

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1601

306 Second Street
Isleton, CA 95641

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

January 20, 2026

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

President Sgarrella called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees (Board) to order on January 20, 2026, at 9:01 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., Mrs. Brooke Carter, Mr. Salvador Ramos, Ms. Ceci Giacomina, Ms. Molly Ferrell, Mr. Tyler Anthony, Mr. David Jullian and Mr. Richard Silva.

Attending by conference call, District's secretary Mrs. Linda Carter, Ms. Elizabeth Davis, Ms. Otome Lindsey 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 December 16, 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 and Trustee Huston reviewed the accounts payable before today's meeting. See attached financial reports for details. Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay told the Board that the account payables include equipment rental from Holt and the payment to the District's retirement fund account, The rent equipment from Holt was a skid steer which was used to remove blackberries

off Sevenmile Slough and some other work. President Sgarrella told the Board that NOAA is looking into having their own meter put in. They are waiting for the District to have their new electrical hookup completed.

After some discussion President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve accounts payable, transfers, DWR invoices, that was presented today and warrants, motion seconded by Trustee Huston, 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. Chris Neudeck told the Board that KSN is working on the energy use analysis report from the data given from PG&E on the District's electricity uses. The report should be finished soon.

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 the District is waiting on cost quotes from PG&E. President Sgarrella spoke with Mr. Garrett Chissie and he told President Sgarrella that PG&E is compiling an estimate cost for the District. Once the District receives the estimate the District will need to decide whether to approve it and then the District will need to go forward to the next step. It has been decided that the sealed transformer requirements are **not** in the works. It is not part of PG&E's inventory. If the District insisted on a sealed transformer, it would cost more and cost more to be installed. There will be a delay in obtaining it. PG&E still will not let the switchgear be installed in the pump station house. They want the switchgear adjacent to the transformer. President Sgarrella has asked Panelized Structures for an estimate for a small building 8'X12' to cover the switchgear. They gave President Sgarrella an estimate for \$35,000.00. President Sgarrella thinks the District could build a woodshed for much less. Currently waiting for PG&E's estimate cost for interconnection. Once the estimate comes the Board will review it.

Mr. Jess Barton brought to the Boards attention that the Board had a few loose ends to address. At last month's meeting the Board approved authorizing President Sgarrella and Mr. Chris Neudeck to work together to assemble a change order with all of the following; to purchase a pre-cast concrete pad acceptable to PG& E transformer, the District can design a concrete pad and footings to hold the switchgear, investigate the cost of a pre-engineered building to go over the switchgear, need for a contract for grading,

The pre-engineered building has already been addressed above; the cost estimate is \$35,000.00. Mr. Neudeck, there will be a change order with Panelized Structures for the grading. The concrete pad is pre-engineered, pre-designed by PG&E. President Sgarrella is working with PG&E on the drop location. The building issue still needs to be straightened out.

Mr. Barton told the Board after thinking about it, the PG&E interconnection falls under the contract. If the estimate cost comes in at a larger amount than listed in the contract, then a special meeting will need to be called.

President Sgarrella told the Board the PG&E invoice for electricity was for \$9,346.18, because demand charges are high. Sometime in the future we might have to change the Districts rate schedule, this cannot be done until the solar array is up and running.

7. NORTH CHERVON LEASE- THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF LEASE CONDITIONS.

Mr. Jesse Barton told the Board that he had put this item on the agenda after receiving a phone call from Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. a week ago. Mr. Carter Jr. told Mr. Barton that over the weekend Mr. Richard Silva contacted Mr. Carter Jr. and told him that he was going to burn some tules in one or more ditches that run through the District' lease property. Mr. Silva had started the burn before calling Mr. Carter Jr. and notifying Mr. Carter Jr. about the burn. Mr. Carter Jr. called and told Mr. Silva that according to his lease with the District it states there is no burning on the property. After the phone call Mr. Silva stopped burning the tules in the ditches. During Mr. Barton and Mr. Carter Jr.'s phone conversation, Mr. Carter Jr. told Mr. Barton that he had checked on Mr. Silva's burn permit. Mr. Silva had acquired a residential burn permit. Mr. Carter Jr. thinks Mr. Silva needed to have an agriculture permit; Mr. Carter Jr. is in the process of finding out which permit would be needed. After the phone call from Mr. Carter Jr. Mr. Barton called Mr. Silva. Mr. Silva told Mr. Barton that he had a residential burn permit. Mr. Barton said he had checked into the difference between the two burn permits and according to Mr. Barton the difference between the two is not very clear. Mr. Barton is mainly concerned about the violation of the lease. Mr. Barton handed out copies of the lease. On top of the second page of the lease it states, "Burning is prohibited". Mr. Carter Jr. told the Board his reasoning for why Mr. Silva needed to use an agricultural burn permit instead of using a residential burn permit. You need to get permission 5 days in advance from the Air Quality Board if you want to burn on the weekend. Mr. Silva told the Board about his conversation with the dispatch about burning the tules. Mr. Silva told dispatch, he was burning piles of tules. Mr. Silva told the Board he would like to put in his lease that he can burn because he will be responsible for any peat fires and he will put them out.

