



**COMMISSION MEETING OF THE
SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY**

**MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026 – 10:00 A.M.
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
333 E. CANAL DRIVE
BOARD ROOM 105
TURLOCK, CA 95380**

ALTERNATE FORMATS OF THIS AGENDA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. PERSONS WHO REQUIRE A DISABILITY-RELATED MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION, INCLUDING AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES, SHOULD CONTACT JENNIFER LAND, COMMISSION SECRETARY, IN PERSON OR BY MAIL, AT THE ABOVE (TID) ADDRESS, OR BY TELEPHONE AT (209) 883-8353, NOT LESS THAN 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING FOR WHICH THE MODIFICATION OR ACCOMMODATION IS REQUIRED.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide public input in-person or via the webinar or phone features. If you wish to speak, click on the “Raise Hand” button via Zoom, or press *9 if using a phone, and wait until your name (or other identifying information) is called by the Commission Secretary.

To join the meeting:

- [Click here to join the video meeting](#)
- Or to join by phone, please dial 669-900-9128 or 346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 960 8572 8844

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

3. ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (5 minutes per speaker)

This time is provided for the public to address the Commissioners of the Authority on matters of concern that fall within the jurisdiction of the Authority that are not on the agenda. Speakers are encouraged to consult Member Management or Directors prior to agenda preparation regarding any Authority operation or responsibility as no action will be taken on non-agenda issues.

5. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2026

6. **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER’S REPORT**
Presentation and acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report through April 30, 2026.
- Ashley Millsap, SJTA Treasurer
7. **PHASE 2 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM**
Update on the Phase 2 Strategic Communications Program.
- Andree Lee, SJTA Executive Director
8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**
Update on the Strategic Plan implementation and SJTA activities.
- Andree Lee, SJTA Executive Director
9. **MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**
 - A. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**
California Government Code Section 54956.9
San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, et al vs. California State Water Resources Control Board
Tuolumne County Superior Court – Case Number CV62094
Judicial Council Coordinated Proceeding No.5013
- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel
 - B. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**
California Government Code Section 54956.9
San Joaquin Tributaries Authority vs. California State Water Resources Control Board
Fresno County Superior Court – Case No. 21CECG02632
Judicial Council Coordinated Proceeding No. 5229
- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel
 - C. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**
California Government Code Section 54956.9
San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, et al vs. California State Water Resources Control Board
Fresno County Superior Court – Case No. 23CECG04201
- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel
 - D. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**
California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)-(3)
Anticipated Litigation – one potential case
Potential future State Water Board Action
- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel
10. **RECONVENE - REPORT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**
11. **MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA**
12. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE - MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M.**
13. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY**

Turlock, California
9 February 2026

The Commission Meeting of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority was called to order at 10:02 a.m. in regular session on the 9th day of February 2026, conducted in-person from the Turlock Irrigation District located at 333 E Canal Drive, Turlock, CA, via Zoom Webinar, and the remote teleconference location as described on the agenda.

Present were the following representatives of the member agencies:

Michael Frantz – Turlock Irrigation District
Kate Stacy – City and County of San Francisco
Robert Frobose – Modesto Irrigation District, Vice Chair (*remote teleconference*)
Glenn Spyksma – South San Joaquin Irrigation District, Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

MOTION APPOINTING THE CHAIR

Commissioner Spyksma expressed appreciation for his time serving as Chair, provided information regarding the rotation of officers noting that Commissioner Frobose is next in line for the Chair role, and thanked Executive Director Lee and the General Managers for their work. Commissioners thanked Commissioner Spyksma for his leadership and service as Chair.

Moved by Commissioner Stacy, seconded by Commissioner Frantz, that the Modesto Irrigation District member Robert Frobose is hereby appointed as Chair of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority for a term of two (2) years.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes: Commissioners Frantz, Stacy, Frobose, and Spyksma
Noes: None
Absent: None

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOTION APPOINTING THE VICE CHAIR

Moved by Commissioner Frantz, seconded by Commissioner Frobose, that the City & County of San Francisco member Kate Stacy is hereby appointed as Vice Chair of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority for a term of two (2) years,

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes: Commissioners Frantz, Stacy, Frobose, and Spyksma
Noes: None
Absent: None

DRAFT

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOTION APPOINTING THE SECRETARY

Commissioners Frantz and Stacy spoke favorably about Turlock Irrigation District employee Jennifer Land serving as Secretary.

