

## **MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

Oakdale, California  
August 5, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Oakdale Irrigation District invited all to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then met in Session at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Directors: Tom Orvis, President  
Ed Tobias, Vice President  
Brad DeBoer  
Jacob DeBoer  
Herman Doornenbal

Staff Present: Sharon Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer  
Eric Thorburn, Water Resources Manager/District Engineer  
Joe Kosakiewicz, Construction and Maintenance Manager  
Kim Bukhari, Human Resources Manager

Also Present: Fred Silva, General Counsel  
Stefanie Morris, Water Counsel  
Tim O'Laughlin, Water Counsel (Closed Session only, via Zoom)

### **ADDITION OR DELETION OF AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no additions or deletions of agenda items.

### **ACTION TO TAKE VARIOUS ITEMS OUT OF SEQUENCE**

President Orvis stated that Action Item Nos. 10 and 11 will be addressed following closed session.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Board welcomed public comments at 9:02 a.m. on items not on the agenda.

Hearing none, the public comment period closed at 9:02 a.m.

### **PUBLIC HEARING** **ITEM NO. 1**

#### **ITEM NO. 1** **PUBLIC HEARING PER ASSEMBLY BILL 2561 (GOVERNMENT CODE** **§3502.3) ON DISTRICT VACANCIES, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION** **EFFORTS**

President Orvis opened the public hearing at 9:03 a.m.

Ms. Kim Bukhari, Human Resources Manager, addressed the Board on the new annual legal requirement of public agencies and stated that the public hearing is informational and no action

is required. She informed the Board that the represented employee groups were invited to participate and present. Ms. Bukhari presented on the District's vacancies, recruitment, and retention efforts pursuant to California State Assembly Bill 2561 (Government Code §3502.3).

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 1 at 9:21 a.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item No. 1 closed at 9:21 a.m.

President Orvis closed the public hearing at 9:22 a.m.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**ITEM NOS. 2-5**

2. Approve the Board of Directors' Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 25, 2025 and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 1, 2025
3. Approve Oakdale Irrigation District's Statement of Obligations
4. Approve OID Improvement Districts' Statement of Obligations
5. Adopt the Resolution with San Joaquin County for Placement of Delinquent Fixed Charges on the 2025/2026 Tax Rolls

A motion was made by Director B. DeBoer, and seconded by Director Doornenbal, to approve the above-noted Consent Item Nos. 2-5.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes – B. DeBoer, J. DeBoer, Doornenbal, Orvis, Tobias  
                              Noes – None  
                              Abstained – None  
                              Absent – None

The motion passed by a 5/0 vote.

**ACTION CALENDAR**  
**ITEM NOS. 6-13**

**ITEM NO. 6**

**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING FOR UPDATED AGRICULTURAL WATER USER RATES  
PURSUANT TO PROPOSITION 218**

Ms. Sharon Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, addressed the Board requesting approval of the Notice of Public Hearing for the proposed updated fixed and volumetric water service rates effective January 1, 2026, for Agricultural Water Users within the District boundaries and to direct staff to mail the notices for the hearing to be held on October 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. pursuant to Proposition 218.

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 6 at 9:52 a.m.

There were two members of the public who addressed the Board on Item No. 6:

- (1) Mr. Brian Lemons
- (2) Mr. Louis Brichetto

Hearing no further public comments, public comments on Item No. 6 closed at 10:01 a.m.

A motion was made by Director B. DeBoer, and seconded by Director Doornenbal, to approve the Notice of Public Hearing for the proposed updated fixed and volumetric water service rates effective January 1, 2026, for Agricultural Water Users within the District boundaries and to direct staff to mail the notices for the hearing to be held on October 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. pursuant to Proposition 218 and to authorize staff to write a letter explaining the reason for the increase to be included with the notice.

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 6 at 10:04 a.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item No. 6 closed at 10:05 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes – B. DeBoer, J. DeBoer, Doornenbal, Orvis, Tobias  
                              Noes – None  
                              Abstained – None  
                              Absent – None

The motion passed by a 5/0 vote.

