

**ALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
BAORD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
February 9, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call: The Regular Board Meeting for Alta Irrigation District was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Norman Waldner. Members present were Daniel Astiasuain, Jack Brandt, Jerry Halford, John Kalender, Tom Marshall and Larry Tout. Others present were General Manager Chad B. Wegley, Controller Irma P. Faria, Engineer Jim Wegley and Attorneys Doug Jensen and Lauren Layne.

1.1. Potential Conflict(s) of Interest – None.

1.2. Filling AID Board Seat Vacancy – Fresno County Board of Supervisors appointed Larry Tout to fill the vacancy left by Deron Hoff in Division 6. Notary Indira Trevino administered the oath of office at 9:15 am, prior to the board meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

3. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA – None.

4. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION – ACTION

4.1. Conference with Legal Counsel Regarding Anticipated Litigation, Government Code 54956.9(d)(2) – It was **M/S/C** by **Astiasuain/Kalender** to call a closed session per Government Code 54956.9(d)(2) to confer with counsel on potential litigation arising out of claims by third parties to water rights on the Kings River.

5. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – ACTION

5.1. The board reconvened with no action taken in closed session.

6. COMMUNICATIONS – None.

7. BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

7.1. Kings River Water Association (KRWA) Executive Committee – None.

7.2. Other Organizations and Items of Interest – None.

8. WATER MANAGEMENT – General Manager, Chad Wegley, explained that the Kings River is currently operating in a flood release regime and also explained the methodology used to determine when to declare flood releases. Prior to February 1st, the flood control diagram for Pine Flat requires the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to require flood releases when the

water level reaches a “threshold” elevation and subsequent to February 1st, the USACE and KRWA will work together to determine whether storage in Pine Flat is allowed to encroach into vacant space within the reservoir. Normal precipitation from this point forward creates the potential for runoff equal to about 160% of an average year. The General Manager is also looking at maximizing in-channel recharge by, balancing flood water brought in off the Kings River against uncontrolled runoff from foothills located east of the District. He mentioned that KRCD prepared a report summarizing seepage from District canals and that report would serve as a guide for diverting water into canals with the greatest seepage. The General Manager also reviewed current storage in Pine Flat (about 625,000 acre-feet), headgate diversions (none), precipitation for January 2017 (5.22 inches), and the Monthly Water Banking Report.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

***Halford** motioned to remove all items from the Consent Calendar.

- 9.1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2017. It was **M/S/C by Halford/Astiasuain** to approve the January 12, 2017 minutes as written.
- 9.2. Financial Statements Prepared by Hudson, Henderson, and Company, Inc. (9:40 a.m.). **Brandt** made the motion to pull the Financial Statements from the consent calendar for review. Auditors Hudson and Henderson reviewed the financial statements for the period ending 9/30/2016 and explained in detail, changes associated with pension reporting and deferred inflows and outflows from GASB 75 OPEB. A clean opinion was given. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Halford/Marshall** to approve the 9/30/2016 financial statements. **(INSERT 29A)**
- 9.3. Claims – None.
- 9.4. Warrants. It was **M/S/C Unanimously by Halford/Brandt** to approve the January 2017 warrants in the amount of \$ 84,090.21. **(INSERT 29B)**
- 9.5. Collector’s Report. The Collector’s Report was read and made an addendum to these minutes. **(INSERT 29C)**
- 9.6. Treasurer’s Report. The Treasurer’s Report was read and made an addendum to these minutes. **(INSERT 29D)**

10. CURRENT PROJECTS – REVIEW AND CONSIDER FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

- 10.1. Avenue 416 Widening (City of Dinuba, Rd 56 to Rd 80; 9914 & 9889a). No update.
- 10.2. Avenue 416 Widening (Tulare Co – Caesar/AB Clark 9922 & 9923). It was **M/S/C unanimously by Brandt/Astiasuain** to approve the contract with Concepts in Controls for the automation of the Caesar headgate, with some edits. **(INSERT 29E)**

- 10.3. Reedley Pond (Floral and Reed; 9917). There was discussion on the development status of a 13-acre parcel within the city of Reedley, adjacent to the East Reedley; No action.
- 10.4. Mt. Campbell Pipeline (Caltrans; 7025). There was discussion on the status of Highway 180 expansion and direction given to staff to coordinate and develop a new agreement with Caltrans, including a new cost estimate to review the project. No action.
- 10.5. 6th Avenue Crossing (Traver; 9926). SoCal Gas will be installing a new gas line across the Traver Canal; No action.
- 10.6. Parlier Avenue Bridge (Traver; 9928). Fresno County is in the process of planning to replace an existing bridge crossing; No action.
- 10.7. Lincoln Avenue Bridge (Traver; 9929). Fresno County is in the process of planning to replace an existing bridge crossing; No action.
- 10.8. Englehart Avenue Bridge (Reedley Main; 9930). Fresno County is in the process of planning to replace an existing bridge crossing; No action.
- 10.9. Frankwood Avenue Bridge (Alta Main; 9931). Fresno County is in the process of constructing a new bridge across the Alta Main; No action.
- 10.10. DUSD Alta-Kamm High School (Dinuba Town, Burum; 9932). DUSD has requested information regarding irrigation facilities impacted by development of a 77-acre parcel into a new school; No action
- 10.11. Manning Bridge (Traver; 9933). Fresno County is in the process of planning to replace an existing bridge crossing; No action.
- 10.12. Jack Ditch Encroachment (Peters; 7036). The installer is unable to provide insurance per the District's encroachment policy. The General Manager recommended to have the landowner provide required coverage and hold the District harmless. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Astiasuain/Brandt** to authorize the President and Secretary's signature on the Jack Ditch Encroachment Agreement when the landowner is able to meet and provide adequate insurance coverage. **(INSERT 30A)**
- 10.13. Caesar Encroachment (Brad Olsen; 7047). The installer is unable to provide insurance per the District's encroachment policy. The General Manager recommended to have the landowner provide required coverage and hold the District harmless. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Astiasuain/Brandt** to authorize the President and Secretary's signature on the Caesar Encroachment Agreement when the landowner is able to meet and provide adequate insurance coverage. **(INSERT 30B)**

- 10.14. Cutler-Orosi Surface Water Treatment Plant (8875). The General Manager has been attending community outreach meetings and has met with landowner Ben Fast, in efforts to secure an option to purchase the water treatment plant site. No action.
- 10.15. Kings River East GSA. Attorney Lauren Layne presented a draft agreement for Alta Irrigation District to provide administrative and fiscal services to the Kings River East GSA (KRE-GSA); FID has a similar arrangement with the North Kings GSA. The agreement will be reviewed, in detail, by the various boards of the members that make up Kings River East GSA and their respective legal councils. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Halford/Astiasuain** to tentatively approve the agreement subject to additional review and changes by the KRE-GSA or its members. **(INSERT 31A)**

11. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – CONSIDER FOR ACTION

- 11.1. Resolution Nominating Director Kathleen J. Tieggs for a Position on the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Marshall/Brandt** to authorize staff to prepare a resolution supporting Director Tieggs. **(R2017-02-01)**
- 11.2. Revised Payroll Burden Rate. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Brandt/Marshall** to set the payroll burden rate at 54%; effective March 1, 2017.
- 11.3. Special Project Coordinator. The General Manager recommended the creation of a new position to address additional workload and controller’s transition to retirement. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Marshall/Brandt** to appoint Irma P. Faria to the new position at a rate of pay up to \$48.08 per hour.

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

- 12.1. Nitrate Isotope Testing – The General Manager will continue to work with KRCD’s Casey Kramer on coordination a meeting with Dr. Harder from UC Davis to pro-actively circulate findings from isotope testing in hopes of rebutting recent published articles citing farming as 100% responsible for nitrates in groundwater east of the Kings River.
- 12.2. AID Arch-type, CV-SALTS - No update.
- 12.3. ACWA Legislative Committee – Attorney Lane met with the committee in Sacramento to discuss potential positions that ACWA is taking on bills this legislative session. Attorney Lane explained that AB68 would prohibit schools from acquiring real property for the purpose of building a school, if the proposed school site is located within 2 miles of an operating farm. It would also require a new school facility built on or after January 1, 2018, and located within 2 miles of an operating farm to obtain its water supply from a public water system; AB 196 seeks to amend Section 39712 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to greenhouse gases. Attorney Lane is reviewing a current move to amend Article 13 of the CA Revenue and Taxation code regarding the application of article 10, in an attempt to exempt more activities from its application, such as storm water fees. AB 313 would

transfer authority of water rights matters from the State Water Resources Control Board to the Department of Water Resources, which would affect SGMA.

- 12.4. Valley Ag Water Coalition (VAWC) – The committee will meet this afternoon.
- 12.5. Kings River Water Association (KRWA) Legislative Committee – No update.
- 12.6. Federal Legislation Regarding Waters of the United States (WOTUS) – No update.
- 12.7. Manager’s Report – The Manager explained how anticipated entitlement projections for the upcoming water run is based on low and high values for 110% and 160% water years, respectively. Recent changes in farming practices appear to result in lower instantaneous diversion rate from the Kings River, which means irrigation season must lengthen to deliver the same volume of water. He is studying the possibility of entering into a banking arrangement with CID, applying for water storage grants, or enhancing the use of direct recharge within the District.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) – No update.

14. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned until the next regularly scheduled regular board meeting on March 9, 2017.

Sincerely,

Chad. B. Wegley
Secretary

CBW:ipf