Moved by Commissioner Frantz, seconded by Commissioner Stacy, that the Turlock Irrigation District employee Jennifer Land is hereby appointed as Secretary of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority for a term of two (2) years.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes: Commissioners Frantz, Stacy, Frobose, and Spyksma
Noes: None
Absent: None

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOTION APPOINTING THE TREASURER

Commissioner Frantz spoke favorably about Turlock Irrigation District employee Ashley Millsap serving as Treasurer.

Moved by Commissioner Frantz, seconded by Commissioner Stacy, that the Turlock Irrigation District employee Ashley Millsap is hereby appointed as Treasurer of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority for a term of two (2) years.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes: Commissioners Frantz, Stacy, Frobose, and Spyksma
Noes: None
Absent: None

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOTION APPROVING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Commissioner Stacy, seconded by Commissioner Frobose, that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 3, 2025, be approved as presented.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes: Commissioners Frantz, Stacy, Frobose, and Spyksma

Noes: None

Absent: None

DRAFT

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOTION APPROVING TREASURER'S REPORT

SJTA Treasurer Ashley Millsap presented the Treasurer's Report with activity through December 31, 2025, including interest earned, total expenditures, carryover, and cash reconciliations for the money market and checking accounts.

Moved by Commissioner Frantz, seconded by Commissioner Stacy, that the Treasurer's Report with activity through December 31, 2025, be approved as presented.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes: Commissioners Frantz, Stacy, Frobose, and Spyksma

Noes: None

Absent: None

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

MOTION ADJOURNING TO CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Commissioner Frantz, seconded by Commissioner Stacy, that the Commission meeting be adjourned to closed session at 10:13 a.m.:

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

California Government Code Section 54956.9

San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, et al vs. California State Water Resources Control Board

Tuolumne County Superior Court – Case Number CV62094

Judicial Council Coordinated Proceeding No.5013

- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

California Government Code Section 54956.9

San Joaquin Tributaries Authority vs. California State Water Resources Control Board

Fresno County Superior Court – Case No. 21CECG02632

Judicial Council Coordinated Proceeding No. 5229

- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

California Government Code Section 54956.9

San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, et al vs. California State Water Resources Control Board

Fresno County Superior Court – Case No. 23CECG04201

- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

D. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation

California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)-(3)

Anticipated Litigation – one potential case

Potential future State Water Board Action

- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

RECOVENE – REPORT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

The Commission meeting was reconvened in open session at 11:27 a.m. with all Commissioners present as per the previous open session. Legal Counsel Valerie Kincaid reported that the Commission provided direction to file an Amicus Brief in the matter of Bring Back the Kern. This action was approved by a 3/1 vote with the Modesto Irrigation District absent during this portion of the meeting.

MOTION AUTHORIZING PHASE 2 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

SJTA Executive Director Andree Lee presented an overview of the Strategic Communications Program Phase 2, including the background and approach, scope of work, and the consultant selection process. She reported that the Communications Working Group recommends selecting Evoque Communications, reviewed the proposed 11-month schedule, and noted the recommendation is consistent with the approved budget.

Commissioners expressed support and appreciation for the work completed to date and commented that potentially conducting a follow-up survey would be valuable to determine whether the efforts moved the needle and that the analytics would help measure success.

Hearing no further comments, the Commission took the following action:

Moved by Commissioner Frobose, seconded by Commissioner Frantz, authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute contracts with Evoque Communications and media

vendors for an amount not to exceed \$249,990 for Phase 2 Strategic Communications Program implementation.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes: Commissioners Frantz, Stacy, Frobose, and Spyksma
Noes: None
Absent: None

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the resolution adopted.

~~DRAFT~~ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

SJTA Executive Director Andree Lee reported that the new branding has been completed and the new website has launched. She also noted that they have been coordinating closely with the Department of Water Resources on watershed studies for the San Joaquin River System, whose overall goals align with the work being done by the SJTA agencies. The goal is to identify partnerships on shared objectives and to leverage potential funding opportunities for pilot projects.

MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA

There were none.

FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Stacy, seconded by Commissioner Frantz, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

Secretary to the Commission of the
SAN JOAQUIN TRIBUTARIES AUTHORITY



MEMORANDUM

To: San Joaquin Tributaries Authority
From: SJTA Treasurer, Ashley Millsap
Issue: **Motion to Accept Treasurer's Report**
Date: May 11, 2026

Attached (or below) please find the Treasurer's Report with activity through April 30, 2026.



