

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1601

**306 Second Street
Isleton, CA 95641**

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

November 18, 2025

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

President Sgarrella called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees (Board) to order on November 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. ROLL CALL: In attendance: President Barry Sgarrella, Trustee Dave Huston and Trustee Jasbir Gill. District's superintendent Mr. Ricky Carter Jr., District's engineer with KSN Mr. Chris Neudeck, District's attorney Mr. Jesse Barton and District's accountant/treasurer Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay with Butterfield and Company.

Also attending. Mr. Ricky Carter Sr., Mr. Salvador Ramos, Ms. Ceci Giacoma, and Mr. Richard Silva.

Attending by conference call, District's secretary Mrs. Linda Carter and Mr. Grayson Sandy.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: ANY PERSON MAY SPEAK ON ANY TOPIC INCLUDING ANY AGENDA ITEM LISTED BELOW, PROVIDED IT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF RD 1601.

Nothing to report.

3. MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING.

President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve the October 21, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented, motion was seconded by Trustee Gill, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried.

4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.

Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay discussed the accounts payable, accounting notes and financial statements with the Board. President Sgarrella reviewed the accounts payable before today's meeting. See attached financial reports for details.

After some discussion President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve accounts payable, transfers, DWR invoices and paying of warrants, motion seconded by Trustee Gill, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried.

5. BOARD WILL RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE HIRING OF LWA, AN ENGINEERING GROUP WHO IS DEVELOPING A NEW ASSESSMENT FOR THE DISTRICT.

Mr. Jesse Barton said he had not heard anything. Mr. Chris Neudeck told the Board that after the last meeting KSN discovered some additional information, KSN is working on the Districts drainage system analysis it's going to take some time, LWA is aware of that. KSN is trying to keep it consist to Sherman Island wetlands cost analysis.

6. SOLAR POWER-THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS RISING ELECTRICITY COSTS. THE BOARD WILL RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT.

President Sgarrella told the Board PG&E has ghosted the District. He still has not received a response back from PG&E's supervisor regarding the District's desire to put the switchgear into the Districts pump house. It has been over a month since President Sgarrella has spoken with a PG&E supervisor. Mr. Greg Gillis with PGE had told President Sgarrella the District is headed in the right direction but President Sgarrella hasn't heard from him since that conversation.

The solar panels are generating energy right now, but the electricity has nowhere to go. After some discussion it was decided for the next 30 days, President Sgarrella will continue to call and send emails to Mr. Gillis. President Sgarrella suggested having the District attorney Mr. Barton write a letter to PG&E. It was decided that Mr. Barton will be writing a letter to PG&E's supervisor on behalf of the District.

7. GRAZING LEASES- THE BOARD TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON IT'S SOUTH CHEVRON POINT PROPERTY AND ITS EFFORTS ON LEASING THE PROPERTY. THE BOARD MAY APPROVE A FINAL LEASE.

Mr. Jesse Barton reminded the Board at last month's meeting the Board received a bid to lease the South Point Chevron property from Mr. Salvador Ramos Sr. for \$150.00 per acre per year in addition he agreed to clear the property of the blackberries and put up a fence along the southern boundary, and to have all this completed by June 1, 2026. The District accepted that bid, at that time Mr. Barton didn't know about the bid so he wasn't prepared to have the Board sign a lease agreement. Mr. Barton went back to the office and prepared a lease agreement; he sent it out a couple weeks ago to everyone. He hasn't received any comments from anyone except for Trustee Huston, just some general comments. Mr. Barton went over Mr. Ramos Sr. lease proposal with the Board. Mr. Salvador Ramos Sr. proposed to the Board \$150 per acre per year with some conditions for term of five years. During the first six months of the lease, Mr. Ramos Sr. will be responsible for clearing and restoring the land and constructing a new field fence along the southern boundary of the property weather permitting. The first three years of the lease Mr. Ramos Sr. will provide full-time goat or sheep grazing on the Districts levees at no cost to the District. Mr. Barton added a marked map to the lease showing the boundaries. Mr. Ramos Sr. told Mr. Barton he will need a little time so Mr. Barton set the lease to start January 1, 2026, till December 31, 2030 (five-year lease), and the annual gross rent is \$6,799.50. Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. made note that there are three points of access to the property.

