

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
May 13, 2025**

President Camp called to order the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District at the hour of 11:00 a.m. at District Headquarters, at 20401 East Bear Mountain Boulevard, Arvin, California, with a quorum being then and there present to wit:

CALL TO ORDER

Edwin Camp, President
Jeffrey Giumarra, Vice President
Dennis Johnston, Secretary-Treasurer
Catherine Fanucchi
Matthew Vickery
Derek Yurosek (via teleconference)
Catalino Martinez
Brian Kirschenmann
Scott Spitzer

District staff:

Jeevan Muhar, Engineer-Manager
David Grant, Controller**
Mark Dawson, Engineer (Via teleconference)*
David Zaragoza, General Superintendent*
Samuel Blue, Resource Manager
Jose Santana, Engineering Technician*
Luis Reyes, Senior Accountant*

District Consultants:

Joseph Hughes, Esq., Klein DeNatale Goldner, LLP
Randy Hopkins, Provost & Pritchard Engineering*
Anona Dutton and Aaron Lewis, EKI Consultants (Via teleconference)**

Visitors and Guests:

Jose Moreno, Sun Pacific*
Sonia Lemus, SJV News (via teleconference)*
Steve Jackson, Next Gen Water, Inc. (via teleconference)*

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Note: *Departed at start of Closed Session 1:20 p.m.
**For a portion of Closed Session

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

All visitors were recognized and formally introduced.

CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA OF ITEMS, AS AUTHORIZED BY GOVERNMENT CODE §54950 et seq.

Mr. Muhar stated no changes to the posted Agenda.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (Government Code §54854.3)

Mr. Muhar mentioned three Director birthdays for May with Camp and Vickery both having German Chocolate cake and noted that Martinez would be celebrated next month with Champagne cake.

CONSENT MATTERS

President Camp noted items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by staff and will be approved by one motion. The following items were listed on the Consent Agenda, which items were detailed with staff reports in the Board packet:

6. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on April 8, 2025
7. Approval of Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2025, and Delinquency List in the amount of \$20,518.26
8. Approval of Director Staff Assignments for Officers, Committees, Authorities, Agencies, Associations and Plans
9. Approval of Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group Task Orders:
 - a) DiGiorgio Unit Phase 2b-5 Design/Surveys (\$611k, 49% Grant Funded)
 - b) North Canal Spreading Works Expansion Project Amendment (\$50k, 100% Grant Funded)
 - c) Frick Unit Pipeline Project Cultural Resources Services Amendment (\$16.4k, Grant Funded)

Mr. Muhar highlighted the addition of a newly appointed Friant Operations Ad-Hoc Committee, which he and Camp now serve on, and there was a brief discussion regarding the DiGiorgio task order, then Director Johnston motioned, seconded by Director Giumarra, and unanimously carried the approval of four (4) Consent Agenda items.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution No. 25-10, ORDERING PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS (April 2025 - Warrant Numbers 50543-50679)

Mr. Grant reported on the April disbursements totaling approximately \$5M, which included an Interest Payment of \$.5M. Mr. Grant then presented a form of Resolution; whereupon, Director Martinez motioned, seconded by Director Vickery, and unanimously approved Resolution No. 25-10, ORDERING PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS (April 2025). A copy of Resolution No. 25-10 is on file in the Resolution book and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

Resolution No. 25-11, FIXING CHARGES FOR GENERAL ADMINSTRATIVE SERVICE RENDERED BY THE DISTRICT; ORDERING THAT THE SAME BE COLLECTED FROM OWNERS OF LANDS RECEIVING THE BENEFIT THEREOF, FIXING CHARGES FOR GENERAL OWNERS OF CERTAIN LANDS RECEIVING THE BENEFIT THEREOF; ORDERING PREPARATION OF A ROLL AND PRELIMINARY RATES AND SETTING OF NOTICED HEARING (FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026)

Mr. Grant stated that in accordance with the District's Rules and Regulations staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 25-11, which will set the Preliminary General Administrative and General Project Service Charges (GA&GP) for the 2025-2026 Kern County Fiscal Tax Year along with approving the notice of the public hearing, which is to be published in the Bakersfield Californian once a week for two successive weeks by June 16, 2025. In addition, a letter would be mailed to each holder of title to land within the District, which mailing shall be completed by June 24, 2025. Mr. Grant noted the GA&GP charges will remain the same as last year, which are as follows; GA \$3.48/acre, GA/GP \$155.57/acre, Ranchettes \$10.63/acre, and Sub-Acre \$31.70/parcel. Mr. Muhar stated the public hearing regarding the final fixing of the GA&GP Service Charges is scheduled to be held at the July 8, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting, at which time the Board can set the Final GA&GP Service Charges for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year,

Mr. Grant then presented a form of Resolution; whereupon, Director Fanucchi motioned, seconded by Director Vickery, and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 25-11, FIXING CHARGES FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES RENDERED BY THE DISTRICT; ORDERING THAT THE SAME BE COLLECTED FROM OWNERS OF LANDS RECEIVING THE BENEFIT THEREOF; FIXING CHARGES FOR GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE; ORDERING THAT THE SAME BE COLLECTED FROM THE OWNERS OF CERTAIN LANDS RECEIVING THE BENEFIT THEREOF; ORDERING PREPARATION OF A ROLL AND PRELIMINARY RATES; AND SETTING OF NOTICED HEARING (FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026). A copy of Resolution No. 25-11 is on file in the Resolution book and is hereby made a part of these minutes.

