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 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Waterhouse on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 12:30p.m., at the Semitropic Water Storage District (District) office located at 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California.

Directors Present:	Dan Waterhouse, Tim Thomson, Philip Portwood, Chad W. Carroll, Todd Tracy, Jeff Fabbri, David Daniel	
Directors Absent:	None	
Other Participants:	General Manager, Jason Gianquinto District Engineer, Isela Medina District Controller, Bobby Salinas District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz District Superintendent, John LynchReceptionist, Yesenia Ramirez District Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani Larry Rodriguz (GEI) Greg Allen (REDtrac) Dean Florez (Balance) Geoff King (Barbich Hooper King) Mark Gehring (Barbich Hooper King)) Geoff Vanden Heuvel (Milk Producers Counsil) Floyd Wicks (Agua Via) Oscar Lopez (Wonderful Orchards) Brent Hankins (Hankins Farms)Maddie Reyes (Illume Ag.) Madonna Lang (Laborde Land) Justin Murray (AG Thought) Travis Millwee (Pacific Resources) Steven Piggott (Nuveen Natural Capitol) Kaho Kong (Valley Water) Ty Alexander (Manulife) Arnoldo Barajas (Manulife) Jake Bittle	

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Agenda

No Action; no changes to the Agenda.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2025, and the GSA Meeting of May 14, 2025, were presented for approval.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Tracy and unanimously carried, the minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2025, and the GSA Meeting May 14, 2025, were approved as presented.

Consider Acceptance of 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements

Mr. Geoff King of Barbich Hooper King Dill Hoffman presented the Audited Financial Statements for 2023-2024. Mr. Mark Gehring of Barbich Hooper King Dill Hoffman stated that there were no disagreements or issues to the report.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Portwood and unanimously carried the Board accepted the Audited Financial Statements for 2023-2024.

Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer's report for May 2025 were presented for review and approval.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Portwood and unanimously carried, the Treasurer's Reports for May 2025 for the Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District were approved for filing.

Financial Report

The District Controller, Bobby Salinas, reviewed the Income Statements for May 2025 and noted that the Financial Report was not presented due to new system updates.

Accounts Pavable

The Cash Disbursement List for June 11, 2025, was presented for review, approval, and payment.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Thomson and unanimously carried, the Board authorized payment of the Accounts Payable as listed on the June 11, 2025, 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 2025 Budget Update

District Controller, Bobby Salinas, presented the updated 2025 Budget.

On Motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Tracy and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the updated 2025 Budget.

<u>Consider Award of Construction Contract for Specifications No. PP-505 for Constructing</u> <u>the Delta Pipeline Improvements Project</u>

District Engineer, Isela Medina, presented an update on the Delta Pipeline Improvements Project and provided an overview of the bids received.

On Motion by Director Carrol, seconded by Director Thomson and unanimously carried, the Board authorized award of the contract to Nicholas Construction for Specification No. PP-505 for construction of the Delta Pipeline Improvements Project.

<u>Consider GEI Task Order 03-2025 for Providing Construction Management Services to</u> <u>Support the Implementation of the Delta Pipeline Improvements Project</u>

District Engineer, Isela Medina, presented an overview of GEI Task Order 03-2025 that was included in the Board Packet and requested approval from the Board.

On Motion by Director Fabbri, seconded by Director Portwood and unanimously carried, the Board authorized execution of GEI Task Order 03-2025 for Providing Construction Management Services to Support the Implementation of the Delta Pipeline Improvements Project.

<u>Consider Emergency Declaration and Resolution No. ST 25-03 Authorizing Emergency</u> <u>Work Without Giving Notice for Bids Pursuant to Public Contract Code Sect 22050 (a)(1) to</u> <u>Address Immediate Replacement of Discharge Manifold Pipe for the Pond Poso PP</u>

District Engineer, Isela Medina presented an overview of the proposed <u>Emergency</u> <u>Declaration and Resolution No. ST 25-03</u> that was included in the Board Packet and requested approval from the Board. On Motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Daniel and unanimously carried by roll call vote, the Board adopted the Resolution No. ST 25-03.

The General Manager called for a roll call vote to approve <u>Resolution No. ST 25-03</u>. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors Waterhouse, Portwood, Daniel, Thomson,		
	Tracy, Carroll, and Fabbri		
NOES:	None		
ABSENT:	None		
ABSTAIN:	None		

The President announced that the motion carried.

<u>Consider Work Authorization and Agreement with WM Lyles for Replacement of</u> <u>Discharge Manifold Pipe for the Pond Poso PP</u>

District Engineer, Isela Medina, presented an overview of the Work Authorization and Agreement with WM Lyles for Replacement of Discharge Manifold Pipe for the Pond Poso PP and recommend approval from the Board.

On Motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Carroll, the Board adopted the Work Authorization and Agreement with WM Lyles for Replacement of Discharge Manifold Pipe for the Pond Poso PP

1:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING - NOTICE OF FILING OF PRELIMINARY ROLL REGARDING GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES AND FIXING OF PRELIMINARY RATES APPLICABLE THERETO AND OF TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING OF OBJECTIONS TO ROLL (2025; COLLECTED 2025-2026), AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ADOPTING THE ROLL, SETTING SERVICE CHARGES, ETC.: (i) RESOLUTION NO. PP 25-04, (ii) RESOLUTION BW NO. 25-04, and (iii) RESOLUTION NO. ST 25-04

President Waterhouse called the Hearing to order at 1:03 p.m. and stated that this was the time and place for the public hearing to hear objections to the preliminary roll for General Administrative and General Project Service Charges and to finalize the rolls and rates for said service charges for 2025-2026.

District's legal counsel, Steve Torigiani, stated that at the May 14, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Directors, with adoption of Resolutions Nos. BW 25-02 and PP 25-02, the Board preliminarily fixed the amounts to be collected for the General Administrative and General Project Service Charges for 2025 for the Buttonwillow Improvement District and Pond-Poso Improvement District. Mr. Torigiani offered the following items to be marked as indicated and attached to these Minutes:

Affidavits of Publication prepared by The Bakersfield Californian showing publication of the Notice of Filing of Preliminary Roll and Rates and of this Hearing.

To be marked Exhibit B-BW and Exhibit B-PP.

Affidavit of Mailing of Notice of this Hearing to landowners in the Buttonwillow and Pond-Poso Improvement Districts expected to receive a charge.

To be marked Exhibit C.

A reduced copy of the map in the roll of the Semitropic Water Storage District and the Buttonwillow and Pond-Poso Improvement Districts for reference as needed.

To be marked Exhibit D.

A Memorandum from General Manager Jason Gianquinto dated June 11, 2025.

To be marked Exhibit E.

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Portwood and unanimously carried by roll call vote, all the Exhibits heretofore offered and marked as Exhibits B through E were received and will be attached to the minutes and made a part of the record of the public hearing. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Directors Waterhouse, Portwood, Daniel, Thomson,		
Tracy, Carroll, and Fabbri		
None		
None		
None		

The President announced that the motion carried.

District Council Steve Torigiani reported that as described in the resolutions adopted at the May 14, 2025, Board of Director's meeting, the preliminary rates developed are as follows:

For Buttonwillow Improvement District, the General Administrative Service Charge is \$1.50 per acre and the General Project Service Charge is \$139.40 per acre. The Special Minimum General Project Service Charge for recreational land and irrigated native pasture is \$10.90 per acre, and made no change to the New Lands Surcharge.

For Pond-Poso Improvement District, the General Administrative Service Charge is \$1.50

per acre and the General Project Service Charge is \$139.40 per acre. The Special Minimum General Project Service Charge for recreational land and irrigated native pasture is \$10.90 per acre, and made no change to the New Lands Surcharge

President Waterhouse asked if any person at the hearing desired to make any objections or comments. There were no objections or comments made or submitted verbally or in writing at the hearing. Staff confirmed that no written or verbal objections or comments regarding the preliminary roll or rates for said service charges, including final adoption and fixing of the same, were received by the District prior to the hearing regarding this matter, and President Waterhouse closed the Hearing.

Legal counsel, Steve Torigiani stated that now is the time and place set by the Board to adopt the final Roll and fix the General Administrative and General Project Service Charges. He stated the action taken by the Board would be in the form of resolutions requiring a roll call vote.

On motion by Director Daniel, seconded by Director Portwood, the Semitropic Board of Directors adopted the following **Resolution No. BW 25-04**. The General Manager called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors Waterhouse, Portwood, Daniel, Thomson, Tracy, and Carroll
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Fabbri
ABSTAIN:	None

The President announced that the motion carried.

Resolution No. BW 25-04

RESOLUTION FINALIZING ROLL OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES; FIXING RATES PER ACRE FOR SAID CHARGES; ORDERING THAT THE SAME BE COLLECTED FROM THE OWNERS OF LANDS RECEIVING THE BENEFIT THEREOF AND ELECTING THAT SUCH CHARGES BE COLLECTED BY THE COUNTY OF KERN (2025; COLLECTED 2025-2026)

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Thomson, the Semitropic Board of Directors adopted the following **Resolution No. PP 25-04**. The General Manager called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

AYES:Directors Waterhouse, Portwood, Daniel, Thomson, Tracy, and CarrollNOES:NoneABSENT:FabbriABSTAIN:None

The President announced that the motion carried.

RESOLUTION FINALIZING ROLL OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND

GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES; FIXING RATES PER ACRE FOR SAID CHARGES; ORDERING THAT THE SAME BE COLLECTED FROM THE OWNERS OF LANDS RECEIVING THE BENEFIT THEREOF AND ELECTING THAT SUCH CHARGES BE COLLECTED BY THE COUNTY OF KERN (2025; COLLECTED 2025-2026)

In furtherance of collection of the General Administrative and General Project Service Charges by the County, the following action was taken.

