



Y O L O C O U N T Y

**FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 1, 2025, 3:00 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 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Tucker convened the meeting. The following people were in attendance:

District Board

Shane Tucker, Chair
Tom Barth (Arrived at 3:02 pm)
Jim Mayer
Lee Smith

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
Erik Cadaret, Assistant General Manager
Anthony Lopez, Facilities Supervisor (Attended for Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)
Elise Nunez, Administrative Assistant
Ryan Bezerra, Legal Counsel (via phone for Items 13, 14, 15, and 16)

Members of the Public

Duane Chamberlain
Maddie Munson
Geoff Klein
Donald Beeman
Todd Thorner (Attended for Item 5)

1. OPEN FORUM

None.

2. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

Since Director Barth was running late, Chair Tucker moved Item 4 so that there would be four Directors in attendance to continue declaration of the emergency at Indian Valley Reservoir for completing repairs to the spillway.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of June 3, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

There was no discussion on this item.

M/S/C approved the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Directors Mayer, Smith, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Directors Kimball and Barth

Abstain: None

4. CONSIDERATION: Emergency Repairs at Indian Valley Reservoir Spillway

General Manager Sicke asked the Board to continue declaration of emergency to continue work on spillway repairs. Lopez shared that the infrastructure committee met and discussed it on June 10, and that FERC approved of the design and work activities. The District solicited five contractors. Out of the five contractors solicited, only Granite Construction submitted a proposal for \$652,860. All others either didn't submit a proposal or formally declined because it is considered a smaller project. The project is anticipated to start in July or early August once the contract is approved and executed.

Sicke shared FERC's guidance on the emergency spillway repair and a desire to select a larger contractor with more experience completing spillway repair type work.

Director Mayer asked about Lopez's impressions of working with Granite, their experience, and the price provided. Lopez shared his confidence in Granite's spillway work due to their experience with the emergency in February, and he believes the price is considered reasonable based on industry feedback.

Beeman asked about the terms of the contract and if they can raise the price. Sicke and Lopez shared that the contract would have a not-to-exceed value unique to the work that must be completed as reported on the 2018 spillway assessment map.

Chamberlain inquired about the total area that needs repairing. Anthony said that he has not totaled

the area, but that there are large patches for repair, which he can view in more detail on the 2018 spillway assessment map. Chamberlain and Klein asked what the process entails for patching the cracks and spalls. Director Tucker appreciated comments and feedback from District customers since investments in aging infrastructure will become more prominent in the District's future.

Director Smith asked Lopez about his level of confidence to complete the repair on time and on budget and Lopez stated that he is confident that the repair will be completed before the October rainy season.

M/S/C approved a continuation of the emergency for completing repairs to the Indian Valley Reservoir spillway.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Mayer, Smith, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Kimball

Abstain: None

5. CONSIDERATION: Authorization of Entering into Consulting Services Agreement with JTN Energy, LLC

General Manager Sicke shared the District's history with a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Valley Clean Energy (VCE) for Indian Valley Reservoir Hydroelectric Facility. The VCE PPA is expiring in August and the District requested assistance of Todd Thorner with JTN Energy to evaluate whether there is a more desirable PPA arrangement for the future. Thorner reviewed his work experience in the energy sector, JTN's recent work history, and the potential PPA that the District could enter into once the VCE PPA is terminated. Thorner also shared the trends in energy prices and purchasing terms that may be more favorable to the District for revenue generation. Lastly, Thorner reviewed the consulting services agreement provided by JTN, which ties JTN's compensation and success to whether the District's goals are achieved.

Director Tucker asked for clarification on the Board's consideration, and Sicke clarified that the Board would only be considering JTN's consulting services agreement to assist the District with finding an optimal buyer and potential PPA and that a PPA would come back to the Board of approval.

Sicke asked Thorner to further explain the State's clean energy goals that impact power buyers' incentives to purchase hydropower generated energy versus other clean energy options such as solar or wind. Sicke asked Thorner to further clarify JTN's contract compensation and Thorner stated that if the District's hydropower generation is zero in one year, JTN would not receive payment, but if the District generates hydropower in another year, JTN receives a small percentage as commission.

Director Tucker asked Thorner to clarify the liquidated damages portion in JTN's contract. Thorner clarified the terms and how it relates to the District versus private power generators.

Director Barth requested clarification on the term of JTN's contract for consulting services. Thorner clarified how that language in the contract works if the District does not use JTN to sign a PPA in the future.