**ITEM NO. 7**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED HEAT**  
**ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE NEW REGULATORY**  
**REQUIREMENTS FOR INDOOR WORKPLACES**

Ms. Erin Hughes, Safety Coordinator, addressed the Board requesting approval of the revised Heat and Illness Prevention Program to include new regulatory requirements for indoor workplaces.

A motion was made by Director B. DeBoer, and seconded by Director Tobias, to approve the revised Heat Illness Prevention Program to include new regulatory requirements for indoor workplaces.

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 7 at 10:12 a.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item No. 7 closed at 10:12 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes – B. DeBoer, J. DeBoer, Doornenbal, Orvis, Tobias  
                              Noes – None  
                              Abstained – None  
                              Absent – None

The motion passed by a 5/0 vote.

**ITEM NO. 8**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE 50% COST-SHARE**  
**TO CONVERT THE ROOT DRAIN FROM OPEN DITCH TO PIPELINE**  
**THROUGH APNS: 006-008-060/061**

Mr. Eric Thorburn, Water Resources Manager/District Engineer, along with Mr. Dimitri Dritsas (Property Owner), addressed the Board requesting approval for 50% cost-share to convert the Root Drain from an open ditch to a pipeline.

A motion was made by Director Doornenbal, and seconded by Director J. DeBoer, to approve 50% cost-share to convert the Root Drain from open ditch to pipeline through APNs: 006-008-060/061.

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 8 at 10:23 a.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item No. 8 closed at 10:23 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes – B. DeBoer, J. DeBoer, Doornenbal, Orvis, Tobias  
                              Noes – None  
                              Abstained – None  
                              Absent – None

The motion passed by a 5/0 vote.

**ITEM NO. 9**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO AWARD THE BID TO ANTHONY**  
**J. PRIETO WATER WELL DRILLING, INC. AS THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE**  
**AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE THORNTON DEEP WELL #2**  
**PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE**  
**ASSOCIATED CHANGE ORDERS**

Mr. Eric Thorburn, Water Resources Manager/District Engineer, addressed the Board requesting approval to award the bid to Anthony J. Prieto Water Well Drilling, Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Thornton Deep Well #2 Project and to authorize the General Manager to execute associated change orders.

A motion was made by Director Doornenbal, and seconded by Director Tobias, to award the bid Anthony J. Prieto Water Well Drilling, Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Thornton Deep Well #2 Project and to authorize the General Manager to execute associated change orders.

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 9 at 10:27 a.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item No. 9 closed at 10:28 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes – B. DeBoer, J. DeBoer, Doornenbal, Orvis, Tobias  
                              Noes – None  
                              Abstained – None  
                              Absent – None

The motion passed by a 5/0 vote.

**ITEM NO. 10**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO AWARD THE BID TO SIERRA MOUNTAIN CONSTRUCTION, INC./OBAYASHI AS THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE PAULSELL LATERAL EXPANSION – PHASE 1 PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE ASSOCIATED CHANGE ORDERS**

Mr. Eric Thorburn, Water Resources Manager/District Engineer, addressed the Board requesting approval to award the bid to Sierra Mountain Construction, Inc./Obayashi as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Paulsell Lateral Expansion – Phase 1 Project and authorize the General Manager to execute associated change orders.

A motion was made by Director Doornenbal, and seconded by Director Tobias, to award the bid the Sierra Mountain Construction, Inc./Obayashi as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Paulsell Lateral Expansion – Phase 1 Project and authorize the General Manager to execute associated changes orders.

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 10 at 12:25 p.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item No. 10 closed at 12:26 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes – B. DeBoer, J. DeBoer, Doornenbal, Orvis, Tobias  
                              Noes – None  
                              Abstained – None  
                              Absent – None

The motion passed by a 5/0 vote.

**ITEM NO. 11**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE WORK RELEASE NO. 11 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT 2024-PSA-002 WITH PROVOST & PRITCHARD, INC. TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE SERVICES FOR THE PAULSELL LATERAL EXPANSION – PHASE 1 PROJECT**

Mr. Eric Thorburn, Water Resources Manager/District Engineer, addressed the Board requesting approval of Work Release No. 11 to Professional Services Agreement 2024-PSA-002 with Provost & Pritchard, Inc. to provide construction management and quality assurance services for the Paulsell Lateral Expansion – Phase 1 Project.