2026 Actual v. Budget

YTD as of April 30, 2026

	2026 Budget	2025 YTD Actual	Budget Variance	% of 2025 Budget YTD
Revenue				
Agencies Cash Call	\$ 1,412,000.00	\$ 1,412,000.00	\$ -	
Interest Earned/Received	\$ -	\$ 4,465.21	\$ 4,465.21	
Carryover	\$ 817,256.03	\$ 817,256.03	\$ -	
Total Revenue	\$ 2,229,256.03	\$ 2,233,721.24	\$ 4,465.21	
Expenditures				
Executive Director	\$ 298,288.00	\$ 52,413.38	\$ (245,874.62)	18%
Administrative Costs	\$ 418,600.00	\$ 37,562.30	\$ (381,037.70)	9%
Legal Costs	\$ 935,125.00	\$ 249,767.00	\$ (685,358.00)	27%
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,652,013.00	\$ 339,742.68	\$ (1,312,270.32)	21%
Revenue over Expenditures	\$ 577,243.03	\$ 1,893,978.56	\$ 1,316,735.53	
		\$ -		



Cash Reconciliation for Money Market Account

Balance as of 12/31/25: \$ 928,175.94

Receipts:

\$ -	Cash Call ()	
\$ 4,465.21	Interest	
<u>\$ 4,465.21</u>		\$ 4,465.21

Disbursements:

<u>\$ (400,000.00)</u>	Transfer	
\$ (400,000.00)		\$ (400,000.00)

Balance as of 04/30/26:

Total Cash Balance:

\$ 532,641.15



Cash Reconciliation for Checking Account

Balance as of 12/31/25: **\$ 72,053.25**

Receipts:

\$ 1,412,000.00	Cash Call ()	
\$ 400,000.00	Transfer	
\$1,812,000.00		\$ 1,812,000.00

Disbursements:

\$ 102.30	Deluxe Business Systems	
\$ 10,545.00	Chris Nance	
\$ 104,611.54	EKI Environment & Water	
\$ 164,229.00	Paris Kincaid Wasiewski LLP	
\$ 17,340.00	The Harris Poll	
\$ 8,093.75	EVOQUE	
\$ 9,200.00	Planeteria Media	
\$ 314,121.59		\$ (314,121.59)

Checking Balance as of 04/30/2026: \$ 1,569,931.66

Outstanding Disbursements

\$ 9,972.30	EKI Environment & Water	
\$ 13,106.25	EVOQUE	
\$ 169,183.00	Paris Kincaid Wasiewski LLP	
\$ 2,500.00	CSU Fresno	
\$ 194,761.55		\$ (194,761.55)

Total Adjusted Checking Balance: \$ 1,375,170.11

Total Money Market Balance: \$ 532,641.15

Total Cash Balance as of 04/30/2026: \$ 1,907,811.26

MEMORANDUM

To: San Joaquin Tributaries Authority
From: SJTA Executive Director, Andree Lee
Issue: **Update on Phase 2 Strategic Communications Program**
Date: May 11, 2026

This memorandum provides an update on the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA) Strategic Communications Program (Program) Phase 2 implementation.

Background

SJTA's Strategic Plan includes two goals related to communications: a "One Voice" goal to elevate the identity and effectiveness of SJTA by developing a unified voice, and a "Tell the Story" goal to increase awareness and understanding of the widespread benefits from the water systems and resources managed by SJTA members, positioning SJTA as a critical partner and information source around water and power operations and resources management.

In February 2026, the Commission authorized SJTA to contract with Evoque Communications (Consultant Team) and execute media buys to implement Phase 2 of the Program. Phase 2 focuses on implementation of the media plan and targeted outreach, including paid media and preparation of earned media materials. Phase 2 messaging will address three primary topic areas: educating customers on their sources of water; highlighting how SJTA agencies support customers' daily living needs; and highlighting the benefits of SJTA agencies' projects and partnerships to sustain both the environment and customers' quality of life.

Phase 2 Progress

Progress to date on Phase 2 includes:

- *Phase 2 Communications Plan and Brand Style Guide.* The Consultant Team, with input from the SJTA Communications Working Group (CWG), delivered the Phase 2 Strategic Communications Plan (Plan), which establishes three overarching program goals: (1) establish SJTA and the member agencies as trusted leaders in science-based water management and regional water resilience; (2) increase policymakers' and customers' understanding of regional water systems and investments; and (3) secure support for collaborative, multi-

benefit projects and approaches. The Plan includes measurable objectives for each goal.

