

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD AUGUST 27, 2008**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California on August 27, 2008. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Board President Jeff Boswell.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

President Jeff Boswell  
Vice President Jeff Neely  
Steven Balls  
Tom Steffen

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Division 3 Director Ryan Jacobsen

**STAFF PRESENT**

General Manager Gary R. Serrato  
Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura  
Chief Engineer Bill Stretch  
Human Resources Director Regina Davis  
Controller DeAnn Hailey

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Randy Delerio, Landowner  
Bonner and Bobbie Sample, Landowners

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Mr. Boswell stated that Ryan Jacobsen had been appointed to the Division 3 position. Mr. Jacobsen could not attend this meeting since he was on a previously scheduled vacation.

**REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Same as posted.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

Landowners, Mr. Randy Delerio and Mr. and Mrs. Bonner Sample addressed the Board encouraging the Board to support a groundwater transfer from Mr. Bonner's property on the Eastside of Fresno County to Mr. Delerio property on the Westside of Fresno County. Staff and Board Members Mr. Neely and Mr. Boswell shared their concerns regarding the proposed groundwater transfer.

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**(Any Board Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.) [FPPC §87105]**

None stated

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2008**
- b. **Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2008**

**M/S/C/(Balls/Steffen)** That Board of Directors approve the Consent Calendar by the following vote. (Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent Ryan Jacobsen, Abstain 0)

**380: WATER REPORT**

In the absence of Watermaster Jim Irwin, General Manager Gary Serrato reviewed the current and projected water supply. As of August 21, 2008, Pine Flat release was 1,291 cfs and storage was 138,449 acre-feet. The low point in Pine Flat is projected to occur in mid-September. Early indications show the low point to be between 120,000 to 130,000 acre feet.

Regular water deliveries to the eastside are scheduled to terminate at the end of August with “Hardship Water” to continue in the month of September. Deliveries in the Silvia Ditch will continue through September. Peoples Ditch Company is scheduled to shut down mid September which could require Exhibit “C” flows to begin down stream of the Fresno Weir.

**CHIEF ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Chief Engineer reported on the following items:

- a. **Developer and Agency Project Schedule for 2008/09 Update**

**Developer Projects** – Staff is processing approximately 15 Developer Pipeline projects for the 2008/09 Maintenance Season. Currently, there is one project in progress which impacts the Tracy Canal located southwest of Clinton and Blythe Avenues. There are several projects that should commence in the next few weeks.

**Agency Projects** – Staff is processing approximately ten Agency projects for the 2008/09 maintenance season. There are two projects that should commence in the next few weeks, including Grantland Avenue Bridge replacement on the Herndon Canal located south of Barstow Avenue and Temperence Avenue Bridge replacement on the Gould Canal located south of Ashlan Avenue.

- b. **Three-Year Maintenance Facility Upgrade Project for 2007/08**

Most of the Water Department has moved over to the Maintenance Department with August 11 as the official start of Maintenance Season. Numerous projects are ready to commence once the canals have been de-watered. Staff is working to finalize the Construction Report of the 2007/08 projects which will be completed and submitted to the Board in several months.

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**c. Informational Items:**

**i. USBR Grant Update for Water 2025 Challenge Grants for Water Conservation Project. Item 2008-41**

On March 12, 2008, FID applied for a grant administered by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) known as the Water 2025 "Challenge Grant for Water Conservation Projects." FID was successful in obtaining the grant and was fully funded for \$300,000. The USBR awarded 15 projects in eight western states, totaling \$4.5 million. The grant agreement is expected by the end of September. The project must be completed within two years.

The District will apply the grant funds to the Enterprise Canal Siphon Replacement underneath Big Dry Creek and Improved Spillway Project. FID was recently awarded \$300,000 (FY 2007) through the same grant program which is helping fund the replacement of the Fancher Flume on the Enterprise Canal and was also awarded \$30,000 for improvements at Jameson Pond and Lower Dry Creek Canal (FY 2008)

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

**a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update**

Work at the site continues. The lack of aggregate at the site is still hindering Mr. Erickson's progress. To date, Mr. Erickson has not responded to either of our letters requesting him to acknowledge the need to complete the project by the new deadline. A significant amount of work still needs to be performed at the site.

**b. Waldron Banking Project Update**

The administrative work for closing the Arthur & Orum contract is almost complete. Some contract issues are still being resolved with Mr. Arthur. Provost and Pritchard is working with PG&E for getting electrical power to the new pumps at the Waldron and Lambrecht sites. Vulcan Construction has begun receiving materials at the project sites and began work this week.

**c. District Office Plan**

BMV Construction has submitted shop drawings and submittals. SIM Architects has been reviewing the submittals and working with District Staff on the responses. Staff is also working with SIM on the design of the new office and addressing the site plan comments from the County of Fresno. Miscellaneous facilities information is also provided as necessary.

**d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update**

Maintenance personnel are busy transitioning to winter maintenance activities. Some of the Water System Operators continue to work in the Water Operations Department during the extended water season in some areas. Heavy equipment operators are busy repairing the banks along the Minor-Thornton Canal and preparing sites for the construction crews. The spray trucks are working on the Enterprise, Big Dry Creek and Lower Dry Creek systems while the tractor

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sprayer has been on the Hansen and Edminston systems and small ditches near Clovis. Additionally, Magnacide was applied on the Houghton Canal and copper sulfate was applied on the Enterprise Canal. Miscellaneous structure, pipeline and gate repairs are being made on the South Lampee, Goodrich, Briggs, Malaga and Washington systems. The trash truck is working on the Houghton and Houghton-West systems. Minor brush removal is also being performed by a small brushing crew.

