

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SEMITROPIC  
WATER STORAGE DISTRICT AND ITS GSA AND  
SEMITROPIC, BUTTONWILLOW, POND-POSO,  
AND WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Convened at 12:31 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Waterhouse on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 12:31 p.m., at the District office located at 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California.

Directors Present: Dan Waterhouse, Tim Thomson, Philip Portwood, David Daniel, Tom Toretta

Directors Absent: Jeff Fabbri, Todd Tracy

Other Participants: General Manager, Jason Gianquinto  
District Engineer, Isela Medina  
District Controller, Bobby Salinas  
District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz  
District Superintendent, John Lynch  
District Secretary, Laura Gage  
District's Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani  
Chad Carroll (CJ Farmside)  
Justin Murray (AG Thought)  
Jessica Zepeda (Hughes Surveying)  
Travis Millwee (Pacific Resources)  
Eduardo Sanchez  
Jorge Sanchez  
Kaho Kong (Valley Water)  
John Gaugel (Wonderful Orchards)  
Peter Nelson (Wonderful Orchards)  
Rayme Mackin (Poso Creek Family Dairy)  
Jesus Alonso (Clean Water Action)  
Rob Sneider (Silvertip)

President Waterhouse opened the meeting and welcomed all guests. Attendance was taken and recorded.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Peter Nelson with Wonderful Orchards Addressed and thanked the Board for considering their request to transfer water from the Tri-County GSA to the Semitropic GSA for their farming operation.

## ACTION ITEMS

### Approval of Agenda

No Action; no changes to the Agenda

### Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 14, 2024, and the GSA Meeting August 14, 2024, were presented for approval.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Toretta, the Regular Meeting of August 14, 2024, and the GSA Meeting August 14, 2024, were approved as presented.

### Treasurer's Reports

The District Treasurer, Tom Toretta announced that due to an unexpected delay the Treasurer's report for August 2024 was not ready for review and approval by the Board and, instead, will be presented for review and approval during the October 9, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

### Financial Report

District Controller, Bobby Salinas, reviewed the Financial Reports, including the Income Statement along with the Actual and Projected Cash Flow Report for August 2024.

### Accounts Payable

The Cash Disbursement List for September 11, 2024, was presented for review and payment.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Toretta, the Board authorized payment of the Accounts Payable as listed on the September 11, 2024, Disbursement List for Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District.

A copy of the Disbursement List presenting the payments that were approved is attached hereto as "Exhibit A."

### Consider Landowner Private Access Easement Request APN: 046-24004

The General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, acknowledged receipt of Landowner Request for Private Access Easement and thanked Jessica Zepeda with Huges Surveying for doing the title work and identifying where easements are identified. Mr. Gianquinto

recommended Board approval to authorize District Counsel to draft an agreement to recognize and utilize existing easement.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Toretta, the Board authorized District Counsel to work with staff and draft an easement agreement that allows Landowner to cross District property as necessary for road access to Landowner's otherwise landlocked parcel, for execution by the General Manager.

**Consider Cost Proposal from B&K Valves and Equipment (Waterman) for the Procurement of a Slide Gate for the ST2 Hydro Building**

District Engineer, Isela Medina, provided an explanation and background of the Cost Proposal from B&K Valves and Equipment (Waterman) for the Procurement of a Slide Gate for the ST2 Hydro Building. Ms. Medina recommended Board approval to authorize the Cost proposal.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Portwood, the Board approved authorization of the Cost Proposal from B&K Valves and Equipment for the Procurement of a Slide Gate for the ST2 Hydro Building.

**Consider Approval of GEI Task Order 05-2024 for Engineering Services to prepare grant application under USBR's WaterSMART Drought Response Program**

District Engineer, Isela Medina, provided an overview of GEI Task Order 05-2024 for Engineering Services to prepare grant application under USBR's WaterSMART Drought Response Program and recommended Board approval.

On Motion by Director Toretta, seconded by Director Portwood, the Board approved GEI Task Order 05-2024 for Engineer Services to prepare grant application under USBR's WaterSMART Drought Response Program.

**SEMITROPIC WSD GSA UPDATE**

At 12:49 p.m., the Board President, Dan Waterhouse declared a meeting of the Semitropic Water Storage District Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

**SGMA Updates and Discussion**

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, provided the Board with an update on the District's SGMA related activities. Mr. Gianquinto highlighted the recent August 26, 2024 State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Virtual Workshop, an August 28, 2024 tour of the Kern Subbasin with two State Board Members, and an August 29, 2024 SWRCB In-Person Workshop.

Mr. Gianquinto noted that the Technical Working Group (TWG) is developing a

joint subbasin comment letter, as is the District. Any comment letters will be submitted by the deadline of 12:00 p.m. on September 23, 2024. President Waterhouse, recommended establishment of an ad hoc Committee of the Board for the purpose of final review and decision regarding submission of the forementioned comment letters to the State Board.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Toretta the Board authorized an ad hoc Committee consisting of Directors Waterhouse, Toretta, and Daniel for the purpose of final review and decision regarding submission of comment letters to the State Board by September 23rd.

The GSA meeting concluded at 1:08 p.m.

### **CONSULTANT REPORTS**

#### **SWRU – Construction Update by W.M. Lyles**

W.M. Lyle’s Representative, Rick Amigh was not present. The General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, noted that W.M. Lyle’s progress report which was included with the Board Packet.

#### **Consulting Engineer’s Report**

Larry Rodriguez from GEI Consultants presented and summarized GEI’s “Consulting Engineers’ Report on Projects for August 2024”, which was accepted for filing

#### **Balance Public Relations**

Dean Florez of Balance Public Relations provided an update of legislative activities in Sacramento.

#### **REDtrac**

Greg Allen did not have a report this month.

### **INFORMATIONAL AND UP-DATE ITEMS**

General Manager Gianquinto noted that the Staff Report, titled “District Activity During August 2024,” dated September 6, 2024, was included with the Board Packet. In addition, the following items were discussed:

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto provided a brief update of the administrative portion of the Staff Report, noting that there will likely be no change to the FallX2 for this year, but they may open up for future Fall X2 actions. Mr. Gianquinto also highlighted progress with the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) and are looking forward to a decision

on remaining funding for the planning effort in November or December.

District Contract Coordinator, Becky Ortiz, provided an overview of the Water Supply portion of the Staff Report.

District Engineer, Isela Medina provided an overview of the District's Engineer report highlighting progress on advancing the design on environmental work for two proposed capital improvement projects.

District Superintendent, John Lynch, provided an overview of the Operations and Maintenance report noting that there has been an influx of copper and equipment theft.

At 1:29 p.m. President Waterhouse adjourned the Regular Board meeting, and it was reported that there was a need for the Board to reconvene in closed session.

**Closed Session**

At 1:37 p.m. the meeting continued with Closed Session.

Participants included:

- Directors Present: Dan Waterhouse, Tim Thomson, Philip Portwood, David Daniel, Tom Toretta
- Directors Absent: Jeff Fabbri, Todd Tracy
- Other Participants: General Manager, Jason Gianquinto  
District Engineer, Isela Medina  
District Controller, Bobby Salinas  
District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz  
District Superintendent, John Lynch  
District Secretary, Laura Gage  
District's Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani

During open session, the District's legal counsel, Steve Torigiani, stated that a closed session was needed to discuss various closed session matters, including reporting on the following items of pending and anticipated litigation:

- a. *Conference with legal counsel Re: Litigation (Govt. Code § 54956.9(d)*
  - 1) *Various applications filed for Kings River Water by Semitropic WSD, et al.; Petition for Change of Points of Diversion, etc. (License 11521) filed by Kings River Water Assn.; and related matters and proceedings, before the State Water Resources Control Bd.*
  - 2) *Sierra Club v. California Department of Water Resources (DWR),*

*etc. Re: Consolidated CEQA Case and "Complaint for Validation"  
Re: Delta Program Revenue Bonds, Sacramento County Superior  
Court, Case No. 34-2020-80003517 (consolidated), Third Appellate  
Dist., Case No. C100552*

- 3) *Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District v. Kern County Water Agency, et al., Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-21-100418*
- 4) *Semitropic Water Storage Dist. v. The Dow Chemical Co., et al., Kern County Sup. Ct., Case No. BCV-21-102528*
- 5) *Macut v. Wabash National, et al., Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-22-100318*

*b. Conference with Legal Counsel Re: Anticipated Litigation: Possible exposure to litigation pursuant Gov't Code § 54956.9(d)(2).*

- 1) *Two Potential Cases.*

*c. Conference with Legal Counsel Re: Anticipated Litigation: Possible initiation of litigation pursuant to Govt. Code § 54956.9(d)(4)*

- 1) *Two Potential Cases.*

*d. Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Govt. Code § 54956.8)*

*District's Designated  
Representative: General Manager  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms  
of Payment*

- 1) *Property: State Water Project Supplies*
  - a. *Negotiation With: California Department of Water Resources, Kern County Water Agency and its Member Units, And State Water Contractors*
- 2) *Property: Acquisition of Water Supplies*
  - a. *Negotiation with: Multiple sellers*
- 3) *Property: Various*
  - a. *Negotiation with: Nuveen*
- 4) *Property: Acquisition of Water Supply*
  - a. *Negotiation with: Wonderful Nut Orchards LLC*

At 3:20 p.m. the Board reconvened to open session.

President Waterhouse stated that several items were discussed, but no reportable action was taken in closed session.

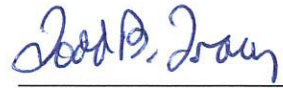
### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m. by President Waterhouse.

APPROVED:



Daniel Waterhouse, President



Todd Tracy, Secretary



Board Day Presentation  
**SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT**

**DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED AT September 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

**AUGUST AFTER BOARD MEETING**

**SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Special Projects**

1	GEI Consultants*	\$	43,264.80
2	W.M. Lyles Co- Schuster Road PCCP Repair		21,614.24
3	W.M. Lyles Co- SWRU Amendment 23-RWPF		20,137.53
<b>Special Projects Subtotal \$</b>			<b><u>85,016.57</u></b>

**Operation Maintenance**

4	101 Pipe & Casing - column tube & shaft for E107GW ground water pump repair, 16" & 12" PP pump heads	\$	55,726.61
5	Acid Source, Inc- sulfuric acid		9,738.75
6	ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority- Property Program 2024-2025		140,706.48
7	ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority- Cyber Liability 07/01/2024-07/01/2025		4,638.65
8	Arcpoint Labs of Bakersfield- expedited PCR tests		175.00
9	BSK Analytical Laboratories- water testing for well sampling program		4,911.00
10	C&H Fence & Patio, Inc.- patch two holes at shop		390.00
11	Clark Pest Control- office maintenance		98.00
12	Frontier Communications - data communication for substation		58.67
13	Gas Company- office utilities		16.35
14	Grapevine MSP Technology Services- IT service support for email exchange, data backup, conferencing (September)		4,103.30
15	Jeffries Bros., Inc. - gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products		3,223.98
16	McMaster-Carr- 140H motorgrader repair & FAB forklift hitch bracket		160.79
17	Office Depot- office supplies		157.60
18	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		258.33
19	Praxair- monthly FS6 cylinder rental for O&M		50.77
20	ReadyRefresh by Nestle- water for shop		592.26
21	Resa Power- replacement circuit breaker for Unit #1 at East Pumping Plant		3,409.88
22	SBS of Bakersfield, Inc.- office copier (copy charges for August)		206.72
23	South Valley Pump Testing, Inc.- pump testing		400.00
24	Sparkle Uniform & Linen Service- uniforms, shop mats, & towels rental & office apparel		1,183.26
25	T&T Truck & Crane Service- Hydro Gen repairs		1,012.00
26	Waterbender LLC - scale inhibitor		2,935.90
<b>Operating Expense Subtotal \$</b>			<b><u>234,154.30</u></b>

**TOTAL BILLS FOR AUGUST AFTER BOARD MEETING \$ 319,170.87**

+ (Additional disbursements or adjusted amounts.)