On motion by Director Thomson, seconded by Director Daniel, the Board adopted the following **Resolution No. ST 25-04**. The General Manager called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote

AYES:Directors Waterhouse, Portwood, Daniel, Thomson, Tracy, and CarrollNOES:NoneABSENT:FabbriABSTAIN:NoneThe President announced that the motion carried.

Resolution No. ST 25-04

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTY OF KERN AND THE SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT FOR THE COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS (GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES)

SEMITROPIC WSD GSA UPDATE

At 1:25 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 an update regarding the District's SGMA related activities.

Discussion and possible action to: (1) approve final draft amendments to Groundwater Sustainability Plan and supporting addendices including appendix of projects and management actions for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, (2) authorize their submission by the Kern County Subbasin Point of Contact to the State Water Resources Control Board before June 20th for review by SWRCB staff, and (3) authorize their release for public review and comment.

Following discussion of the above described-item, on motion by Director Thomson, seconded by Director Carroll and unanimously carried, the Board approved the submittal of the final draft amendments to the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan and supporting addendices including appendix of projects and management actions for the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, authorized their submission by the Kern County Subbasin Point of Contact to the State Water Resources Control Board before June 20th for review by SWRCB staff, and authorized their

release for public review and comment.

The GSA meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

SWRU - Construction Update by W.M. Lyles

W.M. Lyle's Representative, Rick Amigh, was not present. W.M. Lyle's progress report was included with the Board Packet.

Consulting Engineer's Report

Larry Rodriguez, from GEI Consultants, presented and summarized GEI's Consulting Engineering Report for May 2025, which was provided on the day of the Board Meeting.

Balance Public Relations

Dean Florez of Balance Public Relations gave a brief review on his monthly report included with the Board Packet.

REDtrac

Greg Allen of REDTrac presented and summarized the Well Telemetry Project and Energy Cost Allocation Report. . A report from REDTrac was provided on the day of the Board Meeting.

INFORMATIONAL AND UP-DATE ITEMS

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto, informed the Board of the recent SWP allocation increase to 50% and noted that District staff are working with our banking partners to update their banking needs for 2025.

District Engineer, Isela Medina, provided a summary of the District's Engineer's activities discussed in the Staff Report.

District Superintendent, John Lynch, provided an overview of the Operations and Maintenance Report included in the Board Packet.

At 2:30pm, President Waterhouse adjourned the Regular Board meeting, and it was reported that there was a need for the Board to reconvene to closed session.

Closed Session

At 2:45 pm the meeting continued with Closed Session.

Participants included:

Directors Present:	Dan Waterhouse, Tim Thomson, Philip Portwood, Chad Carroll, Todd Tracy, David Daniel, Jeff Fabbri
Directors Absent:	None
Other Participants:	District Controller, Bobby Salinas District's Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani District Engineer, Isela Medina District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz

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) Sierra Club, et al., v. DWR, Sacramento County Sup. Ct., Case No. 24WM000008, and related cases, challenging DCP EIR
- 6) DWR v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Authorization of Delta Conveyance Program Bonds, etc., Sacramento County Sup. Ct., Case No. 25CV000704
- b. Conference with Legal Counsel Re: Anticipated Litigation: Possible exposure to litigation pursuant Gov't Code § 54956.9(d)(2).
 1) Two Items.
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel Re: Anticipated Litigation: Possible initiation of litigation pursuant to Govt. Code § 54956.9(d)(4)
 1) Two Items
- 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

At 3:33 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 3:44p.m. by President Waterhouse.

APPROVED:

Daniel Waterhouse, President

2000 Tracy, Secretary

Board Day Presentation SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

DISBURSEMENTS TO BE APPROVED AT June 11, 2025 BOARD MEETING

MAY AFTER BOARD MEETING

SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Special Projects

1 2	Concepts in Controls, Inc SCADA System Upgrade Phase 2 GEI Consultants*	\$	50,123.00 173,459,90
3	Kehoe Testing & Engineering, Inc Geotechnical Evaluations for potential subsurface recharge sites	\$	33,592.50 257,175.40
<u>Operat</u>	tion Maintenance		
4	Acid Source, Inc- sulfuric acid	\$	9,180.00
5	Avadine- engineer/analyst - 2025 Dataset Export/Isela Medina		105.00
6	Bakersfield Drug Testing- drug tests		115.00
7	Bakersfield Paint & Wallpaper- pumping plant paint		3,554.36
8	BSK Analytical Laboratories- water testing for well sampling program		8,574.00
9	FedEx- packages		95,76
10	Frontier Communications - data communication for substation		72.75
11	Gas Company- office utilities		57.74
12	Grapevine MSP Technology Services- MSP Agrmnt, Patch Mgmt., Secure offsite data backup, adv.email secury (June)		4,343.80
13	Jeffries Bros., Inc gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products		10,514.66
14	Knight's Pumping & Portable - portable toilet & services		506,05
15	Northern Digital, Inc ST3 Turbine Generator PLC troubleshooting and repair		7,281.83
16	Office Depot- office supplies		234.58
17	Perkins, Scott- safety boots		100.00
18	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		258.33
19	Pitney Bowes Bank Inc Purchase Power- supplies		368.34
20	SBS of Bakersfield, Inc office copier (copy charges for May)		338.20
21	Sparkle Uniform & Linen Service- uniforms, shop mats, & towels rental & office apparel		837.86
22	Tel-Tec Security Systems, Inc DMP Wireless Repeater		419.75
23	Waterbender LLC - scale inhibitor		1,158.39
	Operating Expense Subto	tal \$	48,116.40

TOTAL BILLS FOR MAY AFTER BOARD MEETING \$ 305,291.80

+ (Additional disbursements or adjusted amounts.)