After some discussion Trustee Huston made a motion to accept the lease as presented for the rental area 117 acres-gross with 45.33-acres leasable acres, located at the South Chevron Point from Mr. Salvador Ramos Sr. annual gross rent \$6,799.50 and the lease is to start January 1, 2026 till December 31, 2030, motion seconded by President Sgarrella, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried. Mr. Barton will finalize and circulate the lease for signatures.

8. PUBLIC ENTITY AGREEMENT-SYSTEMWIDE MULTIBENEFIT PROJECT FOR SEVENMILE SLOUGH EROSION REPAIR PROJECT. THE BOARD WILL RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THIS PROJECT THAT WILL FUND THE REPAIR OF EROSION DAMAGE TO THE SEVENMILE SLOUGH LEVEE.

Mr. Chris Neudeck discussed with the Board the progress of the Sevenmile Slough Levee project. KSN has updated the plans; they are 90% completed and working with a biological consultant and will be distributing a plan set to DWR for their review within two weeks. On target for construction next fall tentative September 2026. There was some discussion on who the billing will be going to for this project. The agenda item for this project will be revised.

9. PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT TW-21-1.2, PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR THE PLANNING ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE TWITCHELL ISLAND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION PROJECT. (TWERP) (EXPIRES 12/31/2027). BOARD WILL RECEIVE A SSTATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSS. THE BOARD MAY APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO THE CONTRACT WITH STILLWATER.

Mr. Jesse Barton told the Board that the only action item under TW-21-1.2 (TWERP) is the requested change order no. 2 to the contract with Stillwater Sciences, which is the consultants for the District which prepares various planting plans and work for this project. Stillwater Sciences needs to amend their contract. The contract needs to add \$66,000 to the contract. Mr. Barton has checked with Department of Water Resources and contract manager Ms. Otome Lindsey; they are fine with the change order. Ms. Lindsey needs Stillwater Sciences to do more work.

Mr. Chris Neudeck discussed with the Board the status of the Twitchell Island Wetland Enhancement and Restoration Project (TWERP). Mr. Neudeck told the Board tules have been pulled from the East End Project and have started to root in the wetlands. Irrigation and planting layouts are in the works and will be completed shortly. First plant delivery is expected in the week of November 17, 2025, depending on weather conditions.

After some discussion Trustee Gill made a motion to approve change order no. 2 to the contract with Stillwater Sciences, motion seconded by Trustee Huston, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried.

10. PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT TW-24-1.0-SP-PHASE 2 OF THE SAN JOAQUIN SETBACK LEVEE MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT. THE

AGREEMENT WITH DWR WILL IMPROVE DISTRICT LEVEES ALONG THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER. (EXPIRATION 12/31/2028). BOARD WILL RECEIVE A STATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSS.

Mr. Chris Neudeck told the Board the only bid changes are the bid date is being revised from November 20, 2025, to December 5, 2025. At the mandatory pre-bid couple questions were brought up KSN wants to have time to get an addendum out and give the bidders some more time. KSN will be seeking the Boards authority to award the Phase 1 berm contract at the December 16, 2025, meeting. The DSC Consistency Determination is under internal review, and KSN expects to post in late November 2025. Construction is still anticipated to start in May 2026. One question was asked if the contractors could reuse the gravel that is going to be stripped from the lower access road. This area is going to be covered up with a toe berm. KSN suggested that material could be used on the haul road down to the sand pit. Part of the sand from the sand pit will be used to construct for the last 20-25 feet of the toe berm. The contractors are having problems with the trucking contractors, the need for them to do road repairs during and once the project has been completed (costing millions of dollars). Some contractors feel it unfair between a barge company who needs no trucks to haul materials and a land company that needs trucks to haul materials. The issues are being addressed.

11. DWR AGREEMENT “SUBSIDENCE MITIGATION FUNDING AGREEMENT” (SMFA) (WETLAND DEVELOPMENT/SUBSIDENCE REVERSAL AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROJECT) (EAST END AND RICE PROJECT) (SMFA EXPIRES 12/31/2030). THE BOARD WILL RECEIVE A STATUS UPDATE AND AN UPDATE ON THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT EQUIPMENT.

