

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD

March 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 Headquarters, 715 P Street, Room 2-201, 2nd Floor, Sacramento, California and concurrently online (on Zoom) on March 27, 2026, beginning at 9:08 a.m.

Board Members present:

Brian Johnson, Secretary
Betty Andrews
Keely Bosler
Joe Countryman (Remote)
Mary Jane Griego (Remote)

Board Members absent:

None

Board staff present:

Chris Lief, Executive Officer
Andrea Buckley, Deputy Executive Officer
Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, General Counsel
Michael Wright, Chief Engineer
Jeremiah Peek, Staff Engineer
Dustin Sanoski, Senior Engineer
Jamie Silva, Manager, Environmental and Land Management Branch

Department of Water Resources staff present:

Todd Bernardy, Manager, Flood Projects Branch
Jesus Esparza, Engineer
Laurence Sanati, Manager, Division of Flood Operations

Also present:

Roland Brady, Sacramento Area Creeks Council

Tony Deus, MBK Engineers, Reclamation Districts 70 and 1660
Tom Engler MBK Engineers, California Central Valley Flood Control Association
Josh Garcia, United States Army Corps of Engineers
Captain Alan Gregory, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
David Ingram, River City Waterway Alliance
Mauricio Luna, United States Army Corps of Engineers
Meghan Marshall, California Interagency Council on Homelessness
Steven Maviglio, American River Flood Control District
Lisa Sanchez, River City Waterway Alliance
Randy Smith, River City Waterway Alliance
Darren Suen, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency
Padra Tarifard

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

Secretary Brian Johnson called the roll and a quorum was established.

2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Johnson welcomed the participants.

Chris Lief, Board Executive Officer, welcomed Julian Banez, the newest Staff Engineer on the Inspection team; and Brian Luke, Senior Environmental Scientist, the Board's new Tribal Liaison within the Environmental Services Section.

3. REVIEW AGENDA

Secretary Johnson briefly reviewed the agenda.

4. APPROVE MINUTES – February 27, 2026

*Upon **motion** by Board Member Andrews, seconded by Board Member Bosler, the Board unanimously approved, by a 5-0 vote, the Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2026.*

5. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Delta Levee Maintenance Subventions Program - Approve the FY 2024-25 Subventions Program AMENDMENT 2 Funding Allocation Plan.

Justin Logan, DWR Staff, Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives

B. Approve Permit No. 9876-1, Fresno Slough Erosion Control, County of Fresno, Fresno County.

Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch

C. Approve Permit No. 19679, New I Street Bridge, City of Sacramento, Sacramento County.

Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch

D. Approve Permit No. 19793, Ramos residence, Kevin and Kathleen Ramos Trust, Yolo County.

Celina Ortega, Board Staff, Operations Branch

E. Approve Permit No. 19946, Oroville Wildlife Area Thermalito Recreation Improvements Project, Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency, Butte County.

Celina Ortega, Board Staff, Operations Branch

F. Approve Permit No. 19996, Utility Relocation for the California Department of Transportation Biney Junction Project, Pacific Gas and Electric Co., Yuba County.

Michael Zelazo, Board Staff, Flood System Improvement Branch

G. Approve Permit No. 20024, Authorize Bridge and Erosion repairs, Tulare County Resource Management Agency, Tulare County.

Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch

H. Approve Permit No. 20032, Houston Ave. Bridge Replacement, Kings County Public Works, Kings County.

Humberto Negrete, Board Staff, Operations Branch

I. Approve Permit No. 20066, Utility relocations for Natomas Basin Civil Works Project, AT&T, Sacramento County.

Hugo Sanchez, Board Staff, Flood System Improvement Branch

Upon motion by Board Member Griego, seconded by Board Member Andrews, the Board unanimously approved, by a 5-0 vote, Consent Items 5A through 5I.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Padra Tarifard commented on the Board action against him regarding his dock and fence, which were built without a fully completed permit from the Board. He stated that the level of penalty being pursued appears grossly disproportionate to the situation and requested that the Board direct Board staff to work towards a more reasonable resolution.

Tom Engler, MBK Engineers and on behalf of the Central Valley Flood Control Association (CVFCA), reiterated what a great program Delta Subventions is. He also thanked the Board for the many positive impacts its support of both Delta and out-of-Delta district programs has.

7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Secretary Johnson noted that the Board had received the written update.

Executive Officer Lief remarked that, after the legislative report was prepared, there was an announcement by FEMA indicating that the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program for hazard mitigation is being revived. There will be a funding opportunity soon for the BRIC Program.

8. UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

A. Presentation of the USACE Levee Inspection Results for Reclamation District (RD) 0070 and 1660 - Sutter Basin North Levee System, Sutter County

Jeremiah Peek, Board Staff Engineer, Deferred Encroachment Compliance Section, introduced the item. He and Mauricio Luna, USACE Civil Engineer, Inspection Section, gave the presentation and answered questions.

Tony Deus, MBK Engineers and representing RD 0070 and 1660, added pertinent information.

9. BOARD ITEMS

A. State's Roles and Responsibilities for Unhoused Abatement within the Floodway.

Jamie Silva, Board Environmental and Land Management Branch Manager, introduced the item and spoke about the Board's authority and jurisdiction regarding the topic. He introduced three panelists:

Meghan Marshall, California Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Officer, discussed the State's role in responding to homelessness.

Laurence Sanati, DWR Division of Flood Operations Manager, defined DWR's role and how DWR interacts with the encampments as it goes about fulfilling its responsibilities.

