

**Minutes of Meeting  
Held  
May 18, 2023**

Vice-President Dennis called the meeting of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Board of Directors to order at 9 a.m. with the flag salute. The meeting was held at the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Board Room, 344 East Laurel Street, Willows, California.

**Present:**

Logan Dennis, Vice-President, Division 3  
Peter Knight, Director, Division 1  
Donald R. Bransford, President, Division 4  
Blake Vann, Director, Division 5

**Absent:**

John Amaro, President, Division 2

**Staff Present:**

Thaddeus L. Bettner, General Manager  
Greg Krzys, Assistant General Manager  
Louis Jarvis, Finance Director (via teleconference)  
Kayla Mendonca, Executive Assistant  
Juan Iniguez, Equipment Shop Supervisor  
Ed Henderson, Water Operations Superintendent  
Jake Hancock, Interim Assistant Water Operations Superintendent  
Zac Dickens, District Engineer  
Karen Alves, Administrative Services Manager  
Andy Hitchings, Somach Simmons & Dunn (via teleconference)

**Others Present:**

Janet Zimmerman, CV Strategies (via teleconference)  
Tim Sanchez, Water User  
Doug McGeoghegan

**Public Participation**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Authorize Payment of Claims

Director Knight moved to approve the payment of claims #12 10211, #23 1213005 through #23 13021, and #23 13023 through #23 13078 in the amount of One Million, Two Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand, One Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars and Forty-Two Cents (\$1,238,127.42) and approve the May 4, 2023, meeting minutes. Director Bransford seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

Absent: Director Amaro

Approve Payment of Claims to Colusa County Farm Supply

Director Bransford moved to approve the payment of claim #23 13022 to Colusa County Farm Supply in the amount of Nine Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars and Forty-Four Cents (\$954.44). Director Vann seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Knight and Vann

Absent: Director Amaro

Abstain: Director Dennis

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

Review and Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2023-07 to Concur with the Terms and Conditions of Reclamation's Consent to Multi-Year Transfer of Base Supply and Project Water to Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company; Review and Consider Approval of 2023 Water Transfer Agreement with the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company and Find that the Agreement is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act

Finance Director Jarvis reported that Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District has transferred water to the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company (Company) every year since 1999. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has provided consent to the transfer for five-year periods, with the most recent period of consent expiring in 2022. Reclamation conducted an Environmental Assessment dated April 2023, to assess the potential impacts of continuing the transfer to the Company for years 2023 through 2027 and adopted a related Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated May 2, 2023. Additionally, Reclamation has provided a letter that details the terms and conditions of its consent to the transfer to the Company. Reclamation requires the letter be signed and returned affirming concurrence with the terms and conditions and a resolution from GCID's Board of Directors be provided showing the individual authorized to sign the letter on behalf of GCID.

Staff has determined that the transfer agreement with the Company is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. Tailwater transfers identical to those proposed under the transfer agreement have been occurring annually for more than a decade; the transfer agreement would allow these transfers to continue without change. Water transferred under the transfer agreement is tailwater from irrigation that would not result from a new draw on the hydrologic system. No land will be fallowed in GCID as a result of the transfer, and the transfer will not result in any increase in groundwater pumping. The transfer will occur using existing facilities to irrigate existing irrigated cropland within Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company, consistent with established irrigation uses. The transfer authorized under the agreement qualifies for the following CEQA categorical exemptions: 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15304 (Minor Alterations to Lands), and 15061 (b)(3) (General).

Doug McGeoghegan commented that he appreciates the opportunity to make this agreement year after year with the District.

Director Bransford moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-07 to concur with the terms and conditions of Reclamation's consent to multi-year transfer of base supply and project water to Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company. Director Knight seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

Absent: Director Amaro

The Resolution is attached to the minutes as Attachment A.

Director Bransford moved to approve the 2023 Water Transfer Agreement with the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company and find that the Agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. Director Vann seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

Absent: Director Amaro

Review and Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2023-08 to Concur with the Terms and Conditions of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Consent to In-Basin Water Transfer Program, Adopt California Environmental Quality Act Addendum to 2005 Negative Declaration, Approve Inclusion of Contiguous Agricultural Parcels to In-Basin Transfer Program, and Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Individual In-Basin Transfer Agreement to Effectuate the Approval

Finance Director Jarvis reported that the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation has conducted a water transfer program to certain parcels contiguous to its boundary for a number of years (In-Basin Transfer Program). The United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has provided consent to the In-Basin Transfer Program for multi-year periods, with the most recent period of consent expiring in 2020. Efforts to renew Reclamation's consent for the In-Basin Transfer Program began in 2020 but were tabled due to the drought conditions present during 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Reclamation recently conducted an Environmental Assessment dated March 2023, to assess the potential impacts of continuing the In-Basin Transfer Program for the years 2023 through 2027 and adopted a related Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) dated March 29, 2023. Reclamation has provided a letter that details the terms and conditions of its consent to the In-Basin Transfer Program. Reclamation requires the letter be signed and returned affirming concurrence with the terms and conditions and a resolution from GCID's Board of Directors be provided showing the individual authorized to sign the letter on behalf of GCID.