M/S/C authorized the General Manager to enter into Consulting Services Agreement with JTN Energy, LLC.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Mayer, Smith, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Kimball

Abstain: None

6. CONSIDERATION: Authorization of Entering into an Agreement with CDM Smith for Initiating CEQA Process for Long-Term Winter Water Right

General Manager Sicke shared background on the long-term winter water right application and CEQA requirements. The long-term winter water right application fee to the State Water Board is \$778,800 and the District's application will request for diversions of up to 100,000 AF from Cache Creek at the Capay Diversion Dam. This water right would allow the District to recharge the aquifer between the months of November and April using the canal system, farmers' fields, and future dedicated recharge ponds adjacent to the canal system. In addition, the District is planning to bank diverted water in the aquifer for future extraction during drought periods to enhance fish flows in Putah Creek as part of the *Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program* proposal. Sicke shared the scope of work that will be completed by CDM Smith for \$360,000 to initiate the CEQA process by completing a water quality evaluation and developing a robust water quality monitoring framework. This first phase of initiating CEQA and working with CDM Smith will be reimbursed by the DWR SGMA Implementation Grant.

Director Smith asked about the funding to support this effort and the total expected costs. Sicke clarified the approach to take the CEQA process step by step to help keep costs reasonable and to allow the District flexibility to pivot if something changes down the road.

Chamberlain asked about how this ties into some of the ponds. Sicke and Cadaret shared what the District is currently doing to connect one of the ponds and what other ponds are considered for connecting to the District's conveyance system. Chamberlain asked about the *Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program* proposal and Sicke provided a brief overview.

Director Tucker asked what would happen if we didn't apply for this water right. Sicke shared the severe implications that would occur related to groundwater overdraft and land subsidence if the

District did not apply for a long-term winter water right. Sicke also shared the importance of the water right for the *Healthy and Rivers Landscapes Program* proposal to be accepted by the State Water Board in a future revision to the Bay-Delta Plan.

Director Smith noted that if you amortized the \$2M over 50 years, it comes out to be \$4/AF annually, which makes a lot of sense to invest in the water right now to recharge the water and ensure available groundwater in the future.

Barrett asked about the possibility for winter recharge for conservation measures. Cadaret explained the work going into the application to explore opportunities for recharge and conservation.

M/S/C authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement with CDM Smith to initiate the CEQA process for a long-term winter water recharge permit in an amount not to exceed \$360,000.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Mayer, Smith, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Kimball

Abstain: None

7. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of Resolution No. 25.09 Waiving Public Bidding for Indian Valley Reservoir Hydroelectric Facility Hydroelectric Substation Capacitor Voltage Transformers Replacement Project

Facilities Supervisor Lopez provided an overview of the Indian Valley Reservoir Hydroelectric Substation. Currently, all four Capacitor Voltage Transformers (CVTs) at the Hydroelectric Substation have failed and it is necessary to replace them to protect the District's power system. The replacement of the CVTs also includes upgrading the control panel, replacing protection relays and short-circuit relays, and upgrading the oil circuit breaker. GS Engineering, LLC assisted the District in identifying a qualified contractor, TW Power Line Construction, LLC to complete the work. TW Power Line Construction proposed the first phase of the project for replacing the CVTs can be completed for \$273,610.

Beeman asked about TW Power Line's proposal and Lopez shared what was included and how the proposed expense is aligned with market value.

M/S/C approved adoption of Resolution No 25.09 Waiving Public Bidding for Indian Valley Reservoir Hydroelectric Substation Capacitor Voltage Transformers Replacement Project and Authorizing the General Manager to Execute an Agreement with TW Power Line Construction, LLC.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Mayer, Smith, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Kimball

Abstain: None

8. PRESENTATION: YSGA Update

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

- Upcoming meetings: YSGA Board Meeting (July 21). YSGA staff also mentioned they are working on planning a Yolo-Zamora Landowner meeting and Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group meeting in August. In addition, YSGA staff will be kicking off initiation of the North Yolo Management Area Public Advisory Committee in August/September. Other related meetings include CAFF's Sustainable Groundwater Panel (July 16).
- To date, approximately \$2.33M of SGMA Implementation Grant funds have been expended. It was also noted that Component 1 and 2 funds need to be fully expended by April 2026 and Components 3, 4, 5, and 6 must be spent by April 2027. YSGA staff will be submitting a grant agreement amendment to DWR for review to request an extension of time for each component.
- YSGA staff have started the YSGA Fee Study with Hansford Economic Consulting and started work with Consero Solutions to assist with outreach related to Hungry Hollow and North Yolo outreach and engagement grant-funded projects.
- MBK Engineers has drafted the water availability analysis for the District's long-term permit application for winter recharge. Winter water diversions under the temporary permit occurred in January and February in the amount of approximately 4,400 acre-feet. District staff are working to file a long-term water right application in July. Preliminary analysis of potential recharge opportunities beyond recharging the canal include 90,000 acres with potential for on-farm recharge that are connected to the canal system and over 700 acres of potential sites for construction of dedicated recharge basins. In addition, the 180-temporary permit would be filed for winter 2026 by September and the 5-year permit would be filed by October which would allow the District to conduct recharge without having to file additional 180-day temporary permits for winter 2027 - 2030. The District is working with landowners to prepare for 2026 on-farm recharge opportunities.
- The Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group met on June 26 and had a productive workshop to discuss data, project and management action concepts, prioritization criteria, and development of a charter to advance proactive water management in the Hungry Hollow area. Future workshops are planned for August and October.

