there's any changes from the last plan that would need to be discussed. Sicke stated that there have been no significant changes.

Director Vink asked if we are required to be part of this plan and what are the benefits of the District's participation. Sicke stated that it helps the District coordinate with the County in planning for potential hazards and mitigation and in participating the District is then eligible for future hazard mitigation funding through FEMA.

M/S/C approved adopting Resolution 24.07 Adopting the Yolo County Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Ayes: Directors Mayer, Kimball, Barth, Tucker, Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

7. DISCUSSION: Potential for Facilitator Role in CEQA Review of Slough Rehabilitation Permits

General Manager Sicke shared historical context on the sloughs within the District service area and how they have been used to convey water through the District canal system at certain points. In addition, the Rolling Acres community has been very active in requesting the County/District mitigate flooding by removing vegetation from the sloughs and maintain sloughs for drainage of storm water. Sicke also provided an overview of the MERCESA slough-cleaning responsibilities and associated CDFW permitting.

Sicke also stated that recently, two unique landowners reached out requesting the District serve as the lead agency under CEQA for permits that would allow them to clear sloughs on their property. During these exploratory conversations, District's Legal Counsel expressed concern that if CDFW requires mitigation measures or if landowners do not meet requirements of the agreement, the District could be a responsible party.

Sicke also shared that the County is currently conducting a County-wide biological survey of sloughs. The County is seeking to apply for a permit that would provide a programmatic permit for the sloughs between Cache Creek and Putah Creek, but a permit would likely not be issued for approximately five years.

Legal Counsel shared the multiple layers of permitting and legal requirements that may be encountered if the District serves as the lead agency. In that role, the District would have to prepare the environmental documentation (EIR/ND/NOE) to obtain the permit, which may be streamlined if the District sought one for all the sloughs within the District's boundary. If it was just a streambed alteration permit, the District would not necessarily have to be the lead agency, but the District would have to be involved and may also require federal permitting requirements under NEPA. The most expeditious route would be a programmatic Environmental Impact Report and streambed alteration permit, which would bring a fair amount of proportional legal risks to the District.

Director Tucker asked Sicke and Bezerra the difference between what the County is doing versus what the District is considering. Sicke shared that the County is likely on a 5-year trajectory whereas the District is considering a quicker timeline. The requesting parties think that without the District their permit application would fail.

Director Vink stated he is in general agreement with Legal Counsel's opinion, but also sees the District serving in a role to help facilitate the rehabilitation of the sloughs. It would require thoughtful steps to be successful.

Director Barth also expressed concern for how the projects are defined, which may make a significant difference. He also generally agreed with Director Vink's thoughts on the District's role and noted that the County may be a better entity to take this on.

Director Tucker expressed his desire for the District to find a way to help with the request.

Sicke asked Water and Land Solutions Maddie Munson to comment based on *Yolo-Zamora Recharge Project* discussions with the Yolo Habitat Conservancy regarding mitigation credits. She stated that the mitigation credits may not be available to the District or YSGA through the Yolo Habitat Conservancy Plan (HCP). Bezerra commented that it may be possible to fit under the Yolo HCP's CEQA coverage, but that would need to be verified.

Chair Mayer stated that the short- and long-term perspectives should be more fully considered before we can the District can determine its role. We need to be proactive and thoughtful on this. He suggested District staff explore what others are doing in other parts of the state and see what we can do to make it work.

Mr. Barrett asked if the slough is the same as a canal. Sicke mentioned that they have been used as a canal even though it's a slough and vice versa so it's not well defined. Ms. Munson mentioned that Madera County might be a good example. The County served as the lead agency, and it has

worked well there. Ms. Munson offered to help provide information.

Mr. Chamberlain mentioned that when he was a Supervisor that the County had the stance it's not their responsibility to maintain the sloughs. Sicke states she will share the blue line map link on the sloughs that are formally delineated in the County.

Mayer stated that there may be some cases where it makes sense for us to step in versus the County. He directed staff to look for examples of how others have done it, emphasize projects that may have multi-benefit opportunities, and to keep the Board updated.

