

Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**January 17, 2025**

Authority Board Chair:	Fritz Durst (Reclamation District 108)
Authority Board Vice Chair:	Jeff Sutton (Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority)
Reservoir Committee Chair:	Mike Azevedo (Colusa County)
Reservoir Committee Vice Chair:	Robert Kunde (Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District)
Treasurer:	Jamie Traynham (Davis Water District)

MINUTES**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chair Durst called the Authority Board (AB) and Reservoir Committee (RC) Meeting to order at the hour of 9:04 a.m., followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:

Authority Board: 8 members in attendance, resulting in a quorum.

Reservoir Committee: 19 representatives (91.54%) in attendance, resulting in a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS:

The Sites staff, consultants and members of the public introduced themselves.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

ACTION RC: Moved by Ms. Pryor, seconded by Vice Chair Kunde, to approve the January 17, 2025, meeting agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ACTION AB: Moved by Director Vanderwaal, seconded by Director Kaplan, to approve the January 17, 2025, meeting agenda. **Motion Carried: All Directors present voted yes.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:

General Counsel (GC) Doud announced that the Authority Board of Directors and the Reservoir Committee Members would consider Closed Session matters 5.1. through 5.4

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Durst called for a period of public comment.

One member of the public, Richard Cruz of Nor Cal Carpenters Union, made comments related to the importance of utilizing responsible labor and contractors who offer benefits and apprenticeships.

Hearing no other comments, Vice Chair Sutton closed the public comment period.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

ACTION RC: Moved by Ms. Traynham, seconded by Mr. Navarrot, to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ACTION AB: Chair Durst noted he had provided a grammar change to Executive Director Brown and also that he provided Mr. Trapasso with language to be added to Item 1.4.1 – related to accounting policies and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Following this stated, it was moved by Chair Durst, seconded by Director Vanderwaal, to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 1.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of December 20, 2024, Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting Minutes.
- 1.2 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider acceptance of the Sites Project Authority Treasurer’s Report.
- 1.3 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of the Sites Project Authority Payment of Claims.
- 1.4 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of administrative changes to the adopted board policies and guidelines as follows:
 1. Minor revisions to the Accounting, Budget Policy, Accounts Payable Approval and Records Management Policies to incorporate law changes since prior adoption and/or administrative clarifications that better align the document with how the policy is being implemented.
 2. Revisions to the Delegation of Authority Matrix to better align the document with how delegation is implemented and incorporate prior procurement and contract policy changes.

2. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- 2.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider accepting the State and Federal Legislative 2025 priorities. **(Attachments A & B)**

Executive Director (ED) Brown opened this item and asked Vice Chair Sutton to add his comments. ED Brown noted this item has come to the Board and Committee regularly over the last few years. The purpose of the item is to focus on where the Authority is currently and acknowledge that the project is at a pivotal point. ED Brown stated everyone is encouraged to think through the topics that come from reviewing the priorities, especially as decisions are being made, to make sure these priorities are aligned with what is supportive to various activities by Committee and Board members. Vice Chair Sutton added the priorities reflect the project's core values and that as Sites is more often in the news and grows closer to ground-breaking, it is important to consider the investments the project is making and seeking. He noted the priorities report is a living document and it changes as necessary. He stated he and Ms. Pryor are on the committee overseeing the document.

Chair Durst noted that as new elected officials take office this year, education about the project will take more effort. He said a coalition of representatives may be planning a trip to Washington D.C. and Ms. Kaplan pointed out she too would potentially be able to assist with communication in the Greater Sacramento Region.

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Durst called the question.

ACTION RC: It was moved by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Ms. Pryor to recommend approval of agenda item 2.1 to the Authority Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ACTION AB: It was moved by Vice Chair Sutton, seconded by Director Vanderwaal to approve agenda item 2.1. **Motion carried: All Directors present voted yes.**

3. **DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- 3.1 Review and comment on the process of providing input as the updated Total Project Cost Estimate is being developed.

ED Brown introduced the item and then turned it over to Mr. Robinette. Mr. Robinette referred to a detailed schedule that was presented last month, which laid out the steps to get to investor agreement. He said the present item is to discuss the project baseline report, including a critical component of project cost.

Mr. Robinette explained that project cost involves two steps or phases – 1. Costs, and then 2. Benefits and Financing. He presented a visual slide that demonstrated these two phases and reviewed the elements within the phases, culminating in the final baseline report to be produced in October. He explained it will be important in the future to understand that decisions are being made based on choices made within these two phases.

Vice Chair Sutton commented it is hoped that the project will have something solid related to water rights in October so that the information can be shared with home boards. Mr. Robinette explained this is important but noted that forecasted costs and the investor commitment escrow period will come later and said that decisions will be based on ‘frozen documents’ in about April 2026.

Mr. Robinette reviewed the first phase and explained that because costs and affordability is a participant concern, the project will reconvene the ad-hoc value planning workgroup. This workgroup’s focus is to make certain participants are comfortable taking information back to their home boards and satisfying questions related to the project having good design and estimates, that uncertainty has been accounted for, and contingencies have been considered. Further, the group will consider opportunities to reduce costs and add value. Mr. Robinette explained that the topic of uncertainty is being addressed and as more is learned, the project will continue bringing information back to the group.

Mr. Robinette reviewed the value planning ad-hoc subcommittee’s current roster and said that if others are interested in participating, they should contact Vice Chair Kunde. Vice Chair Kunde stated that there is room for one more participant and that the subcommittee will convene for an anticipated four meetings in the near future.

Mr. Robinette noted that when the project moves to the second phase, discussions regarding funding may mean adjusting timelines in the schedule. In response to a question regarding timing, he noted that the project construction schedule is anticipating breaking ground in 2026 and project completion in 2032.

After hearing no further comments or questions, the Board and Committee moved on to Item 3.2

3.2 Receive and comment on updated conditions precedent quarterly status report.

ED Brown opened this item and explained this update is to identify the key elements that various funding partners have identified as critical for progress. The report reviews where progress has been made and those areas that may need modification. He noted a key takeaway in the report is that the targeted date for participant escrow is still October 2025. He stated that if there are any elements

within the status report that are a cause for concern, staff would appreciate hearing those now. Chair Durst added that when going back to home boards, communication should go beyond costs and review the creative ways in which water will be utilized in the future as an asset that can be moved to those areas where it is needed, and is flexible in terms of being used for both state and federal projects.

Hearing no further comments, the meeting moved to Item 4, Reports.

4. REPORTS:

4.1 Chairpersons' Reports:

Chair Azevedo noted he has heard from local workforce groups regarding their interest in the project and said timing will play a role in their involvement, as there are times throughout the year they are not as busy. He noted the Delta is still diverting water. He also shared that a local farm show is coming up, which presents an opportunity to share information about the project with attendees.

Chair Durst said he recently talked with Karla Nemeth, Director of the California Department of Water Resources, who is interested in project benefits, and he noted that communicating about benefits is as important as sharing related costs.

4.2 Committee & Workgroup Chairs' Reports:

Local: ED Brown noted the project has closed escrow on its first property and that there is a tenant with a leasing agreement. Chair Durst noted that ownership is recognized in the class of the Committee, not in the class of the Authority Board.

Operations & Engineering: Vice Chair Kunde said there was a meeting related to items discussed at this Board and Committee meeting and including value planning efforts. He also stated that he attended a California Water Commission meeting which included a report on Contra Costa Water's withdrawal from the water storage investment program.

4.3 Authority Board & Reservoir Committee Participant Reports:

None.

4.4 Executive Director's Reports:

ED Brown did not have an oral report.

Chair Durst introduced Mr. Adam Nickels, Principal Deputy Regional Director of California-Great Basin Region. Mr. Nickels reported that the Bureau of Reclamation has contributed an additional \$129M dollars and continues to

make investments into Northern California Water as it seeks to help create long-term solutions for storage. He said this additional funding brings the Bureau's total funding commitment to \$625M. He said he is looking forward to getting to construction and to seeing progress.

Members of the Board and Committee noted their enthusiasm with the Bureau's continued support. Vice Chair Sutton said that timing is important, especially for when agencies will need to make commitments to the project. Mr. Nickles reiterated the Bureau of Reclamation is only able to commit to the building of the project at this time, and not to a shared partnership for storage. He said projects like Sites are critical to California.

Director Kaplan made comments about the need to better understand timelines for federal participation commitment.

Mr. Nickles reiterated that commitments are not able to made beyond that for the building of the project.

Following Mr. Nickels' report and unrelated to it, General Counsel Doud noted the Authority has a Conflict of Interest Code and wishes for all Committee and Board members to have participated in an Ethics (AB1234) training. He noted that home agencies require this and asked that if individuals have completed the training, that they send their certifications to the Authority.

5. CLOSED SESSION: 10:23

5.1 Negotiations concerning water right permit terms and conditions (Govt. Code §54956.9(c) and §54956.9(d)(4)).

5.2 Negotiations concerning Sites Project operation terms, conditions and agreements with the State of California, Department of Water Resources and United States, Bureau of Reclamation. (Govt. Code §§54956.9(c), 54956.9(d)(4)).

5.3 Conference with legal counsel regarding significant exposure to litigation (Gov. Code §§54956.9(d)(2)) (1 Item).

5.4 Potential litigation (Govt. Code §54956.9(d)(4)) (1 item).

6. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION: 12:08 pm

Attorney Doud noted that there was one action to report from the October 2024 meeting, noting that the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee previously provided direction to the Authority’s designated negotiators regarding price and terms of payment for the acquisition of the Jensen Ranch. The Authority has since entered into a purchase and sale agreement with the owners of the property that contains terms consistent with the Authority Board’s and Reservoir Committee’s direction

There was nothing further to report.

7. **RECAP:** None.

7.1 **Suggested Future Agenda Items.** None

7.2 **Upcoming Meetings:**

Reservoir Committee & Authority Board

Day of Friday, February 21, 2024 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.),
Maxwell Project Office & Virtual

Chair Durst adjourned the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting at the hour of 12:09 p.m.

Fritz Durst, Authority Board Chair

Mike Azevedo, Reservoir Committee Chair

MJ Brown, Board Clerk

Current Voting Committee Participants (22):

	%	Participant		%	Participant
<input type="checkbox"/>	3.47	American Canyon, City	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.57	LaGrande WD
<input type="checkbox"/>	2.42	Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	17.29	Metropolitan WD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.28	Coachella Valley WD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.47	Reclamation District 108
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.28	Colusa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.42	Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.05	Colusa County WD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8.70	San Bernardino Valley MWD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.41	Cortina WD (1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.48	San Geronio Pass WA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.87	Davis WD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.42	Santa Clara Valley WD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.22	Desert WA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.77	Santa Clarita Valley WA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.17	Dunnigan WD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.89	Westside WD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.77	Glenn-Colusa ID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.19	Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.57	Irvine Ranch WD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.28	Zone 7 WA
				100.00	Total

19 Voting members represented at the start of the meeting-

91.54% Represented participation percentage.

Representation has been delegated as follows:

(1) Proxy to Jamie Traynham, Davis WD

(‡) Not present after _____

Current Voting Authority Board (9)		Primary		Alternate
Colusa County	<input type="checkbox"/>	TBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Azevedo
Colusa County Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Marsh	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hal Charter Shelly Murphy
Glenn County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Arendt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Yoder
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Sutton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logan Dennis
Reclamation District 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fritz Durst	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Sean Doherty Hilary Reinhard
Placer County Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gray Allen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Alvord
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Vanderwaal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Jones Zack Dennis
City of Sacramento	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Kaplan	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sangar Brett Ewart
Westside Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doug Parker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zach Dennis

Associate Members (non-voting)		Primary		Alternate
Western Canal Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greg Johnson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ted Trimble
Zone 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Urkov	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wendy Tyler

Non-Voting Committee Participants (2)		Primary		Alternate/Other
Department of Water Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rob Cooke	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bureau of Reclamation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adam Nickels Allison Jacobson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Natalie Taylor Jesse Sikora

Current Voting Reservoir Committee (22)		Primary		Alternate
American Canyon, City	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason Holley	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matt Knudson	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Coachella Valley Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Cheng	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Petya Vasileva
Colusa County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Azevedo	<input type="checkbox"/>	TBD
Colusa County Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Halbert Charter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shelly Murphy
Cortina Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jim Peterson	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chuck Grimmer Jamie Traynham
Davis Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jamie Traynham	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Charter
Desert Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	David Tate Esther Saenz

Dunnigan Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jordon Navarrot	<input type="checkbox"/>	
RD 108	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jordon Navarrot	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lewis Bair
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logan Dennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Louis Jarvis
Irvine Ranch Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Weghorst	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Huang
LaGrande Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zach Dennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Metropolitan Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Randall Neudeck	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Nina Hawk Sam Smalls
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trent Taylor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan Bartel
San Bernardino Valley Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Plinski	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heather Dyer
San Geronio Pass Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lance Eckhart	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Todd Emmett Campbell
Santa Clara Valley Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy Kao	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Katherine Maher
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steve Cole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ali Elhassan
Westside Water District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Allen Myers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rob Kunde	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheridan Nicholas
Zone 7 Water Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Valerie Pryor	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lillian Xie Chris Hentz

Authority, Non-Signatory (6)		Primary		Alternate
PCWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Horton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ben Barker
Roseville	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	George Hanson Joshua Alpine	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Sean Bigley Darin Reintjes
Sacramento County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kerry Schmitz	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Sites Project Authority:

Jerry Brown Ali Forsythe Kevin Spesert JP Robinette Joe Trapasso MJ Brown Alan Doud

Members of the Public

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Nancy Moricz	Kleinfelder	Brandee Blumenthal	USBR
Randy Wilson	Board of Supervisors	Nathan Monroe	Atlas
Richard Cruz	NCCRC	Jordan Gobel	Dewberry

Members of the Public

<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
Gary Evans	Land Owner	Kyle Hughes	Public
Xzandrea Fowler	Colusa County Community Development	Richard Welsh	Welsh Consulting LLC

Virtual Attendance

Virtual Attendees 80		
Marcia Kivett	Sikora, Jessica L (External)	
Wendy Ambriz	Katherine Maher (External)	Michael Plinski (External)
JP Robinette	m azevedo (Unverified)	Trent Taylor (External)
Conference	Marcus Maltby (External)	Anthony.Middleton
15304546811 (Unverified)	Rubina Chaudhary (External)	Desi Dikova (External)
SC Irvine Lake Conference Room (External)	15305240443 (Unverified)	Cheyenne Harris (External)
MJ Brown	Sara Snow (External)	Stout, Holly@DWR (External)
Suzzan Hunt (External)	Elsberry-Crabtree, Onallee (External)	Amshu Chappa (External)
Pamela Kattleba-Jenkins Westside Water	Luu, Henry (External)	Arsenijevic, Jelica (External)
Taylor, Natalie L (External)	Ayoub Antabeel	Shayleen (External)
Scott Brown (External)	Angela Bezzone (External)	Shayleen O'Connell (Unverified)
Wise, Mary (Cathy) (External)	Bill A (Unverified)	Ali Elhassan (External)
Cooke, Robert@DWR (External)	Ryan Shaw	Chandra Chilmakuri (External)
Mark Tomey County of Colusa Planning (Unverified)	Arshad, Zohaib A (External)	Joe Trapasso
Steve Cole (External)	Dawson, Elizabeth (External)	14155729204 (Unverified)
Steve Johnson (External)	Brian Kirwan (External)	
Marika Bernardi (External)	Pryor, Valerie (External)	
RRBWSD Admin (External)	Petya Vasileva CVWD (Unverified)	
Shelly Murphy (Unverified)	Young, Amy@DWR (she/her) (External)	
Jeff Kivett (External)	Barbara, Vincent F (External)	
Peterson, Stephen	Alex's AI Notetaker (Otter.ai) (Unverified)	
Lonnie Rejda (External)	Hentz, Chris (External)	
41432996920 (Unverified)	Eric Hernandez (External)	
jerry brown (External)	Smalls,Samuel L (External)	
Alexander, Jeriann (External)	Rivera, Itzia@DWR (External)	
Fritz Durst	Brian Thomas	
Foss, Elizabeth (External)	Sara M. Katz (External)	
Michael Starkey, Optics Biological (Unverified)	Conner McDonald (External)	
Lance Eckhart Pass Agency (External)	Laurie Warner Herson (External)	
Jeff Turner (Unverified)	15306192112 (Unverified)	
Matthias (Unverified)	Juleah Cordi (Unverified)	
Douglas Montague (External)	15308797424 (Unverified)	
Douglas McDonald (External)	Gardels, Derek (External)	
Neudeck,Randall D (External)	Spranza, John (External)	