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Reservoir Committee/Authority Board Meeting

July 24, 2026

Authority Board Chair:	Fritz Durst (Reclamation District 108)
Authority Board Vice Chair:	Jeff Sutton (Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District)
Reservoir Committee Chair:	Mike Urkov (Westside Water District)
Reservoir Committee Vice Chair:	Robert Cheng (Coachella Valley Water 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 9:00 a.m., followed by Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:

Authority Board: 7 members were present, constituting a quorum.

Reservoir Committee: 20 representatives (95.01%) were present, constituting a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Members of the Authority Board, Reservoir Committee and public introduced themselves.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

ACTION RC: Moved by Ms. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Navarrot, to approve the July 24, 2026, meeting agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ACTION AB: Moved by Director Evans, seconded by Director Kaplan, to approve the July 24, 2026, meeting agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel (GC) Doud announced that the Authority Board of Directors and the Reservoir Committee Members would consider Closed Session Items 5.1 and 5.2.

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Durst opened the period for public comment. Hearing no public comment, Chair Durst closed the period for public comment.

1. CONSENT AGENDA:

Reservoir Committee Vice Chair Cheng noted that the June 26, 2026, meeting minutes in item 4.1 referred to Reservoir Committee Chair Urkov as "Vice Chair" and requested the minutes be amended to reflect that Mr. Urkov is the Reservoir Committee Chair.

ACTION RC: Moved by Vice Chair Cheng, seconded by Ms. Pryor, to approve all items on the consent agenda, including the June 26, 2026, meeting minutes as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ACTION AB: It was moved by Vice Chair Sutton, seconded by Director Kaplan, to approve all items on the consent agenda, including the June 26, 2026, meeting minutes as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

1.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of June 26, 2026 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.

2. ACTION ITEMS:

2.1 Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of a consulting agreement/contract with Pacific Land and Energy, LLC (Dan O'Connell) to provide Deputy External Affairs Manager services in the amount not to exceed $25,275/month for the period of August 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Executive Director (ED) Brown introduced the item, explaining that the Deputy External Affairs Manager position is one of several key leadership positions identified in the Authority's organizational structure and previously included in the approved budget. He noted that filling the position is necessary to prepare the Authority for the next phases of project implementation.

Mr. Spesert explained that the Deputy External Affairs Manager would support the broader External Affairs program while leading the Authority's land acquisition efforts. He stated that the position would provide senior-level leadership for land acquisition, property management, public outreach, communications, and government affairs as the project transitions into construction.

Mr. Spesert reviewed the procurement process and stated that four proposals were received, three were determined to be responsive and interviewed, and the evaluation panel recommended Daniel O'Connell of Pacific Land and Energy, LLC as the most qualified candidate based on his experience in land development, right-of-way acquisition, as well as his established relationships within the project area. He explained that the proposed agreement would be effective August 1 through December 31, 2026, with compensation consistent with comparable public agency leadership positions.

Mr. Spesert further explained that Mr. O'Connell's initial responsibilities would focus on priority property acquisitions for early construction activities, implementation of the contingency acquisition program, and development of the Authority's land acquisition program in preparation for full project implementation.

Reservoir Committee Vice Chair Cheng asked whether the proposed duties represented a new function or work already being performed by existing staff. Mr. Spesert responded that he currently oversees those responsibilities, but the position would expand the Authority's capacity by transitioning leadership of land acquisition activities to the Deputy External Affairs Manager and, ultimately, the management of the larger acquisition program anticipated during construction.

Vice Chair Cheng also asked about the term of the agreement. Mr. Spesert confirmed that the agreement could be extended and ED Brown clarified that any extension would return to the Board for approval during the annual budget process.

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

ACTION AB: It was moved by Director Parker, seconded by Vice Chair Sutton, to approve agenda item 2.1. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

3.1 Receive and comment on the current draft of the Benefits & Obligations Contract, updated Bylaws, and amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement, which incorporate the direction provided at the June 26, 2026 board meeting as confirmed by the Participant Attorney Group.

ED Brown introduced the item, noting that staff had made substantial progress since the June 2026 workshop by incorporating Board direction and continuing discussions with the Participant Attorney Group. He explained that while additional work remained, the purpose of the discussion was to review the progress made, identify the remaining issues, and obtain Board direction on the final steps needed to complete the documents.

Mr. Robinette then summarized several issues that had been resolved since the June 2026 workshop, including standardizing contractual obligation language, clarifying participant delivery points and associated responsibilities, expanding provisions governing exchanges, addressing project wind-up and termination procedures, and continuing development of pro rata allocation equations intended to provide greater clarity for future project operations. He noted that participants had continued refining the mathematical calculations associated with pro rata provisions and that the additional work had helped identify areas requiring further clarification before finalizing the documents.

Mr. Robinette also explained that while documents were largely aligned with the state and federal partnership agreements, the California Water Commission funding agreement still required integration because certain funding provisions could affect the Benefits & Obligations Contract (B&O). Staff anticipated presenting the template funding agreement and recommended revisions at the August 2026 Board meeting.

Looking ahead, Mr. Robinette identified the remaining work necessary to finalize the documents, including operational assurances, potential participation changes and related financing considerations, water right conformance edits, final legal and clerical review, and completion of the Operations Plan. He stated that staff's objective was to finalize and ultimately "freeze" the documents once the remaining issues, water right proceedings, and participant commitments had been resolved.

Board members discussed the remaining work needed to finalize the B&O Contract, updated Bylaws, and Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement. Discussion focused on the California Water Commission funding agreement, including the State's anticipated approval rights related to amendments and participant sales or transfers of capacity.

Staff explained that the funding agreement had not yet been finalized and would be brought back to the Board for review along with any corresponding revisions to the B&O Contract.

The Board discussed development of the pro rata allocation equations that will implement the contract provisions governing project operations. Participants explained that while the contractual concepts were straightforward, the calculations required to administer storage, diversions, shortages, defaults, and other operational scenarios were significantly more complex. Board members supported continuing development of the equations through the Operations Plan and requested examples and workshop exercises to demonstrate how the calculations would function in practice.

Board members also discussed provisions related to water sales, capacity sales, exchanges, operational assurances, governance, and severability, requesting additional clarification and organization within the draft documents.

Additional discussion addressed implementation of operational exchanges, emergency drought supply provisions, and public benefit obligations. Participants requested further clarification regarding exchange timing, participant flexibility in using project water, emergency response planning, and reimbursement responsibilities associated with enforcement of project water rights.

Board members also discussed voting implications of future participant consolidation within Zone 3, consistency of definitions among the B&O Contract, Bylaws, Operations Plan, and Partnership Agreement, and the need for a comprehensive final review to ensure consistency across all project documents prior to execution.

The Board gave direction for Ad Hoc committee work as follows: (i) The Governance Ad Hoc is to evaluate the voting implications of Zone 3, (ii) the RC Chair is to establish an Ad Hoc workgroup to evaluate shared interests needed for reaching 100% participation. Both Ad Hocs are to bring back recommendations for Board consideration within their charge.

3.2 Receive a status update and provide feedback on the early draft of the Sites Project Baseline Report.

Mr. Robinette presented an early draft of the Project Baseline Report, explaining that additional time in the overall project schedule provided an opportunity to seek Board input before the document was finalized.

He stated that the report is intended to serve as a single source of consistent information to support participant and Board decision-making and is based on the table of contents previously presented in November. Mr. Robinette emphasized that the draft was provided to obtain feedback on the overall content and organization rather than the specific wording, noting that several sections remained under development.

Mr. Robinette continued by explaining that the report is organized around three primary questions: what participants receive through the project, what the project costs, and how those costs are paid. The draft describes the benefits associated with base storage capacity, downstream conveyance capacity, and reliable water supply created by the project, as well as broader public benefits including environmental water, flood management, recreation, and economic development. Staff also noted that the description of accessible storage would be updated to reflect current project information.

Mr. Robinette reported that the project construction cost estimate had not changed since the 2024 estimate and explained that the Plan of Finance remains the mechanism for projecting project expenditures over time. It was also stated that an updated project schedule and related cash flow information would be presented at a future meeting to support participants' capital improvement during planning and budgeting efforts.

Mr. Robinette also explained that sections addressing governance, operations, and schedule would continue to be refined as related project decisions, including the water right, are finalized. Participants were encouraged to provide comments regarding the information and topics they would like included in the report, rather than detailed editorial comments on draft language.

Board members expressed support for releasing the early draft and providing an opportunity for participant review before the report is finalized. Discussion focused primarily on identifying additional information that would improve the report as a decision-making resource for participants and their governing boards.

Board members recommended expanding the discussion of project benefits to better describe the value of emergency drought supplies, participant flexibility during drought conditions, and the opportunities created for future water transfers and exchanges.

Board members also requested additional discussion of operational considerations, including constraints affecting reservoir filling and releases, downstream conveyance limitations, and the distinction between releases, deliveries, and transfers. Board members also requested appendices or supporting materials summarizing modeling assumptions, participant-specific delivery information, and annual model outputs where appropriate.

Additional comments included incorporating examples of value engineering savings achieved during project development, expanding discussion of project risks have been incorporated into cost estimates, and including updated participant cost information as project schedules are finalized.

4. Reports:

4.1 Chairpersons' Reports:

Reservoir Committee Chair Urkov reported that some of the North Sate participants had been meeting to discuss options for maintaining North State participation in the project. He stated that an Ad Hoc group would likely be convened with representatives from the Reservoir Committee to develop and evaluate potential approaches for continued participation.

Chair Durst reported that some of the representatives of the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee would be meeting with California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, the Governor's Office, the Department of Water Resources, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Cal EPA to discuss the current status of the project, the path forward, and the project's significance to participating agencies and water districts.

4.2 Committee & Workgroup Chairpersons' Reports:

Mr. Kunde, as Chair of the Operations and Engineering Workgroup reported that at the July Workgroup meeting participants received an update on the first two years of Phase 3 activities, including design progress, upcoming land acquisition and pre-construction related activities. Mr. Kunde also noted that participants received a Conveyance Construction Manager at Risk update as well as an update on conveyance agreements.

Vice Chair Sutton, as Chair of the Legislative and Outreach Committee noted that the group met earlier in the month and received updates on activities related to the 2026 legislative priorities. Mr. Spesert added that

Landowner meetings originally planned for August would likely be moved to September.

4.3 **Authority Board & Reservoir Committee Participant Reports**:

Mr. Kunde reported on the recent water right activities, including comments submitted during the Administrative Hearing Officer's review process. He discussed concerns regarding the potential effects of the proposed permit terms on project yield and participant affordability, noting that the Administrative Hearing Officer had scheduled a supplemental hearing to further evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed permit conditions.

4.4 **Executive Director's Reports**:

ED Brown reported that the supplemental water right hearing noticed following the previous month's meeting was being held that day to allow additional information submitted in the Authority's comment letters to be entered into the administrative record. He noted that the Administrative Hearing Officer had determined the information would assist in evaluating the proposed terms and conditions of the water right permit and that the hearing was expected to be limited in scope.

ED Brown further reported that the Administrative Hearing Officer's revised schedule anticipates issuance of a revised draft order and permit on September 3, 2026, followed by a 30-day public comment period and consideration of the final order and permit by the State Water Resources Control Board on November 2 or 3, 2026.

5. CLOSED SESSION: 11:55 AM

5.1 Water Right Application 25517X01 (Govt. Code §54956.9(c) and §54956.9(d)(1)).

5.2 Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov. Code § 54956.8)

Property: [Colusa County] APNs 011-140-009, 011-190-015, 011-190-030 and 011-190-033

Agency negotiators: Jerry Brown, Kevin Spesert

Negotiating parties: Holthouse TIC, LLC

Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

6. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION: 12:43 PM

GC Doud reported that no action was taken in closed session.

7. **Recap:**

7.1 Suggested Future Agenda Items.

None.

7.2 **Upcoming Meetings:**
Reservoir Committee & Authority Board
August 21, 2026 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

Maxwell Project Office & Virtual

Chair Durst adjourned the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board Meeting at 12:45p.m.

____
Fritz Durst, Authority Board Chair Mike Urkov, Reservoir Committee Chair

____
Wendy Ambriz, Board Clerk

Current Voting Committee Participants (22):

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

20 Voting members represented at the start of the meeting
95.01% Represented participation percentage.

Representation has been delegated as follows:

(1) Proxy to Jamie Traynham, Davis WD

(‡) Not present after ________

Current Voting Authority Board (8)		**Primary**		**Alternate**
Colusa County	☒	Gary Evans	☐	Randy Wilson
Colusa County Water District	☐	Joe Marsh	☐ ☒	Hal Charter Shelly Murphy
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	☒	Jeff Sutton	☐	Logan Dennis
Reclamation District 108	☒	Fritz Durst	☐ ☐	Sean Doherty Hilary Reinhard
Placer County Water Agency/City of Roseville	☐	Pauline Roccucci	☒	Karen Alvord
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	☐	Bill Vanderwaal	☐	Jim Jones Zack Dennis
City of Sacramento/Sacramento County	☒	Lisa Kaplan	☐ ☐	Anne Sangar Brett Ewart
Westside Water District	☒	Doug Parker	☐ ☐	Zach Dennis Allen Myers

Associate Members (non-voting)		**Primary**		**Alternate**
Glenn County	☐	Tony Arendt	☒	Jim Yoder
Western Canal Water District	☐	Greg Johnson	☒ ☒	Ted Trimble Jenny Scheer
Zone 3	☒	Mike Urkov	☐	Jamie Traynham

Non-Voting Committee Participants (2)		**Primary**		**Alternate/Other**
Department of Water Resources	☒	David Gordon	☐	Lincoln King
Bureau of Reclamation	☐ ☒	Scott Taylor Allison Jacobson	☐	Jesse Sikora

Current Voting Reservoir Committee (22)		**Primary**		**Alternate**
American Canyon, City	☒	Jason Holley	☐	
Antelope Valley-East Kern WA	☐	Matt Knudson	☐	
Coachella Valley Water District	☒	Robert Cheng	☐	Petya Vasileva
Colusa County	☒	Mike Azevedo	☒	Daurice Kalfsbeek Smith
Colusa County Water District	☐	Halbert Charter	☒	Shelly Murphy
Cortina Water District	☐	Jim Peterson	☐ ☒	Chuck Grimmer Jamie Traynham
Davis Water District	☒	Jamie Traynham	☐	Tom Charter
Desert Water Agency	☒	Esther Saenz	☒	David Tate

