

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. 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, 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.
- 1.2. Potential Conflict(s) of Interest – None.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 2.1 Andy Sells, Chief Executive Officer for ACWA/JPIA, addressed the Board and thanked Alta Irrigation District for participating in the ACWA/JPIA Liability, Property, Workers' Compensation and Health Benefits Programs in a pool with 400 other public agencies. He presented the Board with a Rate Stabilization Fund Refund check in the amount of \$40,549. He also mentioned paying out approximately \$4.5 million in refunds this year to about 141 member agencies that participated in the program as well. The refund amount an agency receives is based on premiums paid, case reserves, and paid claims dating back to 10/1/1999.
- 2.2 Staff for Assemblyman Devon Mathis, co-author of SB-37 Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency Act, addressed the Board to request support for AB 321 Groundwater Sustainability Plans and AB 487 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. AB 321 would additionally require the groundwater sustainability agency to solicit the participation of farmers, ranchers, and other qualified professionals within the groundwater basin prior to and during development and implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan. AB 487 This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact statutory changes relating to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

3. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

- 3.1 Director **Marshall moved** that the Board add to its agenda the matter of **11.3 Fresno County Resolution to move from odd to even year election (revised)**; and find that pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2) that (i) there is a need to take immediate action on this new matter and (ii) the need for action came to the attention of the District subsequent to posting of the agenda for today's meeting. **Director Brandt seconded** the motion, which carried unanimously and represented at least a two-thirds majority of the board.

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 unanimously by Brandt/Tout** to enter into closed session 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. Announcement(s) from Closed Session It was **M/S/C unanimously by Marshall/Brandt** to come back into open session. No action was 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 – INFORMATIONAL

- 8.1. Pine Flat Storage Report – The General Manager reviewed current storage in Pine Flat (about 775,000 acre-feet). Pine Flat Dam is quickly approaching the limit on storage and is likely to stay in flood release operation until the end of June 2017. Projected snow survey data from DWR suggests a snow pack on April 1st of 188% of normal, which means this year's water run could continue through October. As farmers transition to low volume irrigation methods, the District's water runs must lengthen in order to accommodate the lower rate of use.
- 8.2. Precipitation Summary – Precipitation for February is 5.91 inches; year to date is 9.13 inches.
- 8.3. Monthly Headgate Diversions – The District is cautiously balancing uncontrolled run-off from rainfall events and bringing in Kings River flood water for in-channel and basin recharge.
- 8.4. Monthly Water Banking Report – The Monthly Water Banking Report was reviewed and made an addendum to these minutes. **(INSERT 34A)**

9. ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL – ACTION

- 9.1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2017. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Halford/Brandt** to approve the February 9, 2017 minutes as written. **(INSERT 34B)**
- 9.2. Claims. No update.

- 9.3. Warrants. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Marshall/Brandt** to approve payment of the February 2017 warrants in the amount of \$224,201.08. **(INSERT 35A)**
- 9.4. Collector's Report. The Collector's Report was read and made an addendum to these minutes. **(INSERT 35B)**
- 9.5. Treasurer's Report. As of 2/28/2017, there is a projected \$836,110.63 in the Treasurer's General Fund plus \$165,908.38 in A/R, Inventory and Deposits, less allocated and restricted reserves of \$866,000.00 leaving a projected \$136,019.01 in operational reserves for the fiscal year ending 9/30/2017. As of 2/28/2017 there was \$1,829,753.35 in LAIF with interest at .72% **(INSERT 35C)**

10. CURRENT PROJECTS – REVIEW AND CONSIDER FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

- 10.1. Avenue 416 Widening (City of Dinuba, Rd 56 to Rd 80; 9914 & 9889a). The city's project (9914) is slowly moving forward; \$460,000 will remain in escrow until the claim (leaks at two locations) is addressed. The District's portion (9889a) is ready to close. No action taken.
- 10.2. Avenue 416 Widening (Tulare Co – Caesar/AB Clark 9922 & 9923). No update.
- 10.3. Reedley Pond (Floral and Reed; 9917). No update.
- 10.4. Mt. Campbell Pipeline (Caltrans; 7025). Caltrans is interested in moving this project forward, but impacts to District facilities have not been addressed. Key issues include: outstanding engineering costs, encroachment permits, and access to turnouts. No action taken.
- 10.5. 6th Avenue Crossing (Traver; 9926). County of Fresno has modified their plans to ensure the District's access to each canal bank. The bridge crossing will have very little impact to the District.
- 10.6. Parlier Avenue Bridge (Traver; 9928). Same as above.
- 10.7. Lincoln Avenue Bridge (Traver; 9929). Same as above.
- 10.8. Englehart Avenue Bridge (Reedley Main; 9930). Same as above.
- 10.9. Frankwood Avenue Bridge (Alta Main; 9931). County of Fresno plans to build a new bridge about 20 feet south of the existing bridge may affect the District's diversion measurement on the Alta Main. The General Manager will meet with Fresno County to address concerns as well as maintenance issues related to the 20foot gap between existing and proposed facilities. No action taken.
- 10.10. DUSD Alta-Kamm High School (Dinuba Town, Burum; 9932). Dinuba Unified School District has prepared preliminary plans relocated Dinuba Town Ditch closer to Road 80 and converting this facility to a pipeline, which mitigates hazardous conditions created with open

ditches in urban environments. Burum runs along the entire northern boundary of the project site and will need to be replaced with a pipeline suitable for an urban environment. Alta sent a letter to DUSD requesting notification of CEQA activities. Last fall, Alta sent DUSD an agreement – requesting a \$10,000 deposit – for preliminary engineering in order to estimate mitigation cost for irrigation facilities impacted by the project but DUSD never executed the agreement. No action taken.

