

## MINUTES

### MEETING OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

January 16, 2026

**NOTE:** THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER TIMED ITEMS AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE LISTED TIME, BUT NOT BEFORE THE TIME SPECIFIED. UNTIMED ITEMS MAY BE HEARD IN ANY ORDER. THESE MINUTES ARE PRESENTED IN AGENDA ORDER, BUT ITEMS WERE NOT NECESSARILY HEARD IN THAT ORDER.

A regular meeting of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board was held at the California Natural Resources Agency, 715 P Street, Main Auditorium, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sacramento, California and concurrently online (on WebEx) on January 16, 2026, beginning at 9:11 a.m.

#### **Board Members present:**

Jane Dolan, President  
Mike Villines, Vice President  
Brian Johnson, Secretary  
Betty Andrews  
Keely Bosler  
Joe Countryman

#### **Board Member absent:**

Mary Jane Griego

#### **Board staff present:**

Chris Lief, Executive Officer  
Andrea Buckley, Deputy Executive Officer  
Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, General Counsel  
Michael Wright, Chief Engineer  
Jordan Robbins, Senior Environmental Scientist, Environmental and Land Management Branch  
Preston Shopbell, Manager, Inspection Section, Operations Branch  
Jamie Silva, Manager, Environmental and Land Management Branch

#### **Department of Water Resources staff present:**

Zachary Jojola, Senior Engineer  
Chelsea Spier, Senior Engineer  
Mike Thao, Senior Engineer  
Wade Wylie, Manager, Flood Project Inspection and Assessment Section

**Also present:**

Will Anderson, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers  
Geneva E.B. Thompson, Deputy Secretary for Tribal Affairs, California Natural Resources Agency  
Jason Wiener, Environmental Science Associates

**1. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH A QUORUM (Water Code § 8560)**

Chris Lief, Board Executive Officer, called the roll and a quorum was established.

**2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane Dolan, Board President, welcomed the participants.

Executive Officer Lief acknowledged the recent passing of Jon Ericson, a respected member of California's flood management community. On behalf of the Board he extended his sincere condolences to Jon's family, friends and colleagues.

He announced that Cecia Her, Youth Aide, has left the Board. She was a pleasure to work with and consistently offered her assistance wherever needed.

Karina Castro's last day with the Board is January 16; she will be joining the Department of Water Resources Flood Operations Division.

Finally, starting in January 2026, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board is now accepting application submissions through the permit application portal, which is an online platform allowing applicants to submit applications for permits, maintenance concurrences, and minor alteration authorizations; to coordinate endorsements from local maintaining agencies; and to track application progress -- all in one place. Please check the Board website for more information.

**3. REVIEW AGENDA**

President Dolan briefly reviewed the agenda.

**4. APPROVE MINUTES – December 5, 2025**

Secretary Johnson noted that a typo had been found and corrected for the final Minutes.

*Upon motion by Secretary Johnson, seconded by Board Member Bosler, the Board unanimously approved, by a 6-0 vote, the Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2025 (absent-Griego).*

**5. CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. **Approve Permit No. 19899, Buffington Tract Salmonoid Habitat Restoration Project, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Stanislaus County.  
Celina Ortega, Board Staff, Operations Branch**
- B. **Approve Permit No. 20002, Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority Wind-Wave Buffer Element of the Climate Resiliency Project, Yuba County.  
Michael Zelazo, Board Staff, Flood System Improvement Branch**

*Upon motion by Secretary Johnson, seconded by Board Member Andrews, the Board unanimously approved, by a 6-0 vote, Consent Items 5A and 5B (absent-Griego).*

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- A. **A written update on pertinent State legislation and federal news will be provided.**

President Dolan noted that the Board had received the written update. Executive Officer Lief added that he had highlighted a three-bill minibuss, now passed in both chambers, which includes funding for USACE and other agencies the Board is concerned with.

Board Member Bosler expressed her concerns regarding the current debate in Washington D.C. about the role of FEMA in disaster response. She commented that any kind of changes that pull back the federal government's involvement in funding infrastructure in the Central Valley will have a significant impact on the Board's ability to maintain the infrastructure and to improve upon it, will compromise public safety, and will shift financial burdens to the State.

## **8. UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)**

There were no USACE presentations.