*(See page 2 for Special Project Funds)

**(See page 2 for breakdown)



**BREAKDOWN OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR June 11, 2025 BOARD MEETING

GEI Consultants, Inc. - *

General engineering fees, GW Modeling & expenses	\$ 24,982.55
SGMA Implementation	35,219.31
IRWMP Expense	343.13 R
Tulare Lake Flood Control Project	1,406.42
Delta Pipeline Improv. Project	111,508.49 G
	\$173,459.90

G	Grant
R	Reimbursed

\$ 111,508.49
343.13
\$ 111,851.62

JUNE 2025 BOARD MAILING

SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Special Projects

24	Downey Brand- professional services Tulare Lake Flood control proj.	\$	735.00
25	Downey Brand- professional services Groundwater Issues		16,876.00
26	W.M. Lyles Co- SWRU Phase 2 System X		1,388.75
27	Shafter Wasco Publishing, LLC- legal advertising for PCCP Delta Pipeline		1,847.32 G
28	Young Wooldridge*		18,258.05
		Special Projects Subtotal \$	39,105.12

<u>Opera</u>	tion Maintenance		
29	Acid Source, Inc- sulfuric acid	\$	9,120.00
30	American Refuse- trash service for shop	•	308.54
31	American TireTec-used tire disposal		11.20
32	AT&T- telephone services		1,360.79
33	AT&T- long distance charges		49.63
34	Avadine- engineer/analyst - senior & monthly software products license maintenance/support agreement May		950.00
35	The Bakersfield Californian- legal notices		2,295.76
36	Bakersfield Paint & Wallpaper- pumping plant paint		1,619.98
37	Balance Public Relations- lobbying services		13,500.00
38	BSK Analytical Laboratories- water testing for well sampling program		3,806.00
39	Buena Vista Groundwater Sustainability Agency- funding for the SGMA CC		17,234.29
40	Charter Communications (Spectrum)- internet		356.25
41	Coastline Equipment - John Deere backhoe repair		1,162.04
42	Coverall - office cleaning services for June		702.00
43	FedEx- packages		129.31
44	Grainger- high voltage phase & volt meter		2,981.45
45	Hernandez, Aldo- safety boots		100.00
46	Home Depot- May supplies for O&M		781.41
47	Jeffries Bros., Inc gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products		7,571.20
48	Jim Burke Ford- May shop supplies		2,916.43
49	Kern Delta Water District- billing for share of Kern Subbasin Legal Representation		3,000.00
50	Linde Gas & Equipment. Inc cylinder rental		58.15
51	McMaster-Carr- pump repair supplies & semi #3 Hydro generator hydraulic power unit		206.38
52	Myers Diesel Repair. Inc Unit #325 repair		9,886.63
53	O'Reilly Auto Parts- shop supplies		1,292.37
54	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		4,957.93
55	Primo Brands- water for shop		472.65
56	RedTrac, LLC Well Telem Monitoring (June)		5,354.00
57	Reserve Account- postage		1,000.00
58	Richland Chevrolet- parts and supplies for May		11,292.23
59	Sparkle Uniform & Linen Service- uniforms, shop mats, & towels rental & office apparel		885.55
60	T-Mobile - internet access for communication with Solar Site		27.00
61	Tel-Tec Security Systems, Inc service labor & shop monitoring services (June)		220.00
62	United Tracking Systems, LLC- Water Dashboard Subscription		8,241.00
63	US Postal Service- renewal fee for PO Box 8043		382.00
64	Verizon Wireless - cell phones substation, solar site, on call, superintendent, dispatch, IT, CFO, & General Manager		664,23
65	City of Wasco- water, sewer, and trash services for office (May)		901.73
66	Wasco Automotive & Smog- smog inspection on units #04, #196 and #198		180.00
67	Waterbender LLC - scale inhibitor		4,653.50
68	Wells Fargo Business Cards-**		8,471.11
69	Zultys, Inc monthly charges for phone system (June)		997.97
	Operating Expense Subt	otal \$	130,100.71

SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Easements Delta Pipeline Project

70	Payvand Farms LLC	\$ 6,735.50
	David Te Velde and Alice Te Velde	810.00
	Candy Grapes JV. LLC	125.00
	Magnolia Pacific Farms, LLC	7,114.50
	Magnolia Almonds, LLC	23,519.00
	G3 Farms, LLC	169.00
		\$ <u>38,473.00</u> G