8. PRESENTATION: YSGA Update

General Manager Sicke and Assistant General Manager Cadaret shared updates on GSP implementation progress through the YSGA's SGMA Implementation Grant. The following was presented:

- YSGA staff participated in a field trip with UC Cooperative Extension staff to learn more about field-based ET research and the differences with Open ET. This research was helpful to the YSGA modeling team to inform ET assumptions used in the model.
- District staff submitted the 2025 Temporary Winter Water Recharge Permit application in August and MBK Engineers is refining the water availability analysis for the long-term permit application. District staff anticipate submitting the long-term application by the end of 2024. District staff worked with Sustainable Conservation to prepare a draft map that shows farmer fields and the relative recharge potential for prioritizing outreach efforts for the on-farm pilot program.
- The *Yolo-Zamora Recharge Project* is ongoing. YSGA staff have been in discussions with Water and Land Solutions to navigate CEQA permitting options since Executive Order's N-7-22 Action 13 Exemption was terminated in September and DWR revoked the YSGA's request for an exemption. In addition, District staff have made great progress installing automated gates along the Acacia Canal.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Directors Mayer and Kimball attended Strategic Plan Committee meetings and reported on the progress being made developing the strategic plan. Director Mayer attended NCWA meetings related to groundwater and the Bay-Delta Plan. Mayer noted that these meetings have been informative, and the Bay-Delta Plan has the potential to adversely affect the District's water supply. Mayer will be attending a meeting at Llano Saco with General Manager Sicke on November 7. Directors Barth and Tucker attended the Lake County Long-Term Water Supply Committee meetings to negotiate a new water supply agreement. Directors Tucker and Vink attended the Finance Committee meeting to discuss the fund management policy and funding of capital projects.

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Sicke provided reports on the following:

- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions – An update on the 2024 water conditions and the District’s efforts to be proactive in managing the State Water Board’s Bay Delta Plan amendments.
- b) Financial Report Summary – Highlights from the October 2024 Financial Statements Report were briefly reviewed.
- c) Capital Improvement Program –
 - 1. Hungry Hollow Canal Automation project is complete
 - 2. East Adams and Acacia Canal Automation is ongoing
 - 3. Capay Dam Rubber Dam Bladder Replacement project was completed the week of October 23, and the bladder was tested for leaks and passed with flying colors. This marks a major accomplishment by the District and ensures long-term reliability of diversions.
- d) General Activities – A list of outreach activities and projects (in-house and coordinated with other agencies) was reviewed.
- e) The following upcoming events were announced:
 - 1. Yolo County Financial Oversight Committee Meeting (November 14)
 - 2. ACWA SGMA Implementation Subcommittee (November 14)
 - 3. YSGA: Board of Directors Meeting (November 18) – Helen Thomson Honorary Resolution
 - 4. District Strategic Plan Board Workshop (November 19)
 - 5. YSGA: Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group Meeting (November 21)
 - 6. ACWA’s Fall Conference (December 3-5)
 - 7. YSGA: Executive Committee Meeting (December 9)
 - 8. Rolling Acres H&H Study Kick-Off Meeting (December 9)
 - 9. NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting (December 9)
 - 10. NCWA/DWR’s Subsidence Forum (December 12)

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was no general discussion.

12. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 64070-64091.

Ayes: Directors Mayer, Kimball, Barth, Tucker, Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

13. CLOSED SESSION: Long-Term Water Supply Agreements

Closed session conference with real property negotiators pursuant to Government Code § 54956.8

Property: Long-Term Water Supply Agreements under District's Clear Lake Water Right
 Agency negotiators: Tom Barth, Shane Tucker, Kristin Sicke
 Negotiating parties: Lake County Sanitation District and Calpine
 Under negotiation: Price and terms of agreement

Closed Session Report: Chair Mayer reported that the Directors, General Manager Sicke, Assistant General Manager Cadaret, and Legal Counsel Bezerra participated in the closed session item and that there was nothing to report.

14. CLOSED SESSION: Bay-Delta

Closed session conference with legal counsel for existing administrative proceeding and anticipated litigation/significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, subsections (d)(1) and (d)(2) – State Water Resources Control Board Bay/Delta Plan update proceeding.

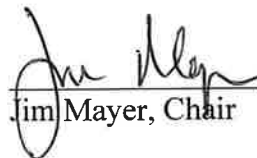
Closed Session Report: Chair Mayer reported that the Directors, General Manager Sicke, Assistant General Manager Cadaret, and Legal Counsel Bezerra participated in the closed session item and that there was nothing to report.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:


 Kristin Sicke, Secretary


 Jim Mayer, Chair

