

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

The Commission of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority met in regular session on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., conducted in-person and via Zoom Webinar from Turlock, California.

Attending were the following representatives of the member agencies:

Michael Frantz – Turlock Irrigation District (Chair)  
Mike Weststeyn – South San Joaquin Irrigation District (Vice-Chair)  
Robert Frobose – Modesto Irrigation District  
Newsha Ajami – City and County of San Francisco

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**MOTION APPROVING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Moved by Commissioner Frobose, seconded by Commissioner Ajami, that the regular meeting minutes of March 13, 2023, be approved as presented.

All voted in favor. The Chair declared the motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Michael Clipper presented the Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements, Revenue and Expenditures Budget Report and Member Cash Call through the end of April 2023. As of April 1, the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority had funds available in the amount of \$168,180.87. Mr. Clipper reported \$615,000 in Cash Calls received from member agencies and disbursements of \$186,900.60 for the month leaving cash on hand in the amount of \$596,280.27.

**MOTION APPROVING TREASURER'S REPORT**

Moved by Commissioner Weststeyn, seconded by Commissioner Frobose, that the Treasurer's Report through April 30, 2023, be approved as presented.

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

**STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – ONE VOICE /TELL OUR STORY**

Alison Kastama presented an update on the adopted Strategic Plan stating she and Consultant Jennifer Persike have continued to meet monthly with member agency staff to review

and advance elements of the Plan focusing on two identified Plan goals of *One Voice* and *Tell Our Story*. To advance the internal *One Voice* goal of developing a single voice for the SJTA, staff has initiated research and discussion of potential administrative structures that would better support continued collaboration and advancement of the Authority's vision. Ongoing discussions include examining expected workload scenarios for an executive director and possibly administrative staff support along with potential costs under different staffing models. She noted the team will continue to analyze the benefits of seeking independent consultant support or contracted executive support services and will provide an update at the next commission meeting. Ms. Kastama also stated that while future administrative structures are being examined, each member agency has agreed to identify a SJTA liaison to improve operational efficiency and maintain momentum. Staff will continue to develop organizational elements, including staffing roles, position descriptions and responsibilities, along with work processes, as well as development of Ad Hoc committees to support various work efforts.

Ms. Kastama continued Strategic Plan discussion on the second goal of *Tell Our Story* by increasing awareness and understanding of the widespread benefits from the water systems and resources managed by SJTA members. Staff has identified an efficient approval process for message development on key issues utilizing the SJTA liaisons and monthly staff meetings. Key to accomplishing this external goal is the development of Key Messages for the organization which will support outreach and engagement opportunities. She stated staff have developed draft key messages which concisely address the SJTA mission, operational and resource stewardship expertise, along with the critical value of a collaborative voice. She then reviewed the draft key messages with several recommendations from commission members. Commissioner Weststeyn commented that we need to be careful in just telling our story as it needs to convey a purpose while addressing why people should care, not just facts and numbers but something others can relate to and why it is important to them. Commissioner Ajami commended the excellent presentation while also recommending the addition of the economic value of work by the SJTA, and a broader story of the agriculture industry as well as past accomplishments of the SJTA, noting not what we would lose but what the commission has created which would encourage a positive reaction to our statements. TID General Manager Michelle Reimers noted the point of collaborating is so we have individual as well as a unified analysis, forming one bigger picture together. SFPUC General Manager Dennis Herrera thanked staff for making significant progress on the recently adopted Plan by moving the ball forward with Commissioner Frantz concurring we are creating a model the Authority could achieve.

#### **MOTION ADJOURNING TO CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Commissioner Weststeyn, seconded by Commissioner Frobose, that the Commission 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 Number 21CECG02632

- 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

Court of Appeals 6<sup>th</sup> District – Case Number H047270

- Valerie Kincaid, Legal Counsel

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

**RECONVENE – OPEN SESSION**

The commission meeting was reconvened at 11:46 a.m. in open session with all officers present as per the previous session.

**REPORT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

The Chair announced no reportable action was taken in closed session.

**MATTERS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA**

There was none.

**FUTURE MEETING**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 7, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, moved by Commissioner Frobose, seconded by Commissioner Ajami, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

All voted in favor with none opposed. The motion was carried.

*Tami Wallenburg*  
Secretary to the Commission