Captain Alan Gregory, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Northern Enforcement District, discussed his department's specific role in dealing with encampments, primarily within the waterways.

Board Members asked relevant questions and commented on various aspects of the situation. Board Member Countryman stated that he believes the State should address the situation, which he described as "not acceptable." Board Member Griego stated that she hopes the State and its partner agencies can coordinate to find a solution. Board Member Andrews thanked the presenters and added that she hopes State agencies can work with local social service entities on more permanent solutions so that the encampments do not need to be removed multiple times. Board Member Bosler emphasized the need for agency programs and budgets that provide longer term solutions and getting beyond quick fixes, especially given scarce resources for all involved.

The Board then heard public comment. The speakers described what they see as an urgent need for the State to address the situation. In their view, questions about jurisdiction and budget are creating opportunities for all agencies to avoid responsibility for an unacceptable situation.

Roland Brady, Sacramento Area Creeks Council and volunteer with the American River Waterway, discussed his experiences in removing over 1,000 camps during the last 10 years.

Randy Smith, River City Waterway Alliance, discussed his involvement with protecting the state's creeks, particularly within the Steelhead Creek area.

Steven Maviglio, American River Flood Control Council Trustee, talked about the ongoing reality that no state agency is taking responsibility for encampment removal.

Lisa Sanchez, River City Waterway Alliance, discussed the extensive litter that needs to be removed. For example, one camp that was removed last year had over 200,000 pounds of debris material.

Darren Suen, San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency (SJAFC), commended the Board for raising awareness on this issue and reiterated the importance of utilizing the different tools available, including the education of the encampment population.

Board Member Countryman again urged the agencies to find a way to address the situation and not allow the bureaucracy to get in the way. Board Secretary Johnson agreed and stated that he hopes the State and its partners will not let difficulty of coordination or gaps in jurisdiction get in the way of a creative solution.

B. Adopt Resolution 2026-02 to adopt the Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District (SSJDD) Property Abatement Policy.

Jamie Silva, Board Environmental and Land Management Branch Manager, gave the presentation and answered questions; and concluded with the staff recommendation that the Board adopt the SSJDD property abatement policy and direct staff to continue to find opportunities for policy implementation.

Lisa Sanchez and David Ingram, River City Waterway Alliance, discussed some of the jurisdiction issues involved.

Secretary Johnson noted that the resolution not only adopts the Abatement Program Policy, but it also directs staff to continue to find opportunities to implement the policy. He stated that it is foundational work for which the Board hopes to have further action.

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

C. Presentation on the Lower San Joaquin River Improvement Projects.

Dustin Sanoski, Board Senior Engineer, Flood System Improvement Branch, introduced the item.

Josh Garcia, USACE Lower San Joaquin River Project Program Manager, briefed the Board on current construction details for the project.

Darren Suen, SJAFCA Executive Director, briefed the Board on the Lower San Joaquin River Project Phase 2, also known as the Lathrop-Manteca study.

Jesus Esparza, DWR Engineer, Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives, discussed the Paradise Cut Bypass expansion and multi-benefit study.

D. Adopt Resolution 2026-03 to authorize the Executive Officer to terminate the Lathrop-Manteca Study Feasibility Cost Share Agreement and initiate a locally-led feasibility study under Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

Board Senior Engineer Sanoski provided the background and concluded with the staff recommendation that the Board delegate authority to the Executive Officer to execute a joint letter with the SJAFCA to terminate the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement with USACE for the Lower San Joaquin River, Lathrop-Manteca, California Feasibility Study; and to delegate authority to the Executive Officer to execute a joint Letter of Intent with SJAFCA and DWR to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to initiate a Section 203 Feasibility Study.

Upon motion by Board Member Andrews, seconded by Board Member Griego, the Board unanimously approved, by a vote of 5-0, the staff recommendation.

10. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) ITEMS

A. Department of Water Resources Activity Report

Secretary Johnson noted that the written report was submitted.

B. DWR Update on USACE Projects within the Central Valley

Todd Bernardy, DWR Flood Projects Branch Manager, updated the Board.

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

Secretary Johnson noted that the written updates had been received and distributed to the Board.

12. BOARD COMMENTS AND UPCOMING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board Member Andrews commented that she and Secretary Johnson had participated in the late February Advisory Committee meeting and, during a recent follow-up meeting, they had discussed in particular the project acceleration and incentivization recommendations, which were one of the two sets of recommendations presented to the Board at the last Board meeting. She further noted that some of the recommendations needed to gather more information so in some cases we are still working out who the point of contacts and what role the Board will take in moving those recommendations ahead.

Board Member Bosler attended the equity tour conducted by Cait Plantaric, a DWR staff person, and was impressed by how well done the tour was.

She also attended the recent Coordination Committee meeting and noted that a lot of really good information was brought forward to the broader community from DWR and other partners. There were several high quality presentations and some really good engagement from the community.

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Board Workshop, April 10, 2026 (Yuba County Government Center)**
- **Board Meeting, April 24, 2026 (California Natural Resources Agency)**
- **Advisory Committee, April 28, 2026 (Central Valley Flood Protection Board)**
- **Board Workshop, May 15, 2026 (Yuba County Government Center)**

Secretary Johnson 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

Secretary Johnson noted that the Closed Session had concluded and that no action was taken.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Johnson adjourned the Board Meeting at 2:14 p.m.

APPROVED by the Board on April 24, 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes: Andrews, Countryman, Griego, Johnson

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent: Bosler

Attested by: *Jonah Knapp*
Jonah Knapp, Board Clerk