TOTAL BILLS FOR JUNE BOARD MAILING	\$	207,678,83
	Ψ	201,010.00

S.W.S.D - Payroll Accounts - transfer of funds from S.I.D. for May payroll \$ 577,646.85

JUNE 2025 AFTER BOARD MAILING

SEMITROPIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Special Projects

72	Kenneth Schmidt and Associates- Groundwater Monitoring Program W.M. Lyles Co- Operate 300 CFS RWPP 2025		5,571.00 R 17,542.44
		Special Projects Subtotal \$ _	23,113.44

<u>Opera</u>	tion Maintenance		
73	De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc office copier (June)	\$	401.17
74	Jeffries Bros., Inc gasoline, diesel fuel & petroleum products		2,779,71
75	Kern Trophies- new name plate for board member		41.14
76	Office Depot- office supplies		567.49
77	PG&E Company - ownership line, power charges & utilities on PG&E lines		1,038.96
78	A.C. Poettgen- monthly cylinder rental (May 2025)		126.00
79	Shafter Parts and Supply, Inc May shop supplies for O&M		3,887.42
80	South Tulare Richgrove Refuse Inc trash service for drilling yard		506.88
81	Strategic Policies LLC- consulting services and expenses for May		6,060.00
		Operating Expense Subtotal \$	15,408.77

TOTAL BILLS FOR JUNE 2025 AFTER BOARD MAILING \$ 38,522.21

TOTAL BILLS FOR MAY 2025 AFTER BOARD MEETING	\$ 305,291.80
TOTAL BILLS FOR JUNE 2025 BOARD MAILING	\$ 207,678.83
TOTAL BILLS FOR JUNE 2025 AFTER BOARD MAILING	
TOTAL BILLS TO BE APPROVED AT BOARD MEETING	\$ 551,492.84

+ (Additional disbursements or adjusted amounts.)

*(See page 5 for Special Project Funds)

**(See page 5 for breakdown)

**BREAKDOWN OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR June 11, 2025 BOARD MEETING

68	Wells	Fargo	Business	Cards**	
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Operating Supplies - Bobby Salinas	\$ 5	599.00
Operating Supplies- Ralph Sanchez	2	275.41
Operating Supplies- John Lynch	5,7	788.69
Operating Supplies- Yesenia Ramirez	1,4	426.12
Travel expenses - Isela Medina		115.55
Fuel & Operating Supplies- Jason Gianquinto	2	266.34
	\$8,4	471.11

28 Young, Wooldridge, LLP - *

Legal fees & expenses	\$ 13,662.55
High Speed Rail Project Phase 7 -	877.50 R
Delta Pipeline Conv. Improv. Project	3,636.75 G
Subsurface Recharge	81.25 G
	\$ 18,258.05

G Grant	\$ 44,038.32
R Reimbursed	6,448.50
	\$50,486.82

Proof of Publication

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN 4900 CALIFORNIA AVE STE 100A BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

SEMITROPIC WATER STGE & BNKNG P.O. BOX 8043 WASCO CA 93280 US

Ad Number: 475954 PO #: Edition: CALC Run Times 2 Class Code LEGAL NOTICES Start Date 05/21/2025 Stop Date 05/28/2025 Billing Lines 65.00 Inches 6.5175001 Total Cost \$ 1147.88 Account 91808 Billing **SEMITROPIC WATER STGE & BNKNG** Address P.O. BOX 8043 **WASCO CA 93280** US

STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF KERN

Solicitor I.D.: 0

First Text

I AM A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES AND A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY AFORESAID: I AM OVER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND NOT A PARTY OR INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED MATTER. I AM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CLERK OF THE PRINTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN, A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED DAILY IN THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD COUNTY OF KERN,

AND WHICH NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN ADJUDGED A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION BY THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, UNDER DATE OF FEBRUARY 5, 1952, CASE NUMBER 57610; THAT THE NOTICE, OF WHICH THE ANNEXED IS A PRINTED COPY, HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN EACH REGULAR AND ENTIRE ISSUE OF SAID NEWSPAPER AND NOT IN ANY SUPPLEMENT THEREOF ON THE FOLLOWING DATES, TO WIT;

05/21/2025 05/28/2025

ALL IN YEAR 2025

I CERTIFY (OR DECLARE) UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

DATED AT BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIA

SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE

Ad Number 475954

EXHIBIT B - BW



SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF BUTTONWILLOW IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF THE SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