A motion was made by Director Doornenbal, and seconded by Director J. DeBoer, to approve Work Release No. 11 to Professional Services Agreement 2024-PSA-002 with Provost & Pritchard, Inc. to provide construction management and quality assurance services for the Paulsell Lateral Expansion – Phase 1 Project.

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 11 at 12:27 p.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item No. 11 closed at 12:27 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes – B. DeBoer, J. DeBoer, Doornenbal, Orvis, Tobias  
                              Noes – None  
                              Abstained – None  
                              Absent – None

The motion passed by a 5/0 vote.

**ITEM NO. 12**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO**  
**THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT 2023-PSA-001 WITH CJ**  
**BROWN & COMPANY, CPAS, FOR AUDIT SERVICES TO EXTEND THE**  
**CONTRACT FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE (3) YEARS AND AUTHORIZE THE**  
**GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE**

Ms. Sharon Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, addressed the Board requesting approval to amend the Professional Services Agreement 2023-PSA-001 with CJ Brown & Company, CPAs, extending the contract for audit services for an additional three (3) years and to authorize the General Manager to execute.

A motion was made by Director Tobias, and seconded by Director J. DeBoer, to approve an amendment to Professional Services Agreement 2023-PSA-001 with CJ Brown & Company, CPAs, to extend the contract for an additional three (3) years for audit services and authorize the General Manager to Execute.

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 12 at 10:35 a.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item No. 12 closed at 10:35 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:           Ayes – B. DeBoer, J. DeBoer, Doornenbal, Orvis, Tobias  
                              Noes – None  
                              Abstained – None  
                              Absent – None

The motion passed by a 5/0 vote.

**ITEM NO. 13**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S**  
**REPORT, THE MID-YEAR BUDGET REPORT, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2025**

Ms. Sharon Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, addressed the Board requesting approval of the Treasurer's Report, the Mid-Year Budget Report, and the Financial Statements for the six months ending June 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Director Tobias, and seconded by Director J. DeBoer, to approve the Treasurer's Report, the Mid-Year Budget Report, and the Financial Statements for the six months ending June 30, 2025.

The Board welcomed public comments on Item No. 13 at 10:53 a.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item No. 13 closed at 10:53 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:       Ayes – B. DeBoer, J. DeBoer, Doornenbal, Orvis, Tobias  
                          Noes – None  
                          Abstained – None  
                          Absent – None

The motion passed by a 5/0 vote.

The Board recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**  
**ITEM NO. 14**

**ITEM NO. 14**  
**STANISLAUS COUNTY TAX RATE AREA DISCUSSION**

Mr. Eric Thorburn, Water Resources Manager/District Engineer, addressed the Board regarding the requirement for Stanislaus County (County) to assess taxes equitably and uniformly, as mandated by the State Board of Equalization, which was brought before the Water Committee on July 1, 2025. He explained that fringe parcels, with only a portion of their total acreage within OID boundaries, span more than one tax revenue district. In most cases, they have not been properly assessed as such. The County is in the process, as time allows, of addressing that issue by creating multiple assessment numbers across a single legal lot. This process has already created some consternation amongst some of OID's fringe parcel landowners. When a single lot is broken into multiple APNs, the County has to decipher where the OID boundary lies through the parcel. Unfortunately, OID's boundary can be challenging and costly to precisely map in some areas. This has created some discrepancies with, and adjustments to, the historically assessed in-District acreage which has property value implications, increases/decreases the landowners' annual OID fixed charge (per acre) assessment, and impacts the maximum OID surface water allocation to fringe parcels in accordance with the Fringe Parcels Water Allocation Policy. Staff will continue to keep the Board updated on the challenges that may arise as this progresses.

**COMMUNICATIONS**  
**ITEM NOS. 15-18**

**ITEM NO. 15**  
**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**

Director Tobias thanked Mr. Thorburn and Ms. Hughes for their presentations and expressed appreciation for Ms. Cisneros' work on the budget. He acknowledged the efforts of the conservative members of the Finance Committee for their valuable input.

Director Doornenbal expressed gratitude to Ms. Bukhari for her update on the District's vacancies, as well as the retention and recruitment efforts, and to Ms. Cisneros for making the information she presented understandable to everyone.

