

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION BOARD May 22, 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 May 22, 2026, beginning at 9:04 a.m.

Board Members present:

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

Board staff present:

Chris Lief, Executive Officer
Andrea Buckley, Deputy Executive Officer
Kanwarjit (Jit) Dua, General Counsel
Michael Wright, Chief Engineer
Angeles Caliso, Manager, Enforcement Section
Travis Comstock, Engineer, Flood System Improvement Branch
Ian Geocarlis, Engineer, Enforcement Section
Jonah Knapp, Board Clerk, Executive Assistant
Selva Selvamohan, Manager, Sacramento Levees Section

Department of Water Resources staff present:

Jennifer Schieck, Enforcement Counsel
Corey Lasso, Supervising Engineer

Also present:

Ryan Bogle
Tom Engler, MBK Engineers, Reclamation District 1001
Michael Fry, City of Sacramento
Renee Fulwider

Also present (continued):

Jesse Gothan, City of Sacramento
Patrick Hinrichsen
Gary Livaich, representing Gail Nadal
Richard Markuson
William McClendon
Don Murphy
Gail Nadal
Robert Vellanoweth
Dave Williamson

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

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

2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Johnson welcomed the participants.

There were no introductions or announcements.

3. REVIEW AGENDA

Secretary Johnson briefly reviewed the agenda.

4. APPROVE MINUTES – April 24, 2026

Secretary Johnson noted an updated version of the Minutes: the sentence about Nancy Kniskern from American River Trees has been changed to “Nancy Kniskern, American River Trees, provided a description of the process and living river principles that were used to guide the design of recent updates to the USACE Napa River Flood Control Project.”

*Upon **motion** by Board Member Griego, seconded by Board Member Countryman, the Board unanimously approved, with the change noted above, the Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2026.*

5. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approve Permit Nos. 19699, 1700-1, 16293-1 and 1896-1, Natomas Cross Canal Channel Enhancement and Levee Berm Project. Reclamation District 1001, Sutter County.

Dustin Sanoski, Board Staff, Flood System Improvement Branch

B. Approve Permit No. 20055, Patrick Shea Conservation Bank, Gilsizer Slough LLC (Wildlands), Sacramento County.

Celina Ortega, Board Staff, Operations Branch

*Upon **motion** by Board Member Griego, seconded by Board Member Countryman, the Board unanimously approved Consent Items 5A and 5B.*

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Engler, MBK Consultants and representing Reclamation District 1001, thanked the Board for its approval of Consent Item 5A, which he noted had been going on since March of 2022. He also recognized Dustin Sanoski, Board staff, Flood System Improvement Branch, for his ongoing help in completing the process.

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 Chris Lief highlighted one item in the legislation--a discussion of the FEMA Review Council Report and recommendations on FEMA reform. The Board intends to have a deeper discussion of that report and its implications for the state in the next Coordinating Committee meeting in July of 2026.

Board Member Griego expressed her concerns regarding how FEMA programs might be revised, as described to the Board in the recent staff report. She noted that the FEMA pre-hazard mitigation grants were a vital part of the work that Yuba County did related to levee improvements and that work deserves inclusion in future funding.

Board Member Bosler echoed FEMA's importance to California, including the fiscal situation of the state, and added that she was glad that the Board is taking a deeper dive at the upcoming Coordinating Committee meeting.

Secretary Johnson remarked that he shared the concerns expressed by Board Members Griego and Bosler and he looks forward to hearing more at the meeting.

8. UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

There were no USACE items.

9. BOARD ITEMS

A. Affirm Cease and Desist Order (CDO) for Enforcement Case No. 2024-15436 issued on February 2, 2026, to Bakshinder Thiara, Yolo County.

Jennifer Schiek, DWR Enforcement Counsel, introduced the item.

Ian Geocarlis, Board Enforcement Section Engineer, presented the CDO in further detail and answered questions.

Respondent Bakshinder Thiara made no appearance.

*Upon **motion** by Board Member Griego, seconded by Board Member Countryman, the Board unanimously affirmed the Cease and Desist Order for Enforcement Case No. 2024-15436 as recommended in the staff report.*

B. Approve Permit No. 19916, Nadal’s Cross-levee Fence Project in the Pocket Area, Sacramento County.

Travis Comstock, Board Flood System Improvement Branch Engineer, introduced the item. He and Selva Selvamohan, Board Sacramento Levees Section Manager, gave the presentation and answered questions.

Mr. Comstock concluded with the staff recommendation that the Board adopt the CEQA findings; approve Permit No. 19916 in substantially the form provided; direct the Executive Officer to take the necessary action to prepare and execute the permit and related documents; and to prepare and file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse.

Jesse Gothan, City of Sacramento Public Works Engineering Services Supervising Engineer, recommended denying the application. He stated that the City was not given adequate time to review the impact on some of its other properties and facilities, including the Department of Utilities and Emergency Response units.

Michael Fry, City of Sacramento, echoed Mr. Gothan’s remarks and added that they received the application only two weeks ago and thus have not had a chance to look at what the impacts are going to be with the conditions being proposed. He asked that the Board deny the permit today or continue the matter for 90 days to provide an adequate chance for review.

Several Pocket Area property owners and their representatives expressed their approval for the permit: Don Murphy, Ryan Bogle, William McClendon, Gary Livaich (Desmond Law Firm and representing local property owner Gail Nadal), Renee Fulwider, Robert Vellanoweth, Dave Williamson, Gail Nadal, and Patrick Hinrichsen (Riverside Village Improvement Association counsel).

Pocket Area property owner Richard Markuson spoke in opposition to the permit.

Board Members asked questions and deliberated on the merits of the permit and whether a continuance was warranted.

*Upon **motion** by Board Member Bosler, seconded by Board Member Griego, the Board unanimously voted to allow for a 30-day continuance.*

10. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) ITEMS

A. Department of Water Resources Activity Report

Secretary Johnson noted that the written report was submitted.

Board Member Countryman requested further information on the Folsom Dam Raise Project, especially regarding the apparent disbanding of project staff before the project is done, due to lack of funding for the gates. He commented that not completing the gates would essentially waste all the money already spent on the Folsom Dam Raise. He expressed the need for more information on funding status and urged the state to advocate forcefully for completion of the project.

Corey Lasso, DWR Supervising Engineer, responded that, although the gates do have a risk of not getting funded, the nonfederal sponsors, as well as USACE, are pushing and working to get that funding and he remains hopeful that they will prevail.

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.

12. BOARD COMMENTS AND UPCOMING COMMITTEE UPDATES

There were no Board comments and/or updates.

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Coordinating Committee, May 26, 2026 (GEI Consultants, 11030 White Rock Road, Suite 100)**
- *Board Workshop, June 12, 2026 (Postponed)*
- **Advisory Committee, June 23, 2026 (Central Valley Flood Protection Board)**
- **Board Meeting, June 26, 2026 (California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters)**

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)**

There was no Closed Session.

15. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

As there was no Closed Session, there is no report.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Johnson adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:55 a.m.

APPROVED by the Board on June 26, 2026, by the following vote:

Ayes: Andrews, Bosler, Countryman, Griego, Johnson

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attested by: 
Jonah Knapp, Board Clerk