NOTICE OF FILING OF PRELIMINARY ROLL AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES AND FIXING OF PRELIMINARY RATES APPLICABLE THERETO AND OF TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING OF OBJECTIONS TO ROLL (2025 COLLECTED 2025-2026)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a roll, prepared pursuant to resolution of the Board of Directors of the Semitropic Water Storage District, acting for and on behalf of said Improvement District, fixing the amount of such charges to be collected for 2025-2026, setting forth the assessee parcels and the assessee names of each parcel of assessable land in the District, and the acreage and classification of each such parcel as is to receive a General Administrative Service Charge and/or a General Project Service Charge and rates established pursuant to said resolution, is open for public inspection at the District office, 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California, upon request by calling the District's general phone number: (661) 758-5113.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that 1:00 p.m., June 11, 2025, at the District Office, 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California, is the time and place of public meeting of said Board of Directors for hearing of objections to the charges established for said respective tracts of land in accordance with the matters set forth in said roll, for finalizing said roll; for finally fixing rates for said respective charges; and to order that, unless otherwise provided, said charges be collected by the County of Kern with regular County taxes due and payable in 2025-2026.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the rates for said charges, computed to the closest multiple of \$0.10 per acre, to be applied to the categories of lands set forth in said roll, are as follows:

	Category	Rate
(1)	Charge for tracts less than one acre in area	\$ 0.00 per parcel
(2)	Tracts receiving only General Administrative Service Charge - Preliminary Rate	\$ 1.50 per acre
(3)	Composite rate for tracts receiving both charges (General Administrative Service Charge of \$1.50 per acre and General Project Service Charge of \$137.90 per acre) - Preliminary Rate	\$139.40 per acre
(4)	Special composite rate for tracts developed for recreation uses and for irrigated native pasture (General Administrative Service Charge of \$1.50 per acre and special minimum General Project Service Charge of \$9.40 per acre) - Preliminary Rate	\$10.90 per acre
(5)	Special composite rate for tracts developed after July 1, 2017 (New Lands Surcharge) – Rate	\$500.00 per acre foot

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that questions regarding this matter may be directed to the District at P.O. Box 8043, Wasco, California 93280, or by phone, (661) 758-5113, to the attention of Mr. Jason Gianquinto.

DATED: May 12, 2025

/s/ Todd Tracy

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Proof of Publication

THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN 4900 CALIFORNIA AVE STE 100A BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

SEMITROPIC WATER STGE & BNKNG P.O. BOX 8043 WASCO CA 93280 US

Ad Number: 475955 PO #: Edition: CALC Run Times 2 Class Code LEGAL NOTICES Start Date 05/21/2025 Stop Date 05/28/2025 Billing Lines 65.00 Inches 6.5175001 Total Cost \$ 1147.88 Account 91808 Billing SEMITROPIC WATER STGE & BNKNG Address P.O. BOX 8043 WASCO CA 93280 US

STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF KERN

I AM A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES AND A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY AFORESAID: I AM OVER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS, AND NOT A PARTY OR INTERESTED IN THE ABOVE ENTITLED MATTER. I AM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CLERK OF THE PRINTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN, A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED DAILY IN THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD COUNTY OF KERN,

AND WHICH NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN ADJUDGED A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION BY THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, UNDER DATE OF FEBRUARY 5, 1952, CASE NUMBER 57610; THAT THE NOTICE, OF WHICH THE ANNEXED IS A PRINTED COPY, HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN EACH REGULAR AND ENTIRE ISSUE OF SAID NEWSPAPER AND NOT IN ANY SUPPLEMENT THEREOF ON THE FOLLOWING DATES, TO WIT:

05/21/2025 05/28/2025

ALL IN YEAR 2025

I CERTIFY (OR DECLARE) UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

DATED AT BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIA

Solicitor I.D.: 0

First Text SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE

Ad Number 475955

EXHIBIT B - PP



SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF POND-POSO IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF THE SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

NOTICE OF FILING OF PRELIMINARY ROLL AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES AND FIXING OF PRELIMINARY RATES APPLICABLE THERETO AND OF TIME AND PLACE OF HEARING OF OBJECTIONS TO ROLL (2025; COLLECTED 2025-2026)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a roll, prepared pursuant to resolution of the Board of Directors of the Semitropic Water Storage District, acting for and on behalf of said Improvement District, fixing the amount of such charges to be collected for 2025-2026, setting forth the assessee parcels and the assessee names of each parcel of assessable land in the District, and the acreage and classification of each such parcel as is to receive a General Administrative Service Charge and/or a General Project Service Charge and rates established pursuant to said resolution, is open for public inspection at the District Office, 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California, upon request by calling the District's general phone number: (661) 758-5113.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that 1:00 p.m., June 11, 2025, at the District Office, 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California, is the time and place of public meeting of said Board of Directors for hearing of objections to the charges established for said respective tracts of land in accordance with the matters set forth in said roll, for finalizing said roll; for finally fixing rates for said respective charges; and to order that, unless otherwise provided, said charges be collected by the County of Kern with regular County taxes due and payable in 2025-2026.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the rates for said charges, computed to the closest multiple of \$0.10 per acre, to be applied to the categories of lands set forth in said roll, are as follows:

	Category	Rate
(1)	Charge for tracts less than one acre in area	\$ 0.00 per parcel
(2)	Tracts receiving only General Administrative Service Charge - Preliminary Rate	\$ 1,50 per acre
(3)	Composite rate for tracts receiving both charges (General Administrative Service Charge of \$1.50 per acre and General Project Service Charge of \$137.90 per acre) - Preliminary Rate	\$139.40 per acre
(4)	Special composite rate for tracts developed for recreation uses and for irrigated native pasture (General Administrative Service Charge of \$1.50 per acre and special minimum General Project Service Charge of \$9.40 per acre) Preliminary Rate	\$ 10.90 per acre
(5)	Special composite rate for tracts developed after July 1, 2017 (New Lands Surcharge) – Rate	\$500.00 per acre foot

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that questions regarding this matter may be directed to the District at P.O. Box 8043, Wasco, California 93280, or by phone, (661) 758-5113, to the attention of Mr. Jason Gianquinto.