Director J. DeBoer thanked staff for their thorough preparation of reports and updates. He emphasized the importance of cost consciousness and efficiency and highlighted the need to gain constituents' trust regarding cost-cutting and proposed rate increases, noting that it's crucial to remain vigilant in managing costs.

Director B. DeBoer praised staff for their efforts and acknowledged the challenges posed by governmental regulations. He stressed the importance of continuously considering cost control, reflecting on personal practices at home. He reiterated the District's strength and commitment to maintaining affordable water rates.

Director Orvis shared that he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Canyon Tunnel Project the day prior along with his fellow Directors and staff. He noted significant work done to protect the fish population of the spring run chinook at La Grange Dam and highlighted ongoing developments with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

**ITEM NO.16**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Director B. DeBoer stated that the Finance Committee and Water Committee met, the results of those meetings were discussed in previous items on the agenda and there are no additional reports.

**ITEM NO. 17**  
**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE STATUS OF OID ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Sharon Cisneros, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, presented the budget calendar to the Board. She mentioned that another Finance Committee meeting would be held to provide overall direction on the budget.

**ITEM NO. 18**  
**WATER COUNSEL REPORT**

Ms. Stefanie Morris, Water Counsel, reported that the State Water Resources Control Board has released a Groundwater Quality Control Plan for Phase 2, which pertains to the Sacramento River and its tributaries. The Governor is pushing for adoption of this plan by the end of the year. Comments on the plan will be submitted by September 10, following a workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. She emphasized that the primary concern is that Phase 1 water, which has previously been made available for appropriation or transfer once it meets certain goals (like fishery standards or temperature), will be protected all the way to the Golden Gate, creating a potential legal issue. Additionally, Ms. Morris shared that Calaveras County Water District has filed a Time Extension (TE) on the consumptive portion of their water rights. She explained that the TE allows them to extend the period to put water to beneficial use. Though not overly concerning, a protest has been filed in coordination with South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID), and plans are being made for a meeting with Calaveras County. She shared that the existing consumptive use permits include a condition that requires certain flows to be bypassed when New Melones is releasing water and that we will likely seek a similar permit condition for the non-consumptive use. Ms. Morris assured the Board she would keep them updated on these developments.

President Orvis announced the items to be discussed in closed session and the Board welcomed public comments on Item Nos. 19-22 at 11:23 a.m.

Hearing none, public comment on Item Nos. 19-22 closed at 11:24 a.m. and the Board convened to closed session.

**CLOSED SESSION**  
**ITEM NOS. 19-22**

**12:10 p.m. – Stefanie Morris, Water Counsel, exited the meeting.**

19. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2)  
One (1) matter
  
20. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)  
Two (2) cases
  - a. San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, et al v. California State Water Resources Control Board  
County of Sacramento Superior Court  
Case No. JCCP 5013
  
  - b. Threfall Ranch LP v. Oakdale Irrigation District, et al  
Superior Court of Stanislaus County  
Case No. CV-24-006033
  
21. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS  
Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8
  - a. Property: Joint Supply Canal Canyon Tunnel  
Agency Negotiator: SSJID General Manager  
Negotiating Parties: Mangante, Rancheria Del Rio Estanislus, LLC  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment of Sale
  
  - b. Property: Water  
Agency Negotiator: General Manager, Water Counsel  
Negotiating Parties: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources  
Under Negotiation: Price, Terms and Conditions
  
22. PERSONNEL MATTER  
Pursuant to Government Code §54957(b)(1)

The Board reconvened to open session at 12:25 p.m. Coming out of closed session, President Orvis stated there were no reportable actions. The Board went back to reconsider Item Nos. 10 and 11.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m. The Board Meeting of the **Oakdale Irrigation District Board of Directors** is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** Details can be obtained by calling (209) 847-0341.

The next Joint Board Meeting of the **South San Joaquin and Oakdale Irrigation Districts** serving the **Tri-Dam Project** and **Tri-Dam Authority** and other joint business matters is scheduled for **Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** in the boardroom at the office of South San Joaquin Irrigation District, 11011 East Highway 120, Manteca, CA.

Attest:

Signature on file.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas D. Orvis, President  
Board of Directors

Signature on file.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Cisneros  
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer