

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LOWER TULE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District met on the 12th day of December 2023, at 9:00 am. The meeting was called to order by President BARCELLOS. It was determined the following Directors were in attendance:

Director	Div. 2	2026	LOUIE TRISTAO
Director	Div. 3	2024	TOM BARCELLOS
Director	Div. 4	2024	FRANK MENDONSA
Director	Div. 1	2026	ALEX GARCIA
Director	Div. 5	2026	JOSH PITIGLIANO

District Staff present:

Eric Limas, General Manager
 Mike Battles, Assistant Manager
 Mark Greenall, Controller
 Allison Tristao, Resources Coordinator
 Kirk Masters, Water Resources Superintendent

Others Present:

Alex Peltzer, General Counsel
 Farmers/landowners/public: Paul Gredanus, Vince Sola,
 Mike Faria, Geof Vanden Huevel, Brian Hauss, Doug
 Jackson, Ralph Gutierrez

BOARD ADMINISTRATION

On motion by Director MENDONSA, second by Director GARCIA and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

On motion by Director PITIGLIANO, second by Director GARCIA, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the November 13, 2023 and December 4, 2023 special meetings were approved as presented.

President BARCELLOS turned the meeting over to General Manager LIMAS for Board reorganization for 2024. LIMAS reviewed the current slate of officers and committee appointments. Director GARCIA motioned to reelect and appoint the same slate of officers and appointments, the motion was second by Director MENDONSA and unanimously approved by the Board. LIMAS turned the meeting back over to President BARCELLOS.

During the public comment period, several growers thanked the staff for the way they navigated through a big water year with lots of challenges.

WATER RESOURCES

Manager LIMAS reviewed current local and statewide water conditions. The Friant Water Year 2023 allocation is 100 % Class 1 and 15% Class 2. The CVC allocation is currently 100% with deliveries starting in October and continuing currently. No action was taken.

LIMAS reviewed the monthly water delivery report. No action was taken.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

LIMAS reviewed activities related to the Friant Kern Canal operations, subsidence/capacity correction current activities, studies of phase 2 capacity correction study, and November FWA Board retreat. No action was taken.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Construction and Operation activities

JOHN MICHAEL DOMONDON reviewed construction projects and canal maintenance activities. In addition, safety meetings were held, shop and facility inspections were performed, and canal maintenance and spraying were performed. O&M on the Teapot Dome/Pioneer/ Vandalia and Campbell Moreland systems were performed. DOMONDON also gave updates on the SPP, East side capacity improvement and Lateral 4 projects in Pixley. No action was taken.

MIKE BATTLES updated the Board on long term river channel repairs needed from the spring flood damage. Staff has logged and prioritized projects along with estimated costs. The high priority items are estimated at \$4.2 million and the total list estimated at around \$7 million. Staff is working with FEMA to try and get funding. The Board consensus was that the high priority projects are important and staff should move forward with them while at the same time working with FEMA for potential reimbursement.

Administrative Activities

LIMAS reviewed CPI data and a recommended Cost of Living Adjustment for 2024. After discussion, on motion by Director GARCIA, second by Director TRISTAO and unanimously approved, the Board approved an employee COLA of 3.7% for 2024.

LIMAS reviewed an engagement letter from Cuttone and Mastro for the 2023 audit. After discussion, on motion by Director PITIGLIANO, second by Director MENDONSA and unanimously approved, the Board approved executing the engagement letter.

LIMAS reviewed the current District Investment Policy with no recommended changes for 2024. After discussion, on motion by Director MENDONSA, second by

Director GARCIA and unanimously approved, the Board readopted the current investment policy.

The Board reviewed the financial reports for the month of November. On motion by Director GARCIA, second by Director MENDONSA and unanimously approved, the Board approved the financial reports.

The Board reviewed the bills paid for the month of November. On motion by Director GARCIA, second by Director TRISTAO and unanimously approved, the Board approved the bills paid including 2024 membership dues for the California Farm Water Coalition in the amount of \$14,385.

MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES & AUTHORITIES

Tule River Association

LIMAS gave an update on the Success Power Project including contract renewal activity. No action was taken.

LIMAS reviewed a Draft 2024 SPP Budget for 2024. On motion by Director PITIGLIANO, second by Director GARCIA and unanimously approved, the Board approved the Budget.

LIMAS reported on the progress of the Success Reservoir Enlargement Project reimbursements, construction and real estate purchase activities. No Action was taken.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board then went into closed session. Upon reconvening into open session, it was reported that the Board performed and approved a performance evaluation and salary adjustment for the General Manager.

Approved

There being no further business to be brought to the Board attention, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Limas
General Manager