## **9. BOARD ITEMS**

- A. **Adopt Resolution 2026-01 to rescind the Board's adoption of the 2012 California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Tribal Consultation Policy and adopt the 2025 CNRA Tribal Consultation Policy.**

Jordan Robbins, Board Senior Environmental Scientist, introduced the item and concluded the presentation with the staff recommendation to adopt Resolution 2026-01; to rescind the Board's adoption of the 2012 California Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy and adopt the 2025 California Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy; to direct the Executive Officer, the Board's Tribal Liaison and Board staff to consult with California Native American tribes consistent with this policy; and for the Executive Officer to take the necessary actions to post the 2025 CNRA Tribal Consultation Policy on the Board's website.

Geneva E.B. Thompson, the California Natural Resources Agency Deputy Secretary for Tribal Affairs, gave the presentation and answered questions. Secretary Johnson requested that staff schedule a follow-up presentation to describe opportunities the CVFPB has to advance the new Tribal Policy, and Board Member Bosler expressed an interest in at a more particular level of detail on what is involved in implementation in light of available resources.

*Upon motion by Secretary Johnson, seconded by Vice President Villines, the Board unanimously adopted, by a 6-0 vote, Resolution 2026-01 (absent-Griego).*

**B. Water Education Foundation's 2025 Water Leaders Water Rights Policy Paper**

Jamie Silva, Board Environmental and Land Management Branch Manager, introduced the item.

Will Anderson, Luhdorff and Scalmanini Project Geologist; Jason Wiener, Environmental Science and Associates Senior Hydrologist and Geomorphologist; and Chelsea Spier, DWR Senior Engineer, gave the presentation and answered questions.

**10. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) ITEMS**

**A. 2025 Inspection and Local Maintaining Agency Report of the Central Valley State-Federal Flood Protection System.**

Preston Shopbell, Board Inspection Section Manager, introduced the item. He, Zach Jojola and Mike Thao, DWR Senior Engineers, provided the report.

Wade Wylie, DWR Flood Project Inspection and Assessment Section Manager, discussed some of the other activities ongoing in his section and answered questions.

**B. Department of Water Resources Activity Report**

President Dolan noted that the written report was submitted.

**11. STAFF ACTIVITY REPORTS**

**Written updates regarding the activities of the Board's staff:**

- A. Executive Staff and Administrative Division**
- B. Operations Branch**
- C. Flood System Improvement Branch**
- D. Natural Resource Management and Planning Division**
- E. Executive Officer Delegated Permit Report**

President Dolan noted that the written updates had been received.

## **12. BOARD COMMENTS AND UPCOMING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

There were no comments or updates.

## **13. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- **Coordinating Committee, January 27, 2026 (West Sacramento City Hall)**
- **Board Workshop, February 13, 2026 (California Natural Resources Agency)**
- **Advisory Committee, February 24, 2026 (Central Valley Flood Protection Board)**
- **Board Meeting, February 27, 2026 (California Natural Resources Agency)**

President Dolan briefly discussed the upcoming meetings.

## **14. CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code Section 11126 (e)(i). To discuss litigation: American River Trees, et al. vs The Central Valley Flood Protection Board, et al., US District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:25 – cv - 02384 – DC – CSK. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**
- B. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code Section 11126 (e)(i). To discuss litigation: Mandroop Singh Purewal, et al. vs. State of California, Superior Court of the State of California County of Yolo Case No. CV2025-1439. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**
- C. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code Section 11126 (e)(i). To discuss litigation: Sierra Northern Railway vs. Central Valley Flood Protection Board, et al, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Yolo Case No. CV-2022-0479. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**
- D. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code Section 11126 (e)(i). To discuss litigation: Liam Meyer v. Central Valley Flood Protection Board, et al., Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2020-00276397. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**
- E. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code Section 11126 (e)(i). To discuss litigation: The People of The State vs. Yeung Farms Enterprises, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Yolo CV-2020-330. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**
- F. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code Section 11126, subdivisions (e)(1), (e)(2)(B)(i), and (e)(2)(C)(i), to consider potential litigation involving the Board. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**

**G. Pursuant to the authority of Government Code section 11126, subdivisions (a)(1), to consider personnel matters. (Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, Board Counsel)**

There was no Closed Session.

**15. CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

As there was no Closed Session, there was no Report.

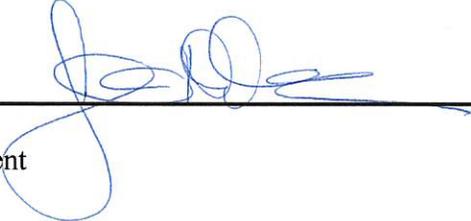
**16. ADJOURNMENT**

President Dolan adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Dated: 2/27/2026

The foregoing Minutes were approved: 

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Brian J. Johnson  
Board Secretary

  
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Jane Dolan  
Board President