Meeting Attendance — **July 24, 2026**

Agenda Item 1.1, Attachment B — **9:00AM– 12:00PM**

Dunnigan Water District	☒	Jordon Navarrot	☐	
RD 108	☒	Jordon Navarrot	☒	Lewis Bair
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District	☒	Logan Dennis	☒	Louis Jarvis
Irvine Ranch Water District	☒	Paul Weghorst	☒	Robert Huang
LaGrande Water District	☐	Zach Dennis	☐	
Metropolitan Water District	☒	Randall Neudeck	☐ ☒	Nina Hawk Sam Smalls
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water District	☒	Trent Taylor	☐	Dan Bartel
San Bernardino Valley Water District	☒	Michael Plinski	☐	Heather Dyer
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency	☒	Lance Eckhart	☐ ☐	Jennifer Ustation Emmett Campbell
Santa Clara Valley Water District	☒	Katherine Maher	☒	Cindy Kao
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	☐	Steve Cole	☒	Ali Elhassan
Westside Water District	☐	Allen Myers	☒	Mike Urkov
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District	☒	Rob Kunde	☐ ☐	Sheridan Nicholas Eric McDaris
Zone 7 Water Agency	☒	Valerie Pryor	☐	Ken Minn

Authority Shared Seats		Primary		Alternate
Roseville	☐ ☐	George Hanson Joshua Alpine	☐ ☐	Sean Bigley Darin Reintjes
Sacramento County	☐	Kerry Schmitz	☐	

Sites Project Authority:

☒ Jerry Brown	☐ Ali Forsythe	☒ Kevin Spesert	☒ JP Robinette	☒ Shayleen O'Connell	☒ Wendy Ambriz	☒ Alan Doud
☒ Kyle Hughes		☐ Rob Natoli	☐ Mario Manzo	☒ Conner McDonald	☒ Sarah Hodge	

Members of the Public

Name	*Representing*	*Name*	*Representing*
Chuck Adamson	OE3	Jesse Johnson	OE3
Paul Bews	Ghiradelli Associates	Masood Mesbah	Kleinfelder
Jeff Nelson	Parsons	Mike Gabaldon	Dewberry
Eric Strothan	Kleinfelder	Maria Muniozguren	Land Owner

Members of the Public

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Juleah Cordi	Congressman Gallagher	Onalee-Elsberry-Crabtree	HDR
Michael Drennan	Parsons	David Haywood	GFT
Christy Scofield	Public	John Troughter	

Virtual Attendance

Virtual Attendance	**68**	
Sarah Hodge	Trent Taylor (External)	Andy Fecko (External)
Wendy Ambriz	Luu, Henry (External)	JP Robinette
Conference	read.ai meeting notes (Unverified)	Jacobson, Allison M (External)
15304546811 (Unverified)	15307523062 (Unverified)	Ryan Shaw
Tom Jacoubowsky	Ali Elhassan (External)	Joy Eldredge (External)
Jim Yoder (External)	Foss, Elizabeth (External)	Holland Stewart
Pamela Katleba-Jenkins Westside Water	Smalls,Samuel L	Esther Saenz (External)
Fritz Durst	Ryan,Russell E	Alan Boyce (External)
Anthony.Middleton	Molly R. Mattison	Logan Dennia (Unverified)
Joseph Sullivan (External)	Pryor, Valerie (External)	Elizabeth L. Cousins
Robert Huang (External)	Robins, Rhonda (External)	Fireflies.ai Notetaker Ricky Kahlon (Unverified)
Peterson, Stephen	Sara M. Katz (External)	Lewis Bair (External)
Conner McDonald	Alcott, Derrick@Wildlife	Cook, Matt (External)
Neudeck,Randall D	Brian Thomas (External)	Rude, Pete
Ben Frisius/Redding Air Service (Unverified)	Young, Amy@DWR (External)	Micko,Steve
David Tate (External)	Timothy J Saenz (External)	Rob Natoli
Phil Brun (External)	Michael Plinski (External)	Grace Lui
Louis Jarvis (External)	Kolkey, Jamie	Joe Feeney
Jerry Brown	Marcus Maltby (External)	Shelly Murphy (Unverified)
Jamie Traynham (Unverified)	Rivera, Itzia@DWR (External)	Mickey Nixon (External)
Robert Cheng	Cindy Kao (External)	Alvord, Karen
Lance Eckhart Pass Agency (External)	Robinson, Eric (External)	Jason Brown (External)
Deaver, Katerina@DWR (External)		Cheyanne Butcher (External)