Directors Boswell and Neely asked about the use of a type of aquacade that could be applied in dry canals. Mr. Kimura told the Board of a pilot project where the Maintenance Department will be trying out such a product.

Bids were opened August 15, 2008 for eight (8) pieces of equipment. Price quotes and specifications are being reviewed by staff. An Equipment Committee meeting will need to be held sometime prior to the Board meeting on September 10, 2008 to review the quotes and staff recommendations. Prices quoted are good for 30 days.

Mr. Kimura requested an Equipment Committee meeting for Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

President Boswell called for a brief recess at 6:40 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order by President Boswell at 7:00 p.m.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

**KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION**

**Fish and Game Committee**

KRWA is still concerned that the cool water pool may be depleted prior to the cooling off of the ambient temperatures in September. They continue to manage water temperatures by blending warm water and cool water within the strata of varying water temperature in Pine Flat Dam. The Fly Fisherman's Group from the Public Advisory Group has implemented a self imposed no fishing until the end of October.

**Legislative Committee**

AB2175 (Laird) continues to be opposed by water agencies and metropolitan areas. AB2175 would require measurement on all turnout and reporting every year. The bill would also require both agriculture and cities to reduce water consumption by 20 percent of our total water supply. It ignores conjunctive use as a tool to restore and maintain groundwater supplies.

Both SB1xx (Perata) and the Governor's Water Bond continue to be tracked by the Committee. The Governor's water bond needs to pass the Assembly and Senate by the end of August before it can be placed on the ballot for the November election. KRWA and Friant continue to support the Governor's Water Bond.

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**FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY / FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY**

**Rank Island**

The Bureau of Reclamation has completed the work required to repair the diversion structure at Rank Island. The work was completed on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, the day after the last Board meeting. The repair received coverage in the Fresno Bee, unfortunately the article failed to mention the reason why the repair had to be done. The repair is estimated to save as much as 25,000 acre-feet per year.

With Congress in recess, legislation on the San Joaquin River restoration settlement is at a standstill.

**OTHER ISSUES**

**Meeting with Congressman Jim Costa**

Congressman Jim Costa has asked Mr. Serrato to participate in his water advisory committee which is composed of water managers and attorneys from his District. On Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Serrato participated in a round table discussion of water issues affecting the District and the Valley. He also had the opportunity to discuss the settlement of the San Joaquin River and the newly proposed State Water Bond.

**Kings County Water District Groundwater Bank**

Staff continues to work with the consultant and the Kings County Water District General Manager to complete the final agreement for the development of the Groundwater Banking Facility.

**Hanford Sentinel News Article**

The Hanford Sentinel newspaper published an article on August 21, 2008, regarding area landowners claiming that Kings County Water District groundwater bank was to blame for dropping well water levels in the area. The landowners claiming to have been negatively impacted by the project have engaged a Groundwater Hydrologist from Sacramento to research the impacts to the area.

**Tulare Irrigation District Training**

Mr. Serrato informed the Board that Tulare ID will host a JPIA class on Prevention of Sexual Harassment in November. This is a class that Board members are required to attend every two years to meet the AB 1234 law.

**Running Horse**

Fresno architect Gary Vigan and partner Scott Webb (one of the original developers of Running Horse) are working on resuming the Running Horse project. Staff will be participating in a meeting at Fresno City Hall to discuss FID's requirements. The development will begin with the golf course with housing to be phased in at a later time.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

a. **Claim – A-Class RV, Inc. (new)**

The Directors reviewed the property damage claim from A-Class RV. This is the second claim the District has received from this company.

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors deny the property damage claim and forward to JPIA as recommended by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent Ryan Jacobsen, Abstain 0)

- b. **July 2008 Fund Activity**
- c. **July 2008 Treasurer's Report**
- d. **July 2008 Cash on Hand**

Controller DeAnn Hailey reviewed each of the listed financial reports, including investments, revenues, and expenditures. Staff answered any questions presented by the Board. Director Balls requested that staff e-mail him a copy of the District's investment policy. The Board also requested Michael Kronbetter of Wells Fargo Bank come to the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and discuss investment strategy.

**M/S/C/(Balls/Neely)** That Board of Directors approve the listed financial reports as reported by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent Ryan Jacobsen, Abstain 0)

e. **Fresno County Fire Protection District Special Assessment Ballots**

Fresno County Fire Protection is proposing a new tax assessment

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors voted "no" on the assessment ballot as reported by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent Ryan Jacobsen, Abstain 0)

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

No Reports

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting went into Closed Session at 8:00 pm.

**Natural Resource Defense Council vs. Rodgers (Government Code Section 54956.9).**  
To confer with counsel on pending litigation.

**Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)).**

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The Board will meet in closed session to confer with Counsel on potential litigation arising out of claims by third parties. (Snowden)

**REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

President Boswell reported that there was not action to report during Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary R. Serrato  
Board Secretary