DATED: May 14, 2025

/s/ Todd Tracy Secretary of the Board of Directors

Exhibit B - PP

SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING OF NOTICE OF JUNE 11, 2025 HEARING TO LANDOWNERS IN THE BUTTONWILLOW AND POND-POSO IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

) ss COUNTY OF KERN)

The undersigned says:

That I am the Recording Secretary of the Semitropic Water Storage District.

That on or before 5:00 p.m. on May 28, 2025, I mailed copies of the NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS IN THE BUTTONWILLOW IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS IN THE POND-POSO IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, together with the enclosures therein mentioned, in the forms attached hereto marked EXHIBIT A and EXHIBIT B, respectively, to all landowners receiving a charge within said respective improvement districts shown on the last equalized assessment roll of the County of Kern or upon District's records at their addresses shown on said roll or District's records.

That said, mailing was accomplished by depositing in the United States Mail at Wasco, California, address correction requested, with proper and necessary postage prepaid, envelopes addressed as aforesaid.

That there is and at said time was a regular communication by mail between said place of mailing and said places so addressed.

I CERTIFY under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Wasco, California, this 28th day of May, 2025.

Assistant Secretary of the Board of Directors







Exhibit D





1101 Central Avenue, P.O. Box 8043, Wasco, California 93280-0877

Telephone: (661) 758-5113 Bakersfield: (661) 327-7144 Facsimile: (661) 758-3219 Email: <u>mail@semitropic.com</u> Website: <u>www.semitropic.com</u>

<u>M E M O R A N D U M</u>

<u>Exhibit E</u>

- TO: Honorable Board of Directors Semitropic Water Storage District Acting for Buttonwillow and Pond-Poso Improvement Districts
- FROM: Jason Gianquinto, General Manager
- DATE: June 11, 2025
- SUBJECT: RE: BUTTONWILLOW IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND POND-POSO IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES FOR 2024 (COLLECTED 2024-2025) MATTERS FOR BOARD'S CONSIDERATION AT JUNE 12, 2024, HEARING.

By way of background, it should be noted that the matters to be considered at this hearing are the outgrowth of action taken by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at its meeting of May 7, 1979. At that meeting, the Board of Directors adopted a policy of general application for each improvement district for annually fixing and collecting certain charges, known as the General Administrative and General Project Service Charges.

At its May 8, 2024 meeting, with adoption of Resolution Nos. BW 24-02 and PP 24-02, the Board fixed the amounts to be collected for said charges for 2024 for the respective improvement districts, the minimum charge to be fixed upon tracts less than an acre in area, and the percentage rate for lands permanently developed for recreational purposes or irrigated native pasture.

For Buttonwillow Improvement District these charges were: the General Administrative Service Charge - \$114,243.26 including an allowance of 3% for delinquencies and a charge of \$0.20 per parcel for cost of collection; for the General Project Service Charge the amount was fixed in the sum of \$8,834,272.53, including said allowance for delinquencies; the minimum charge for tracts of land less than an acre in area was set at zero; and the percentage rate set for recreational land and irrigated native pasture was found to be approximately 6.8% of the services and benefits to each acre of land developed and using water for other purposes.

For Pond-Poso Improvement District these charges were: the General Administrative Service Charge - \$135,117.93, including the allowance of 3% for delinquencies and a charge of \$0.20 per parcel for cost of collection; for the General Project Service Charge the amount was fixed in the sum

of \$10,028,167.98, including said allowance for delinquencies; the minimum charge for tracts of land less than an acre in area was set at zero; and the percentage rate set for recreational land and irrigated native pasture was found to be approximately 6.8% of the services and benefits to each acre of land developed and using water for other purposes.

The District obtained the roll of landowners in each improvement district from the County Assessor's office. This roll shows the names of the landowners at the time the roll was prepared and number of acres in each parcel. This roll was compared parcel by parcel with the County Assessor's parcel maps to make sure that all land in the improvement districts was on the roll and that no land outside of the two improvement districts was included.

In accordance with current criteria previously adopted by the Board after study and recommendation by the staff and consultants, certain lands are exempt from district charges. These lands include County-owned land, U.S. Government-owned land, school district land, the Jerry Slough in Buttonwillow Improvement District, and the Poso Creek Channel and the Alpaugh Canal in Pond-Poso Improvement District. These exempt lands were excluded from the roll along with sub-acre parcels, which the Board has ordered are to receive a zero charge. All the other lands, including the Alpaugh well field, farmsteads, feedlots, cotton gins, reservoirs, and farm roads were considered subject to district charges.

The lands to be charged were then classified into three categories: (1) undeveloped lands; (2) developed lands, both those relying on ground water and those receiving surface water service; and (3) recreation lands and irrigated native pasture, for which special rates were established.

Lost Hills Water Company and/or Lost Hills Utility District own approximately 147 acres of land in Pond-Poso Improvement District. 77 acres is used as a wellsite to pump groundwater principally for export outside the district and domestic use in the Lost Hills area. An additional 70 acres was purchased for the purpose of pumping additional quantities of groundwater at the wellsite. Since the land is otherwise idle, and for purposes of establishing charges, it is classified the same as developed land relying on groundwater pumping. The amount pumped has been roughly equivalent to agricultural usage and is being monitored for any significant increase in water pumping.

Additionally, in Pond-Poso Improvement District, another special rate is established which is based on the quantity of water extracted from the underground. In 2023, Alpaugh Irrigation District, the only entity fitting within this category, did not export any water, and therefore based on criteria established by the Board, no General Project Service Charge will be levied for Alpaugh lands this year.

To determine the classification of a parcel of land, crop surveys, prior to and including the 2024 survey, were reviewed for land use. The District makes a crop survey during May of each year showing the various crops being grown and the number of acres of each.

The preliminary roll, which lists each parcel of land showing acreage and classification for district charges, was then finalized.

The preliminary roll shows the following: In Buttonwillow Improvement District, the total area subject to district charges is 76,162.17 acres. There are 12,099.28 acres of undeveloped land which receive only the General Administrative Service Charge. There are 64,062.89. acres of developed land which receive the General Administrative Service Charge and the General Project Service Charge. There are 3,567.08 acres of recreational land and irrigated native pasture which receive the General Administrative Service Charge and the Special Minimum General Project Service Charge. There are 11.47 acres of sub-acre parcels to which no charge is applied.

In Pond-Poso Improvement District, the total area subject to district charges is 90,078.62 acres. There are 17,358.04 acres of undeveloped land which receive only the General Administrative Service Charge. There are 72,720.58 acres of developed land which receive the General Administrative Service Charge and the General Project Service Charge. There are 3,183.42 acres of recreational land and irrigated native pasture which receive the General Administrative Service Charge and the Special Minimum General Project Service Charge. There are 103.05 acres of sub-acre parcels to which no charge is applied.

Preliminary rates per acre were then calculated by dividing the charges fixed by the Board at the May 8, 2024 meeting for each classification by the number of acres in the respective classification. The preliminary rates developed are as follows:

For Buttonwillow Improvement District, the General Administrative Service Charge is \$1.50 per acre and the General Project Service Charge is \$137.90 per acre. The Special Minimum General Project Service Charge for recreational land and irrigated native pasture is \$9.40 per acre. The New Lands Surcharge is \$500.00 per acre-foot of water for land developed after July 1, 2017.

For Pond-Poso Improvement District, the General Administrative Service Charge is \$1.50 per acre and the General Project Service Charge is \$137.90 per acre. The Special Minimum General Project Service Charge for recreational land and irrigated native pasture is \$9.40 per acre. The New Lands Surcharge is \$500.00 per acre-foot of water for land developed after July 1, 2017.

Action by Board:

The above stated was considered by the Board at its June 12, 2024 meeting.

Examples of prior objections that have been considered by the Board are as follows:

(Frey Objection, 1979)

The grower had been raising rice on several parcels, had determined that it was not economically feasible, and had abandoned the parcels for at least four years. The Board determined that since these parcels had been abandoned for a long period of time and that no benefit had been received, they should be reclassified as undeveloped land.

(Grimes Objection, 1980)

The grower attempted to bring into production certain undeveloped parcels, failed to obtain a commercial crop and abandoned the parcels. The Board determined that these parcels had received no benefit and should be reclassified as undeveloped land.

(Torrez Objection, 1980)

The grower attempted to develop land but was unable to because wells drilled on the land failed to produce an adequate water supply for irrigation. The Board determined that no benefit had been received and the parcels should be reclassified as undeveloped land.

(Houchin Objection, 1980)

The grower farmed several parcels, totaling 640 acres, in the District, but only one of his wells was located in the District. This well was capable of irrigating approximately 160 acres and the water supply for the other 480 acres came from wells located outside the District. The Board determined that the benefit was to the 160 acres on which the well was located and that the other 480 acres should not be subject to the General Project Service Charge.

(Tank-McCart Objection. 1980)

The grower bought property, which had previously been a part of the Alpaugh Irrigation District well field and developed and irrigated a barley crop on a portion of said property. Under the previous ownership, the entire parcel had been classified as subject to the General Project Service Charge. The Board determined that the benefit to the new owner was only on the developed portion of the property and amended the Preliminary Roll accordingly.