\*(See page 2 for Special Project Funds)

\*\* (See page 2 for breakdown)

**EXHIBIT A**



1 GEI Consultants, Inc. - \*

General engineering fees, GW Modeling & expenses	\$	10,717.47
Leonard Ave Intertie Project		4,106.56 G
SGMA Implementation		7,472.99
IRWMP Expense		865.74 R
Tulare Lake Flood Control Project		12,532.36
High Speed Rail - UA 2.0		445.00 R
Delta Pipeline Conv. Improv. Project		7,124.68 G
	\$	<u><u>43,264.80</u></u>

G Grant	\$	11,231.24
R Reimbursed		1,310.74
	\$	<u><u>12,541.98</u></u>

**SEPTEMBER 2024 BOARD MAILING**

**SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Special Projects**

27	Downey Brand- professional services Tulare Lake Flood control proj. (May)	\$	9,410.08
28	Downey Brand- professional services Tulare Lake Flood control proj. (July)		42,830.00
29	G3 Engineering. Inc.- pump bowl inventory		33,991.16
30	W.M. Lyles Co- SWRU Phase 2 System X		1,696.80
31	Young Wooldridge*		53,442.08
<b>Special Projects Subtotal \$</b>			<b>141,370.12</b>

**Operation Maintenance**

32	Acampo Machine Works- mower repair parts	\$	362.96
33	Acid Source, Inc- sulfuric acid		559.20
34	American Refuse- trash service for shop		308.54
35	American TireTec- non-shred oversized tire disposal		118.00
36	Arcpoint Labs of Bakersfield- expedited PCR tests		100.00
37	Asbury Environmental Services - disposal of used oil		100.00
38	AT&T- telephone services		1,210.23
39	Avadine- engineer/analyst - senior & monthly software products license maintenance/support agreement (August)		950.00
40	B&B Surplus, Inc.- material to fabricate removable stop-log hold down brackets		1,152.10
41	Balance Public Relations- lobbying services		13,500.00
42	BSK Analytical Laboratories- water testing for well sampling program		33,680.00
43	Charter Communications (Spectrum)- internet		346.20
44	Coastline Equipment - John Deere 310 backhoe 524 L loader		1,019.95
45	Farm Pump and Irrigation Co., Inc.- P-384 Booster pumping plant Unit #1 pump		8,894.74
46	Ferguson Enterprises- parts to repair Lateral E 21" A/C pipeline		7,055.56
47	Jeffries Bros., Inc. - gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products		12,181.16
48	Jim Burke Ford- August supplies		328.84
49	McMaster-Carr- Solar inverter cooling fans		260.44
50	Myers Diesel Repair- Unit #202 service truck		329.22
51	Office Depot- office supplies		928.46
52	O'Reilly Auto Parts- shop supplies		1,434.46
53	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		28,107.55
54	RedTrac, LLC.- Well Telem Monitoring (September)		5,354.00
55	Richland Chevrolet - August shop supplies		2,074.36
56	R&O Fishing Tools, Inc.- R&M Well S7		968.00
57	San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority- 2022 water conveyance charge		23,379.19 R
58	SBS of Bakersfield, Inc.- magenta toner cartridge		27.00
59	Sparkle Textile Rental- uniforms, shop mats, & towels rental & office apparel		857.50
60	State of California - D.W.R. - Prop. 13 Ground Water Recharge Bond #E77007		159,791.73
61	State of California - D.W.R. - B-369 Pumping Plant & raise BR Canal Lining Loan #E77004		162,180.87
62	Tel-Tec Security Systems, Inc.- service labor & shop monitoring services (September)		220.00
63	T-Mobile - internet access for communication with Solar Site (July & August)		47.00
64	Verizon Wireless - cell phones substation, solar site, on call, superintendent, dispatch, IT, CFO, & General Manager		640.60
65	Waterbender LLC - scale inhibitor		3,435.21
66	Wells Fargo Business Cards-**		876.06
67	Whitbey, Gary- safety boots		100.00
68	Zultys, Inc.- monthly charges for phone system		998.18
<b>Operating Expense Subtotal \$</b>			<b>473,877.31</b>