Mr. Silva told the Board he had called dispatch, and the lady said he could burn. Mr. Carter Jr. called and talked to the same dispatcher she remembered Mr. Silva's phone call and she told Mr. Carter Jr, she had asked Mr. Silva for the word code and he didn't have it and Mr. Silva lead her to believe it was a pile of tules not tules in ditches. If she had known they were in ditches she would not have given him permission to burn. Trustee Gill said this should have been handled differently. If Mr. Silva thought he needed to burn tules in the ditches, he should have asked for this matter to be placed on the agenda for the Board to decide if they want to approve burning on the lease property. And if the Board approves giving permission burning on the lease property, then the lessor Mr. Silva would have permission to burn after he received the proper permission from Air Quality Board and from dispatch. Board discussed the facts that were presented. Trustee Gill told Mr. Silva to follow what is in the lease; Mr. Silva has

a copy of the lease and needs to follow what the lease says, in other words, follow the rules.

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 told the board there was no update on this matter.

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 WILLRECEIVE A STATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSS.

Ms. Otome Lindsey told the Board that restoration work is still ongoing, some water is fluctuating in the ponds and waiting for the tules to be established. Still waiting to hear back from the service on whether or not the wetlands can be approved for permanent responsible mitigation this may affect the setback levee. Ms. Lindsey will be meeting with California Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 2, to take a look at the wetlands. Ms. Lindsey has heard from GEI and they were asking for an update. Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay told Ms. Lindsey the District is waiting for payments for November and December 2025 and if they are being processed. Ms. Lindsey said the payments for November and December are being processed. Also Ms. Lindsey will be sending in for an advance payment.

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 informed the Board that KSN Inc. is in the process of working on project submittals with Dutra Construction. KSN Inc. is also working with PG&E to secure relocation easements for their power lines. Existing easement documentation is dated in 1929. The District will need the cooperation of Department of Water Resources real estate division to finalize the new easements to allow the relocation of the PG&E pole lines. Trustee Gill gave Mr. Neudeck some DWR contacts within the real estate division. The Delta Stewardship Council consistency finding determination is under public review.

At this time there is still no appeal filed against the findings. Construction is still anticipated to start in May 2026.

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. THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER TWO PROPOSALS:

- a. A PROPOSAL TO HIRE A CONTRACTOR TO PERFORM A MECHANICAL BIOMASS MANAGEMENT/CONTROL PROJECT WITH THE EAST END PROJECT.**
- b. A PROPOSAL TO PERFORM A CONTROLLED BURN FOR BIOMASS MANAGEMENT/CONTROL WITHIN THE EAST END PROJECT.**

Mr. Jesse Barton told the Board that he had added two sub items, 11 a. and 11b., there are a few folks from Department Water Resources (DWR) here today that would like to speak on this matter.

Mr. Barton said that it boils down to DWR would like to do some vegetation management within the wetlands east end project. They want to utilize two different methods; one is a mechanical biomass management control project, using a particular type of mechanical instrument. The second type of vegetation control would be a controlled burn. This was brought up at the last District meeting.

Mr. Tyler Anthony with DWR passed out copies of pamphlets with slides "East End Pilot: Excess biomass management" by Mr. Tyler Anthony and Ms. Molly Ferrell. Mr. Anthony went over with the Board the context in the pamphlet. He told the Board that he understands the Boards concerns in burning the tules. The wetlands are coming to the age of 15 years old. They are trying to figure out how to manage the biomass. It has been decided to do ¼ of an acre instead of 10 acres that was first proposed. They will raise the water height and start with small patches and see how the fire acts. They will have the march master, Fire department and people that will be attending on hand. There was a discussion about what if the fire got out of hand and how that would be handled. Copies of the Wetland/Peat Prescribed Fire Go/No-Go Checklist were handed out and discussed.

President Sgarrella reminded the Board that there is still a fire in the rice project. Ms. Molly Ferrell told the Board that on Thursday she had a drone fly to see if fire is out around the rice field.

After some discussion President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve a contract with Dixon Marina Works for a Marsh Master for the DWR Wetlands East End Project, for less than \$25,000.00, motion seconded by Trustee Huston, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried. President Sgarrella commented about proving the burn, they should follow the Go/No-Co checklist and a fire engine should be on site before the fire starts.

Mr. Barton said the Board has no problems with the burning as long as they follow the things that must be done.

Ms. Elizabeth Davis reported to the Board planting perianal alongside the berm roads and doing weed control along the berms.

Mr. David Jullian reported to the Board still putting the fire out in the rice project ponds. Mr. Carter Jr. told the Board that they worked on the siphon valves and are continually flooding the ponds. Waiting for DWR findings from the drone. Mr. Barton told the Board that he will work with Mr. Tyler Anthony, Ms. Molly, Mr. David Jullian and Mr. Chris Neudeck on the contract.

12. THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER ALLOWING THE DISTRICT'S SUPERINTENDENT TO TAKE THE DISTRICT'S PICK-UP TRUCK HOME WITH HIM AND ONLY USE IT FOR DISTRICT USE, ENABLING HIM TO PURCHASE ITEMS FOR THE DISTRICT AND COMMUTE TO THE DISTRICT AND BACK TO HOME.

Mr. Jesse Barton told the Board he checked with the District's insurance carrier SDR, there are no restrictions if the Board wanted to allow Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. to take the District's truck home and back to work. SDR highly recommended that there is a specific written policy for the use of vehicles. The District does not have a written policy. Mr. Barton said he is prepared to write one for the District. After some discussion the Board discussed that Mr. Barton will prepare a written policy for the use of the District vehicles Board to review and possibly approve the written policy at next month's meeting.

13. ENGINEERING REPORT: MR. Chris NEUDECK.

- I. Project Funding Agreement TW-24-1.0 SP Phase II of District Multi-Benefit.
 - A. Look under item number 10.
- II. District Pump Station Solar Array.
 - A. Look under item number 6.
- III. Delta Levee Subventions Program.

Mr. Chris Neudeck discussed the beaver den repairs located at Levee Station 315+00 in Owl Harbor which occurred on December 31, 2025. District staff in cooperation with ASTA Construction mobilized equipment and material to excavate, investigate and repair the beaver den. Levee seal material was imported to fill the void and rock slope protection was transported from the District riprap stockpile to place on the levee slope upon the completion of the waterside slope repair. Mr. Neudeck also reviewed with the Board the second beaver repair located at Levee Station 335+00 in Owl Harbor on January 12, 2026. Muskrats were living in a beaver den hole. District staff in cooperation with ASTA Construction mobilized equipment and material to excavate and repair the beaver den located at Levee Station 335+00. Levee seal material was imported to fill the void and rock slope protection was transported from the District riprap stockpile to place at the levee slope upon the completion of the waterside slope repair.

Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. told the Board he needs to put in an order for two loads of riprap to replace the riprap that was used. President Sgarrella told the Board that he had noticed that a sheep foot was used on the repairs. He thinks that the District should investigate purchasing a sheep foot for the excavator and along with a mower attachment. The Board asked Mr. Carter Jr. to start looking for the attachments.

14. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT AND UPDATE ON CURRENT EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE: MR. RICKY CARTER JR.

Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. reported to the Board that Mr. Salvador Ramos is working out very well. Mr. Carter Jr. told the Board had received a doctor's note from Mr. Danny

Villegas. Mr. Villegas is looking to come back to work maybe sometime in February 2026. President Sgarrella gave an update on Mr. Villegas to the Board, President Sgarrella had texted Mr. Villegas and he told President Sgarrella that he is working with a therapist and he is looking forward to coming back to work.

- Routine levee patrols are made daily.
- Routine pump maintenance made daily. Checked oil in the pumps located at the pump station.
- Performed rodent control of beavers and squirrels.
- Worked on flooding the rice fields at the Rice Project that has been on fire.
- Fixed siphons, valves flashboard risers and dug ditches to flood the rice fields.
- Storm patrols were done during the holidays.
- Fixed two spots on the waterside slope at Owl Harbor.
- Tried to prime siphon at Levee Station 469+00 after Asta Construction came and fixed the siphon. It is possible the pipe is clogged or has damage under the levee to the waterside.
- Met with Fish and Wildlife to go over spots for mitigation for tree issue at Levee Station 469+00.
- Removed beaver dams with District excavator in toe ditches.
- Had DWR out to fly over the Rice Project with infrared to see if we were successful with putting out the fire in the rice project.
- Removed large log (snags) off the waterside slope on the San Joaquin River.

Mr. Carter Jr. told the Board the beavers are building dams in two different locations in ditches. The Board and Mr. Carter Jr. discussed the Oulton tree issue (located at Levee Station 469+00). Mr. Carter Jr. went with Fish and Wildlife around the island trying to find a spot to plant the required six replacement trees at. They decided on Levee Station 590+00-592+00 near the waterside slope. Mr. Chris Neudeck reminded the Board that DWR wanted the trees planted on the waterside slope, but they have changed their minds, the six trees need to be planted 20 feet apart. Fish and Wildlife still does not accept the arborist's report from the arborist the District hired to examine the tree at Oulton Point. The arborist says there is **one** tree located there and Fish and Wildlife still says there are **two** trees.

**15. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-
ANTICIPATED LITIGATION SIGNIFICANT EXPOSED TO LITIGATION
PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION 549569.**

At 11:11 am the Board went into closed session.

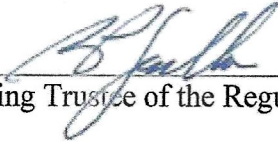
16. CLOSED SESSION: PLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE.

At 12:01pm the Board came out of the closed sessions.

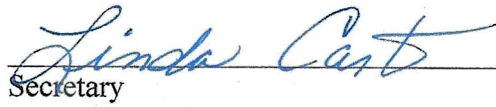
No reportable action was taken.

17. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be called to order.
February 17, 2026, at 9:00 am, the regular meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.



Presiding Trustee of the Regular Meeting January 20, 2026, certifies the above minutes.



Secretary