Director Smith asked if the District Board has had previous discussions to consider selling water for the purpose of recharge. Sicke and Cadaret shared background information on what has been discussed and what is being considered.

Chamberlain asked about what's being done to address concerns voiced by landowners in Hungry Hollow. Cadaret shared the work completed leading up to the June 26 workshop where the water budget and potential projects and management actions were reviewed.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Tucker attended the *Lake County Long-Term Water Supply Agreements Committee (WSA Committee)* and coordinated with the *Personnel Committee* regarding the General Manager's performance evaluation. Director Mayer attended NCWA/DWR's Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement group, District *Personnel Committee* meeting regarding the General Manager's performance evaluation, and NCWA Water Leaders Program. Director Barth attended the *Lake WSA Committee*. Director Smith attended the YSGA Executive Committee meeting, Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group meeting, and a District *Infrastructure Committee* meeting.

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Sicke provided reports on the following:

- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions: Sicke provided an overview of current water conditions as of July 1, 2025:
 1. Clear Lake is currently at 6.35 feet Rumsey, and Cache Creek Dam is releasing flows in the amount of 460 cfs
 2. Indian Valley Reservoir is currently at 227,900 AF storage and releasing 360 cfs.
 3. Sicke noted that the irrigation diversions started on April 18 and we're releasing 250 cfs into the West Adams Canal and 430 cfs into the Winters Canal.
 4. Sicke reviewed real-time groundwater levels for June 2025 and reviewed the updated District hydrograph for periodic monitoring wells.
 5. The Winters Canal is currently experiencing a flow constraint, and the District is investigating the issue.
- b) Financial Report Summary – Sicke provided an update on irrigation season water sales and FY budget to date.
- c) Capital Improvement Program – Provided updates on the planning and construction activities related to capital projects, what has currently been completed to date, and what's anticipated to be completed at the end of the irrigation season.
- 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:
 - NCWA Bay-Delta Task Force Meeting (July 7)
 - YSGA: Coordination with Yolo County on Well Permitting Update (July 10)
 - ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting (July 11)
 - CII Board Meeting (July 15)
 - District Farmers Council Meeting (July 15)
 - CAFF's Groundwater Panel (July 16)

- YSGA Board of Directors Meeting (July 21)
- Yolo County Board of Supervisors Meeting: Well Permitting Update (July 22)
- Yolo County Regional Resilience Collaborative (YCRRC) Workshop #1 (July 24)
- Sac Valley Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement Workgroup (August 27)
- YSGA: Hungry Hollow Groundwater Working Group Workshop (August TBD)
- YSGA Executive Committee Meeting (August 28)
- Central Yolo County H&H Analysis: 2nd Public Meeting (August 28)
- Yolo Land Trust's Day in the Country (September 14)

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION

None.

12. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 64911-64924 and Electronic Payment E000000008.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Smith, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Mayer

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, Calpine, NCPA

Under negotiation: Price and terms of agreement

Closed Session Report: Chair Tucker reported that the Directors, General Manager Sicke, 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 Tucker reported that the Directors, General Manager Sicke, and Legal Counsel Bezerra participated in the discussion and that there was nothing to report.

15. CLOSED SESSION: Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code § 54954.5(e) and 54957)

Title: General Manager

Closed Session Report: Chair Tucker reported that the Directors and General Manager Sicke participated in the closed session item and that there was nothing to report.

16. CLOSED SESSION: Labor Negotiations (Government Code § 54957.6)

District Representative(s): Director Mayer (Director Kimball was absent)

Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

Closed Session Report: Chair Tucker reported that the Directors participated in the closed session item. Labor Negotiator Representative Mayer provided a review of the June meeting with Director Kimball and General Manager Sicke and in recognition of the General Manager's 2024 accomplishments, the Labor Negotiator Representatives requested the Board of Directors consider a merit increase to the General Manager's salary in the amount of \$26,376. This merit increase is tied to the completion of General Manager Sicke's 2023 Goals discussed at the June 6, 2023 Board meeting, which included a \$15,000 performance-based increase. Along with a \$11,376 increase to account for data compiled in the 2023-2025 regional salary survey of irrigation districts in the Central Valley.

Additionally, the Labor Negotiator Representatives requested the Board of Directors consider providing the General Manager with a performance-based bonus at the end of Fiscal Year 25/26 with the accomplishment of developing and implementing the 9-Month Roadmap for Building District Capacity. Specifically, the hiring of new staff to move District initiatives forward in a timely manner.

17. CONSIDERATION: Consider Merit Increase to General Manager Salary

M/S/C approved a merit increase to the General Manager's salary in the amount of \$26,376 and accepted the General Manager's 2025 Goals for consideration of performance-based compensation at the May 5, 2026 Board meeting.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Mayer, Smith, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Kimball

Abstain: None

18. ADJOURNMENT

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


Shane Tucker, Chair

ATTEST:


Kristin Sicke, Secretary