**TOTAL BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER BOARD MAILING \$ 615,247.43**

**S.W.S.D - Payroll Accounts - transfer of funds from S.I.D. for August payroll \$ 416,846.77**

**SEPTEMBER 2024 AFTER BOARD MAILING**

**SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Special Projects**

69	Concepts in Controls, Inc.- SCADA System Upgrade Phase 2	\$	68,924.00
70	Downey Brand- professional services Tulare Lake Flood control proj. (May)		10,239.00
71	W.M. Lyles Co- SWRU Amendment 23-RWPF		248,186.55
72	Michael K. Nunley & Associates, Inc.- engineering services for California High Speed Rail		1,940.60 R
<b>Special Projects Subtotal \$</b>			<b><u>329,290.15</u></b>

**Operation Maintenance**

73	Acid Source, Inc- sulfuric acid	\$	9,727.50
74	Alliance Ag Services, Inc.- Option Commission Avantus		150.00
75	Arcpoint Labs of Bakersfield- expedited PCR tests		175.00
76	AT&T- long distance charges		48.40
77	Aviva Energy Corp.- energy consulting for September 2024		575.00
78	Collins, Ron- gardening (August)		600.00
79	Coverall - cleaning services for September		702.00
80	Larry Cross Tire Repair- Unit #215 balance tires, backhoe rear tires		410.77
81	De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc.- office copier (September)		401.17
82	Home Depot- August supplies for O&M		968.91
83	Knight's Pumping & Portable - portable toilet & services		471.85
84	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		1,421.09
85	RedTrac, LLC.- WaterTrac Software Telemetry monthly service fee (June-August)		41,580.00
86	Shafter Parts and Supply, Inc.- August shop supplies for O&M		2,015.40
87	South Tulare Richgrove Refuse Inc.- trash service for drilling yard		506.88
88	Strategic Policies LLC- consulting services and expenses for August		5,060.00
89	City of Wasco- water, sewer, and trash services for office (August)		908.31
90 +	Wells Fargo Business Cards-**		1,569.24
<b>Operating Expense Subtotal \$</b>			<b><u>67,291.52</u></b>

**TOTAL BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 AFTER BOARD MAILING \$ 396,581.67**

**TOTAL BILLS FOR AUGUST 2024 AFTER BOARD MEETING \$ 319,170.87**  
**TOTAL BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 BOARD MAILING \$ 615,247.43**  
**TOTAL BILLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 AFTER BOARD MAILING \$ 396,581.67**  
**TOTAL BILLS TO BE APPROVED AT BOARD MEETING \$ 1,330,999.97**

+ (Additional disbursements or adjusted amounts.)

\*(See page 5 for Special Project Funds)

\*\* (See page 5 for breakdown)

**\*\*BREAKDOWN OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR September 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

66/ Wells Fargo Business Cards\*\*  
90

Operating Supplies- Yesenia Ramirez	\$	703.51
Operating Supplies & Travel Expenses- Isela Medina		172.55
Operating Supplies- Ralph Sanchez		255.95
Operating Supplies- John Lynch		806.46
Fuel & Operating Supplies- Jason Gianquinto		506.83
	\$	<u>2,445.30</u>

31 Young, Wooldridge, LLP - \*

Legal fees & expenses	\$	28,066.91
High Speed Rail Project Phase 7		2,600.00 R
Tulare Lake Flood Control Project		2,388.75
Subsurface Recharge		10,193.21 G
Delta Pipeline Conv. Improv. Project		10,193.21 G
	\$	<u>53,442.08</u>

G Grant	\$	20,386.42
R Reimbursed		27,919.79
	\$	<u>48,306.21</u>

# SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED AT September 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING

## WIRE TRANSACTIONS

1	Kern County Water Agency- CVC estimated billing for O&M and power "Stand-by" Costs 4th Quarter	\$	22,529.72
2	Sun Trust Bank - 2006 Swap Agreement (August)		<u>34,459.98</u>
		\$	<u><u>56,989.70</u></u>