

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD February 27, 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, 2nd Floor, Sacramento, California and concurrently online (on WebEx) on February 27, 2026, beginning at 9:11 a.m.

Board Members present:

Jane Dolan, President
Brian Johnson, Secretary (Remote)
Betty Andrews
Keely Bosler
Joe Countryman (Remote)

Board Member absent:

Mike Villines, Vice President
Mary Jane Griego

Board staff present:

Chris Lief, Executive Officer
Andrea Buckley, Deputy Executive Officer
Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, General Counsel
Michael Wright, Chief Engineer
Jonah Knapp, Board Clerk and Executive Assistant
Preston Shopbell, Manager, Inspection Section, Operations Branch
Mike Zelazo, Senior Engineer, Flood System Improvement Branch

Department of Water Resources staff present:

Hilary Murphy, Supervising Engineer, Manager, Central Valley Flood Planning Section

Also present:

Tom Engler, MBK Engineers, Central Valley Flood Control Association
Stuart Hanson, Shady Oaks Ranch

Also present (continued):

Oscar Ortiz, Merced County
Darren Suen, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency
Rob Tull, Jacobs Engineering

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

Jonah Knapp, Board Clerk and Executive Assistant, called the roll and a quorum was established.

2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jane Dolan, Board President, welcomed the participants.

Chris Lief, Board Executive Officer, welcomed new hire Cheryl Rowe, who is joining the Board's Land Management Section as a new Supervisor I Specialist supporting the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District's Property Abatement Program.

3. REVIEW AGENDA

President Dolan briefly reviewed the agenda.

4. APPROVE MINUTES – January 16, 2026

*Upon **motion** by Secretary Johnson, seconded by Board Member Andrews, the Board unanimously approved, by a 5-0 vote, the Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2026 (absent-Villines, Griego).*

5. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approve Permit No. 19893, American River Bridge Segment Replacement, Union Pacific Railroad, Sacramento County.
Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch**
- B. Approve Permit No. 19982, Big Chico Creek Channel Restoration, California Trout and City of Chico, Butte County.
Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch**
- C. Approve Permit No. 20003, Goldfields West Embankment Element of the Climate Resiliency Project, Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority, Yuba County.
Michael Zelazo, Board Staff, Flood System Improvement Branch**
- D. Approve Permit No. 20020, Pump Station 1 Replacement, City of Redding, Shasta County.
Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch**

Upon motion by Board Member Countryman, seconded by Board Member Bosler, the Board unanimously approved, by a 5-0 vote, Consent Items 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D (absent-Villines, Griego).

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Engler, MBK Engineers and on behalf of the Central Valley Flood Control Association (CVFCA), gave a briefing on the Sac Bank Program.

He concluded by asking that the Board and Board staff continue to work with the USACE to encourage economic re-evaluation as a system, rather than a basin-by-basin approach; that the Board advocate for additional federal funding of at least six million dollars to complete the re-evaluation and continue to make repairs that have been prioritized; and lastly, that the Board, DWR and USACE all work together to find some more cost effective ways to make these repairs.

Stuart Hanson, Shady Oaks Ranch and on behalf of the Gibb Family, thanked the Board for entering into a tolling agreement with them, which will provide some breathing room to explore a lot of alternatives. He especially thanked Board General Counsel Jit Dua, who shepherded the agreement through to the end.

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.

8. UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

There were no USACE presentations.

9. BOARD ITEMS

A. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Waters, Division 1, Section 30, Petitioning for Reconsideration of the Cease and Desist Order for Enforcement Case 2025-15719 (Padra Tarifard), affirmed by the Board on September 26, 2025, and also further actions related to that decision. (*Removed from Agenda*)

B. California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Waters, Division 1 Rulemaking: 2025 Regulatory Fee Updates Hearing and Adoption.

Andrea Buckley, Board Deputy Executive Officer, introduced the item. She and Preston Shopbell, Board Inspection Section Manager, Operations Branch, gave the presentation and answered questions.

Mr. Shopbell concluded with the staff recommendation that the Board approve the rulemaking package for submittal to the Department of Finance and Office of Administrative Law (OAL), subject to any additional Board Member review and approval; and to direct the Executive Office to make the necessary actions to finalize that with OAL.

Tom Engler, MBK Engineers and speaking on behalf of CVFCA, expressed his appreciation once again for the support and work of Board Members and staff—they all listened and took comments into consideration--but reiterated that they still object to the fact that they are being charged permit fees to do work that benefits the entire system. He said that the State is responsible for that system and should be charged those fees, not the local association.

*Upon **motion** by Board Member Andrews, seconded by Board Member Bosler, the Board unanimously approved the staff recommendation by a vote of 5-0. (absent-Villines, Griego)*

C. Permit No. 19643, Merced County Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project Update.

Michael Zelazo, Board Senior Engineer, Flood System Improvement Branch, provided the update and answered questions.

10. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) ITEMS

A. Department of Water Resources Activity Report

President Dolan noted that the written report was submitted.

B. 2027 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Update

Hilary Murphy, DWR Supervising Engineer, Manager, Central Valley Flood Planning Session, gave the update and answered questions.

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

Board Member Andrews participated in the recent San Joaquin Basin Regional Flood Management Planning (RFMP) meeting.

She attended the recent Advisory Committee Meeting; a subgroup within the committee will be meeting to determine which priorities the Board takes on in terms of furthering some of the committee recommendations for this year.

Board Member Bosler also attended an RFMP meeting and commented that she was impressed with all of the activity that's going on there.

Board Member Countryman, who is in recovery for a broken ankle, remarked that he is looking forward to rejoining the Board in person in March.

Secretary Johnson also attended the Sacramento Valley RFMP meeting and participated in the Advisory Committee discussions, which were all good; he is looking forward to doing more and reporting more in the near future.

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Coordinating Committee, March 24, 2026 (West Sacramento City Hall)**
- **Board Meeting, March 27, 2026 (California Natural Resources Agency)**
- **Board Workshop, April 10, 2026 (location TBD)**
- **Board Meeting, April 24, 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)**

A brief Closed Session was held.

15. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

President Dolan noted that the Board had received an update from General Counsel Dua on a litigation matter and that no actions were taken.

16. ADJOURNMENT

President Dolan adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:08 a.m.

APPROVED by the Board on March 27, 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes: Andrews, Bosler, Countryman, Griego, Johnson

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attested by: Jonah Knapp
Jonah Knapp, Board Clerk