Mr. Grayson Sandy with Department of Water Resources (DWR) gave the Board an update on SMFA project. Need to have repairs done to the circulation pump. No one put in a bid for the rice project lease. DWR real estate may increase the size of the land leased for the rice project. DWR real estate plans to put it out for bid again next month. Mr. Sandy told the Board that there is a scheduled traditional tribal burning in the wetlands sometime in January 2026, if weather allows. Looking in to renting a marsh master to make fire breaks. Tribal engagement letters have gone out. Waiting on public comments period for CEQA documents.

Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. informed the Board that at this time at the rice project there is a peat fire. Mr. Carter Jr. had Antonio are repairing two siphons' valves in the rice project. Mr. Barton asked Mr. Sandy if he and Mr. David Julian were aware of the peat soil in the wetlands, Mr. Sandy told the Board they were aware of the peat soil and the risk of peat fire.

12. EMPLOYEE UPDATE: BOARD TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ITS EMPLOYEES.

Mr. Jesse Barton asked how Mr. Salvador Ranos Jr. and Mr. Danny Villegas are doing. Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. told the Board that Mr. Ramos Jr. is working out quite well. Mr. Villegas is still under doctor's care. Mr. Barton asked Mr. Carter Jr. to ask Mr. Villegas

to provide a doctor's note with an update on his condition, so the District can follow his progress.

13. ENGINEERING REPORT: MR. Chris NEUDECK.

- I. Project Funding Agreement TW-21-1.2 TIMES /TWERP Project.
 - A. Look under item number 9.
- II. Project Funding Agreement TW-24-1.0-SP Phase II of District Multi-Benefit
Look under item number 10.
- III. District Pump Station Solar Array.
 - A. Look under item number 6.
- IV. Systemwide Multi Benefit Project Sevenmile Slough Erosion Repairs.
 - A. Look under item number 8.

14. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: MR. RICKY CARTER JR.

- Routine levee patrols are made daily.
- Routine pump maintenance made daily. Checked oil in pumps at the pump station. Change time on the pump timers due to daylight savings.
- Performed rodent control of beavers and squirrels.
- Met with Department Fish and Wildlife for tree concerns at Levee Station 470+00.
- Mr. Carter Jr. and KSN have had several conversations about a problem tree located at Oulton Point with Department Fish and Wildlife (DFW). According to DFW the District will need to mitigate so many trees to replace the removed tree and DFW will tell the District how many trees and what types of trees to plant. The problem is where to plant the trees, once this problem is solved, the District will purchase the number of trees requested by DFW and plant them accordingly.
- Removed small trees on waterside slope.
- Attended pre-bid meeting for San Joaquin River levee setback project.
- Mr. Carter Jr. received a quote from Core Rentals to rent a long-reach excavator to clean the District canals. Mr. Carter Jr. plans to have a long-reach excavator to clean the canals starting January 1st.
- Cleaning and spraying C-4 and C-2 canal.
- The District had their annual levee inspection with the Department Fish and Wildlife and DWR.
- Worked on a siphon at the rice project.
- Flooded fields in the rice project due to peat fire.
- Ordered rock for solar project for the low spots.

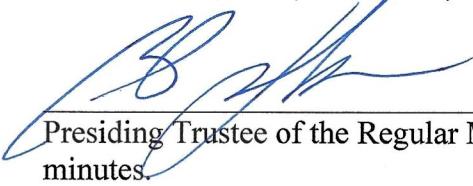
Mr. Carter Jr. spoke with the Board about him taking the District pickup truck home. Since Mr. Carter Jr. moved off island, he has been using his own vehicle to come from and back to the island. After some discussion it was decided, due to the peat fire on

island, Mr. Carter Jr. would take the District's pickup truck home during the Thanksgiving holidays and this matter will be revisited by the Board at the December meeting.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be called to order.

December 16, 2025, at 9:00 am, the regular meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.



Presiding Trustee of the Regular Meeting November 18, 2025, certifies the above minutes.



Secretary