

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Flood Control and Water Conservation District Minutes

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Directors of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District of Siskiyou County, California, met in regular session this 21st day of January 2025; there being present Directors Jess Harris, Ed Valenzuela, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren and Ray A. Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis, District Counsel Natalie E. Reed, and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Directors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ogren.

Public Comment

There were no public comments received.

Consent Agenda – Approved.

It was moved by Director Kobseff, seconded by Director Haupt and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, that the following consent agenda is approved, and the Chair and/or clerk authorized to execute/record any necessary documents:

Flood District - Approve addendum #2 to the Larry Walker Associates (LWA) contract and authorize the District Board Chair to sign.

Flood District - Approve the second addendum with Larry Walker Associates for the Butte Valley DWR Implementation Grant, authorize the Chair to sign, and authorize the Auditor's Office to establish budget.

Flood District - Approve the second addendum with Larry Walker Associates for the Scott Valley DWR Implementation Grant, authorize the Chair to sign, and authorize the Auditor's Office to establish budget.

Flood District - Approve the second addendum with Larry Walker Associates for the Shasta Valley DWR Implementation Grant, authorize the Chair to sign, and authorize the Auditor's Office to establish budget.

Flood Control District - Presentation re the Scott Valley Irrigation District Recharge Project, including an update and current results. Presentation and discussion only.

Natural Resource Policy Specialist Matt Parker appeared before the Board and provided a brief overview of the request to update the District Board on the status of groundwater recharge project in Scott Valley. Mr. Parker introduced Dr. Laura Foglia to present the update.

Dr. Foglia appeared before the District Board and presented a powerpoint on the Scott Valley Irrigation District (SVID) Recharge Project (Project), including Project specifics (i.e. timing for diversion of excess wintertime water from the SVID ditch to various agricultural lands, methods to evaluate instream flow impacts, history of the Project and the amount of water diverted in various years between 2016 and 2024.). Dr. Foglia continued the powerpoint, including an overview of modelling scenarios, 2024 flow conditions and diversion, data collection, locations of agricultural lands where excess water was diverted and the impacts to groundwater wells measured after the diversions.

Discussion followed between District Board members and Dr. Foglia regarding the information provided in the flow conditions and diversions slide, possible impact of the information being gathered on the State Water Resources Board's curtailment orders in the Scott Valley and another recharge project planned for the west side of Scott Valley. Further discussion followed regarding observed groundwater level increases, temperature measurements taken during data collection and data collection points.

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Flood Control District – (continued)

Continuing the powerpoint, Dr. Foglia summarized models depicting streamflow depletion reversal, water quality monitoring and reporting efforts, the use of geochemical tracers (stable and radioactive isotopic tracers) to identify and distinguish water sources and mixing of different water sources with regard to groundwater contributions and seasonal shifts.

Discussion followed regarding the need for multiple implementation years to further study Project benefits, the need to consider utilizing the District’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) standing to address the Water Board’s curtailments, the benefits associated with impoundments (water storage, ponds) on groundwater recharge and the lengthy process to obtain permits to implement recharge and other water projects.

Flood Control District - Discussion, direction and possible action re an Advance Conflict Waiver sought by Best, Best and Krieger, LLP to provide specialized legal services to the District with regard to a potential concessionaire assignee for the remaining lease term at the Lake Siskiyou Campground/Resort. Approved.

District Counsel Natalie E. Reed provided an overview of the request, advising that the Firm of Best Best and Krieger, LLP (BBK) requested the Advance Conflict Waiver with regard to the provision of water law issue services to the District and to other clients.

Following discussion between members of the District Board and Ms. Reed regarding the Flood Control District signatory designation on the Advance Conflict Waiver Consent section, it was moved by Director Kobseff, seconded by Director Valenzuela and carried, following a roll call vote with Directors Valenzuela, Haupt, Harris, Kobseff and Ogren voting YES, to approve the Advance Conflict Waiver sought by Best, Best and Krieger, LLP with the Flood Control and Water Conservation District Chair authorized to sign the document.

Closed Session - Flood District - Conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), one case, conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9, initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(4), one case, commenced at 11:20 a.m., concluded at 11:31 a.m., with action taken.

Report On Closed Session

County Counsel Natalie E. Reed announced that closed session concluded at 11:31 a.m., advising that both closed session items were dropped from the agenda.

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:
Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Nancy Ogren, Chair

By: _____
Deputy