

MINUTES

Oakdale, California
September 26, 2016

The Board of Directors of the Oakdale Irrigation District invited all to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then met in Special Session at the hour of 9:05 a.m. Upon roll call, there were present:

Directors: Steve Webb, President
Herman Doornenbal, Vice President
Gary Osmundson
Gail Altieri
Linda Santos

Staff Present: Steve Knell, General Manager/Secretary
Jason Jones, Support Services Manager
Emily Sheldon, Associate Engineer

ADDITION OR DELETION OF AGENDA ITEMS

There were no additions or deletions of Agenda items.

ACTION TO TAKE VARIOUS ITEMS OUT OF SEQUENCE

There were no items taken out of sequence.

At the hour of 9:05 a.m. the Board welcomed public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM NO. 1

There being no Public Comment; Public Comment closed at 9:05 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS ITEM NO. 2, 3

ITEM NO. 2

REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION FINDING FALL PULSE FLOW RELEASE PROJECT CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The 2016 Fall Pulse Flow Release (Project) proposes for 16,000 acre-feet (AF) of water to be delivered to the Bureau of Reclamation at New Melones Reservoir. The water would be released by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) at Goodwin Dam during October and November to meet their flow objective on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis for migrating fish. As the released water also has the potential to benefit the Department of Water Resources

(DWR) and the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA), those entities have offered to purchase the release water from OID and SSJID for each acre-foot released at Goodwin Dam. Due to the location of Goodwin Dam, OID and SSJID, the Project is located in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties.

This Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 Class 1 (i) Maintenance of Stream Flow to protect fish and wildlife resources. This Project will utilize existing public facilities for the maintenance of flows to protect fish and wildlife resources. There will be no change in operation or expansion of existing diversion and pumping facilities.

Staff recommends approving the resolution as attached finding the above Project Categorically Exempt from CEQA. It should be noted that approval of the attached resolution does not approve the project itself. Once a determination of the CEQA findings has been made, any project agreements will be brought to the Board for consideration as a separate agenda item. Staff will be available to answer any questions that the Board may have.

Member of the public, Bob Holmes, President of the Board of Directors of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, commented on this agenda item.

Director Santos requested that the record reflect that Directors Santos and Altieri did not do an independent review of the proposed Project to make a determination that the proposed Project was categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under 14 Cal. Code of Regulations, Section 15301 Class 1(i) Maintenance of Stream Flow to protect fish and wildlife resources.

A motion was made by Director Doornenbal and was seconded by Director Osmundson to approve the Resolution Finding the Fall Pulse Flow Release Project Categorically Exempt Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and was approved by the following roll call vote:

Director Webb	Yes
Director Doornenbal	Yes
Director Osmundson	Yes
Director Santos	No
Director Altieri	No

The motion passed 3-2.

ITEM NO. 3
REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT TO
PURCHASE RELEASE OF WATER BY AND AMONG OAKDALE IRRIGATION
DISTRICT, SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT, SAN LUIS
DELTA MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY AND THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF WATER RESOURCES AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE

Under the SWRCB's granting of a Temporary Change Petition to the Bureau of Reclamation for the 2016 Water Year, a requirement of that TUCP was for the BOR to achieve a minimum EOMS volume of 415,000 acre feet in New Melones.

Current storage in New Melones as of midnight September 22, 2016 was 530,847 acre feet. But for the efforts of SSJID and OID Irrigation Districts and the farmers' efforts within the districts, both conserving and judicially managing their water over the last year, this target would not have been met.

As a result of those efforts however, about 120,000-130,000 acre feet of district water, making up a good portion of the 530,847 acre feet currently in storage today, will revert to Bureau of Reclamation Control on September 30th. That reversion of water to the Bureau's control will be done without any benefit to the two districts except for the following opportunity.

In recognition of the District's efforts this year, and over the past 4 years of drought, the Bureau is offering the opportunity to recapture some of the value of their water by engaging in a late season water release and sale agreement similar to what occurred last year in the fall of 2015.

The Bureau is required to meet a 28,000 acre foot fall pulse flow release on the San Joaquin River as measured at Vernalis during October and November for the benefit of fisheries. The Bureau is offering, and the DWR and SLDMWA are willing to buy this water if a collective end-of-season contract can be executed amongst willing sellers and buyers before the end of September. If executed before the end of September the Bureau can "color" the water as "contracted water" behind New Melones and release it as such in October and November in lieu of the fish flow water. The DWR and SLDMWA can then pick this "contract" water up at the pumps.

If the transaction does not take place before the end of the month all the water behind New Melones and under Bureau control will be tagged for fish and water quality purposes only.

This is the same opportunity the Bureau offered in the fall of 2015 and for the same reasons. One nuance over last year is that Merced ID is able to meet 12,000 acre feet of this arrangement. They too have worked diligently with the Bureau in meeting Vernalis flows this year.

The decision for SSJID and OID, and the reason for this agenda, is whether the two districts wish to share equally in the 16,000 acre foot release? The price of the water being sold is \$250 per acre foot, making the total transaction benefit about \$2 million to each district.

To clear up some of the misinformation regarding the SLDMWA. Of the 28 agencies they represent and contract water for, 5 of those agencies are in Stanislaus County. The lands represent 109,407 acres of the County's 341,187 acres of agricultural land within irrigation district service boundaries. That's 32%! These transactions carry significant benefit for Stanislaus County, which to date has had little to no exposure of that benefit.

Staff recommends that this contract be approved for execution by the GM with the caveat that any substantive changes in price or quantity be brought back to the Board.

Members of the public, Karla Schwoerer, Robert Frobose, Mike Tozzi, Janie Gatesman, member of the public name unknown, Jeff Titus, and Bob Holmes, President of the Board of Directors of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District.

A motion was made by Director Osmundson and was seconded by Director Doornenbal to approve the Agreement to Purchase Release of Water by and among the Oakdale Irrigation District, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority, and the California Department of Water Resources and authorize the General Manager to execute said agreement with the provision that if any substantive change to price or quantity occurs that the Agreement be brought back to the Board, and was approved by the following roll call vote:

Director Webb	Yes
Director Doornenbal	Yes
Director Osmundson	Yes
Director Santos	No
Director Altieri	No

The motion passed 3-2.

OTHER ACTION
ITEM NO. 3

The Board Meeting adjourned at the hour of 10:20 a.m. The next Regular Board Meeting of the **Oakdale Irrigation District Board of Directors** is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.** in the **City of Oakdale Council Chambers, 277 N. Second Avenue, Oakdale, CA.**

The next Joint Board Meeting of the **South San Joaquin and Oakdale Irrigation Districts** serving the **Tri-Dam Projects** and **Tri-Dam Authority** and other joint business matters is scheduled for **October 20, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.** in the board room of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, 11011 East Highway 120, Manteca, CA.

Steve Webb, President

Attest:

Steve Knell, P.E., Secretary