- 10.11. Manning Bridge (Traver; 9933). Fresno County has modified their plans to ensure the District's access to the canal bank. The bridge crossing will have very little impact to the District.
- 10.12. Jack Ditch Encroachment (Peters; 7036). No update.
- 10.13. Caesar Encroachment (Brad Olsen; 7047). Project on hold.
- 10.14. Cutler-Orosi Surface Water Treatment Plant (8875). Department of Water Resources mentioned that projects vying for Prop 1 monies may have a cumulative cost greater than available funding, which could impact this project if a joint powers agreement is not executed very soon and work is not initiated on other project activities. The General Manager has been working on a map identifying that portion of the landowner's parcel is needed for the footprint of the surface water treatment plant. No action taken.
- 10.15. Kings River East GSA. After review by the KRE-GSA, the agreement for Alta Irrigation District to provide administrative and fiscal services was approved at a regular board meeting on 2/16/2017. At this same meeting, Baker, Manock and Jensen was also approved as legal counsel. District staff is in the process of applying for a Federal ID#, creating a separate website, and setting up a P.O. Box and phone number for the GSA. No action taken.

11. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – CONSIDER FOR ACTION

- 11.1. Water Run. The General Manager reviewed the current forecast; he is anticipating a May 1st start date. Since the District is diverting water for canal recharge, he asked the Board to consider allowing farmers to take water, allowing the District to run additional flows for recharge. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Brandt/Marshall** to grant groundwater only parcels the ability to make a demand for water at the same entitlement as 25% lands subject to an additional \$3.00 per acre-foot of water measured, to recognize May 1st as the anticipated start day for the 2017 water run and to allow landowners with the ability to take water on an “as is, when is” basis, to take water without charge, until further notice.
- 11.2. London Pond Habitat Enhancement. The General Manager reviewed the Traver Pond Grant's original commitment to a 5-yr monitoring report on the London Pond Habitat Enhancement. There have been annual reports leading up to the 5-yr final report. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Halford/Astiasuain** to approve a proposal from Halstead & Associates for \$4,650 to prepare the final 5-yr monitoring report. **(INSERT 36A)**

- 11.3. **Fresno County Resolution to move from odd to even year election (revised)**: The General Manager explained there was a need to revise the original resolution (R2017-01-02) adopted on January 12, 2017 due to Fresno County processing votes differently than Tulare County. It was **M/S/C unanimously by Halford/Astiasuain** to adopt the revised resolution to move from odd year to even year elections with Fresno County.
- (R2017-03-01)**

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

- 12.1. Nitrate Isotope Testing – Casey Kramer from KRCD and others met with Dr. Harder to review results from a nitrate isotope report prepared by Lawrence Livermore Laboratories. There was much discussion amongst meeting participants about variability of results within the area and limitations associated with a generalized nitrate assessment, like the one used in the UC Davis report naming agriculture responsible for 97% of the nitrates. Historically, farming parcels within Alta were usually 20 acre sites with rural homes so it is not unreasonable to expect a higher nitrate levels given the density of septic tanks. A second round of testing will use indicator such as caffeine or ibuprofen to differentiate between human and animal nitrate sources.
- 12.2. AID Arch-type, CV-SALTS - No update.
- 12.3. ACWA Legislative Committee – AB 313 seeks to transfer water rights and SIGMA authorities from the State Water Board to DWR and reduce water right fees; bill also supports formation of an independent commission for state water projects (watch position). SB 80 would require the lead agency to post CEQA notices on an agency’s website (oppose unless amended). SB 252 would require a well completion report for a water well in a city or county overlying a critically over drafted basin to include certain additional information, including, among other things, the proposed capacity, estimated pumping rate, anticipated pumping schedule, and estimated annual extraction volume. By adding to reporting requirements, the violation of which is a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. There are numerous water bills coming out, including bills to fund drinking water bills.
- 12.4. Valley Ag Water Coalition (VAWC) – The Coalition is preparing to fill the vacancy created by Chris Kapheim’s retirement.
- 12.5. Kings River Water Association (KRWA) Legislative Committee – No update.
- 12.6. Federal Legislation Regarding Waters of the United States (WOTUS) – It is anticipated the Federal Government will try to pull back the States’ reach regarding waters of the US.
- 12.7. Manager’s Report - Nothing additional to report.

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

14. **ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned until the next scheduled regular board meeting on April 13, 2017.

Sincerely,

Chad B. Wegley
Secretary

CBW:ipf