Approval of S38 Lateral Upgrade Project Design (\$165k)

Mr. Muhar noted District staff and Provost & Pritchard (P&P) have identified a project to increase flows to assist in prorated challenges on the S38 Lateral. The S38 Lateral is a critical component of the District's distribution system and has the most frequent experience in capacity constraints (prorate). This solution was presented to the Board on April 8, 2025, and pursuant to their request, P&P evaluated the feasibility of constructing from the existing S38 pump forebay instead of constructing entirely a new gravity turnout, and it has been determined that this is possible and would reduce the design and construction cost estimates. P&P has provided Task Order 25-04 for the consulting and engineering design services for the S38 Lateral upgrade project, and staff recommends the Board of Directors approve P&P Task Order 25-05 for a total task order amount not-to-exceed \$165k. Director Johnston motioned, seconded by Director Spitzer, abstained by Director Fanucchi, and by majority vote the Board approved the P&P Task Order

25-05 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$165k.

Approval of Bid for Three (3) Monitoring Wells (\$1M Grant Funded)

Mr. Muhar stated that on October 3, 2023 and April 1, 2025, the White Wolf Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WWBGSA) Board of Directors approved EKI Consultants Task Orders for the siting, design, bid support, construction management, and grant reporting services for all three new monitoring wells. On May 6, 2025, the District held a bid opening and the EKI memorandum provides additional details, a bid summary, along with a recommendation for the apparent low bidder, ABC Liovin, for \$1,083,850.

Staff recommends the Board of Directors approve the construction contract for ABC Liovin in the amount of up to \$1,200,000 (~10% additional) in total funding without additional Board approval to account for potential change orders (\$660k being funded from Department of Water Resources Grant). Final execution of the contract would be subject to WWBGSA Board approval on June 3, 2025 after confirmation of addressing a potential funding gap, if any with the District's share being one-third up to \$150k. Director Johnston motioned, seconded by Director Martinez, and unanimously approved the District's share (\$150k) and the construction contract amount of \$1.2M.

Approval of Monitoring Well Easement Agreements (two total)

Mr. Muhar noted that of the three new monitoring wells being grant funded by the Department of Water Resources two of the wells are located on separate parcels, both owned by Diamond Farming Company, and located within the District. In order to facilitate construction of and continue access to the two wells, the District needs to execute a Groundwater Monitoring Well Easement Agreement with Diamond Farming Company, staff and legal counsel are recommending the execution of the easement agreement with Diamond Farming (location map and easement agreement included in Board packet). Director Johnston motioned, seconded by Director Kirschenmann, abstained by Director Vickery, and with a majority vote the Board approved the Easement Agreement with Diamond Farming Company.

REPORT ITEMS

AGENCY/AUTHORITY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Friant

President Camp and Mr. Muhar gave a verbal report on the FKC including the Replacement Pump Station status, Delta recapture of SJRRP flows, SLDMWA Delta Mendota Canal issues (subsidence projects and reduction in charges), Farmer-2-Farmer presentation by President Camp at ACWA, and various other related items.

Kern Subbasin

Mr. Muhar and Director Yurosek provided a verbal update on the Kern Subbasin activities to amend the GSP with next steps being a June 20 submittal of an amended GSP and September 17 rescheduled/continued probationary hearing. Mr. Muhar noted that EKI would present in greater detail at the June Board Meeting.

Mr. Muhar provided background on a request for the Arvin GSA to take an opposition stand on AB 1413. There was a brief discussion, and Director Vickery motioned, seconded by Director Martinez, and it was unanimously approved to support letter opposing AB 1413.

STAFF REPORTS

District Operations

Mr. Blue reviewed year-to-date delivery summary, in-district demand, wellfields, groundwater and surface supplies for the year, groundwater level information and recent rainfall/snowpack info.

Summary of Grants and On-going Projects

Mr. Hopkins provided an update of current construction projects.

2026 Landowner Contract Renewal(s)

Mr. Hughes stated there are confidential items to be discussed in closed session but a notice to Landowners is coming in the near future.

May 27 Spring Landowner Workshop

Mr. Muhar noted there were 40 plus landowner RSVPs so far, and outlined the subjects to be discussed, including Johnny Amaral joining the Workshop to discuss on-going Friant projects and dealings with the new federal administration.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Muhar noted the Kern County Water Agency and Friant Water Authority legislative updates.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

Legal Counsel Hughes then advised the Board it would be appropriate to enter closed session to discuss matters of public employment as well as existing litigation and anticipated litigation, namely:

Potential litigation (Four Items);
Arvin-Edison WSD vs. J.R. Simplot, et al (123TCP);
NRDC vs. Conant et al (SJRRP);
Appeal of Regional Board General Order for Third Party Groups for
Tulare Lake Basin (Resolution #R5-2013-0120) to State Water Resources
Control Board (Irrigated Lands Program);
City of Fresno, et al v. USA, Court of Federal Claims;
The California Natural Resources Agency, et al, v. Wilbur Ross
(Biological Opinions Intervention);
Rosedale-Rio Brave Water Storage District et al. v. Kern County Water
Agency et al, (Cross Valley Canal);
Friant Water Authority and AEWSA et. Al., v. Eastern Tule GSA; and

based upon advice from Legal Counsel, discussing such matters in open session would cause prejudice to the District; therefore, the Board adjourned into closed session in accordance with Government Code Sections 54957 and 54956.9 at 1:30 p.m. After returning to open session at 3:20 p.m. there was no action items to report.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION
§54954.2 (RELATING TO ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE POSTED AGENDA); AND
ADJOURNMENT

President Camp asked if there were any further matters that needed to be brought before the Board of Directors and there being none, Director Johnston motioned, seconded by Director Kirschenmann, and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m.



David A. Nixon, Deputy General Manager
/Assistant Secretary-Treasurer