- *Initial Campaign Development.* The Consultant Team has developed the initial campaign concept, focused on Communications Plan Goal #1: building awareness and trust of SJTA and its member agencies. The campaign strategy centers on introducing target audiences to SJTA and its member agencies through trusted spokespersons identified by the CWG.
- *Spokesperson Filming.* Filming is scheduled for May 12–14, 2026 at selected Central Valley locations identified by the member agencies, including reservoirs, habitat restoration areas, and water treatment plants.

Next Steps

The initial campaign will launch in June 2026. The campaign will focus on building awareness and trust of SJTA and its member agencies, using short-format videos for social media and TV, and longer 1–2 minute videos for websites and YouTube. The paid media plan will deploy across multiple channels, including Meta, Google Ads, local/streaming TV (Comcast/Tegna), connected TV and talk radio (iHeart Media), billboards (Clear Channel/Lamar), transit ads (Outfront Media), and print/online newspaper ads, with media buys targeting demographics identified as most persuadable in the Phase 1 public poll.

Paid media implementation and earned media and targeted outreach support are planned for June through October. The final summary report will be developed in November, with all work to be completed by December 31, 2026. Updates on campaign progress, metrics, and results will be provided at each quarterly Commission meeting.

Action Requested

This memorandum is provided for the Commission's information. No action is requested at this time.



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Diane Papan
Chair, Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2026 (Aguiar-Curry) – Groundwater Recharge – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED Hearing Date: April 14, 2026 – Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife

Dear Chair Papan,

On behalf of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority (SJTA), I am writing to express an Oppose Unless Amended position on AB 2026. While SJTA shares the author's goal of expanding groundwater recharge—a critical component of regional sustainability and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance—we are concerned that the bill's current framework would inadvertently create new restrictions that limit recharge opportunities along the San Joaquin River and its tributaries, particularly the Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers.

SJTA is comprised of major urban and agricultural water suppliers – Modesto Irrigation District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, and Turlock Irrigation District - that collectively serve approximately 260,000 acres of irrigated farmland and 3.2 million residents across the San Joaquin Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. Our members are actively advancing science-driven strategies to support resilient communities, ecosystem health, and sustainable groundwater management in the face of climate uncertainty, including piloting recharge efforts in partnership with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and others. However, for AB 2026 to effectively support local agency efforts without compromising existing operations or water rights, the following areas must be addressed:

- **Delta Restriction Language:** The current draft would eliminate upstream recharge opportunities based on Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations in the Delta. These limitations could curtail the ability of upstream agencies to divert high-flow water for recharge, even when such diversions do not impact Delta water quality or senior water right holders.
- **Reliance on the Coordinated Operations Agreement (COA):** The bill's reference to the COA between DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is problematic. The COA is a dynamic administrative agreement subject to periodic renegotiation. Hard-coding a reliance on this document into statute creates long-term regulatory uncertainty for local agencies whose investments in recharge infrastructure require a stable legal environment.
- **Mandatory Agreements with DWR or BOR:** AB 2026 suggests that local agencies must reach specific agreements with DWR or BOR prior to certain recharge activities. This requirement adds a burdensome layer of state oversight that can stall projects during narrow windows of

SJTribs.org

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opportunity when flood flows are available. Local control and existing water right priorities should remain the primary drivers of these programs.

- **Flood Flow Definitions and FIRO Integration:** We are particularly concerned with the definition of "flood flow" below a dam. The bill's use of the vague term "soon" when defining "imminent" regarding flood releases creates significant ambiguity. This phrasing could undermine Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO). FIRO relies on precise meteorological data to manage storage; vague statutory language could limit our flexibility to capture water earlier in a storm cycle, effectively harming our ability to maximize both public safety and groundwater replenishment.

SJTA respectfully requests that AB 2026 be amended to provide greater clarity on these points and to ensure that new regulations do not supersede the seniority of existing water rights or the technical success of FIRO programs.

For these reasons, the SJTA must oppose AB 2026 unless amended. Should you have any questions, please contact me at SJTA's Executive Director at alee@sanjoaquintributariesauthority.org or (650) 781-7127 .

Sincerely,

Andree Lee

Andree Lee

Executive Director

CC: Jimi Netniss, General Manager, Modesto Irrigation District
Dennis Herrera, General Manager, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Peter Rietkerk, General Manager, South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Brad Koehn, General Manager, Turlock Irrigation District