Red Stick Farms Colusa LLC (Red Stick) has requested to receive surface water pursuant to the In-Basin Transfer Program on approximately 92 acres of land that satisfy the eligibility criteria detailed in Reclamation's consent letter. The In-Basin Transfer Program was evaluated in a Negative Declaration adopted by GCID in 2005.

GCID now proposes to deliver water to additional agricultural land not specifically identified in the Negative Declaration (the Red Stick property). GCID has evaluated the potential environmental impacts of this minor modification to the Program and determined that an addendum is the appropriate California Environmental Quality Act document to support GCID's decision to deliver water to this property under the Program. As described in the Negative Declaration and Addendum, no environmental resources would experience any significant environmental impacts under the Program. Serving the property under the In-Basin Transfer Program would not result in a change or expansion of use of the property and will be implemented through the use of existing facilities. Because serving the property would not

otherwise affect the resources described in the Negative Declaration, the conclusions in the Negative Declaration remain valid and there is no evidence that approval of the proposed modification to the Program would result in a significant impact. No additional documentation is required. A copy of the Notice of Determination will be filed with the County Clerks of Glenn and Colusa Counties. Staff is recommending the Board approve Resolution No. 2023-08 concurring with the terms and conditions of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Consent to In-Basin Water Transfer Program, Adopting California Environmental Quality Act Addendum, Approving Inclusion of Contiguous Agricultural Parcels to In-Basin Transfer, and Authorize the General Manager to Execute the In-basin Transfer Agreement with Red Stick.

Director Dennis asked if these agreements would be available during critical water years. Finance Director Jarvis and General Manager Bettner both replied no, and confirmed that these agreements will not be available in critical water years. Director Dennis then commented that President Amaro expressed concern at the last Board meeting regarding Red Stick's permanent crop not having water during those times. General Manager Bettner explained that GCID requires proof of Red Stick's own water source in the event that the District would not be able to provide water through the In-Basin Transfer Program which Red Stick has provided. He also added that these agreements are year-to-year and case-by-case.

Director Vann moved to approve Resolution No. 2023-08. Director Knight seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

Absent: Director Amaro

The Resolution is attached to the minutes as Attachment B.

Review and Consider Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Aquatic Resources Consulting Scientists and GCID for Fisheries Expert Support for GCID Gradient Facility Stabilization Project

Assistant General Manager Greg Krzys reported that GCID's Diversion Point Ad Hoc Committee met with Keith Marine and staff from Anchor QEA and Somach Simmons & Dunn to discuss the next steps. Following a meeting with Fish & Wildlife Services (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Army Corp of Engineers, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), additional environmental documentation, consultant(s), and permitting are necessary for the next three (3) project elements including the east bank sheet pile, the scour hole, and the bank spur dikes. The current schedule is based on August 2024 being the time period for in-water work to commence. The environmental approach will begin with the CEQA addendum and the formation of a regulatory permitting group comprised of FWS, NMFS, the Army Corp, CDFW, Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Lands Commission and Flood Protection Board. The current budget estimates include the fisheries biological assessment of \$67,000 or more, and the CEQA and other permitting is estimated to cost an additional \$275,000 to \$300,000 on top of the current budget of \$643,000.

Director Bransford moved to approve moving forward with the next phase(s) of the project. Director Vann seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

Absent: Director Amaro

Review and Consider Approval of Facilitation Agreement for Board Vision and Priorities, and Strategic Plan Implementation

This item was tabled.

Consider Declaring Certain District Equipment as Surplus and Authorize Disposal through Public Auction

Equipment Shop Supervisor Juan Iniguez reported on the items that have been listed as surplus. He reported that they will be taken to BidCal, located in Chico, to be auctioned off.

Director Knight moved to declare that certain equipment is surplus and authorize disposal through public auction. Director Vann seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

Absent: Director Amaro

Review and Consider Approval of Mid-Year Budget Revisions for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Finance Director Jarvis reported that after the mid-point of each fiscal year, staff reviews each line item in the District's budget, considers the relevant known information, and makes informed estimates of the end-of-fiscal year total for each line item of revenue and expense. The purposes of this review are to identify and explain significant variances in expenses and revenue and to provide one measure of the District's financial health that will help inform the budget process for the following fiscal year. Staff met with the Budget Subcommittee on May 11, 2023, and reviewed the District's revenue and expenses to date and the recommended revisions. Finance Director Jarvis added that there is no direct impact of approving the mid-year budget revisions. However, the District's Fiscal Year 2022-23 adopted Budget provide for a \$4 million surplus, including of all revenues and expenses. The recommended mid-year revisions provide for a projected \$14.7 million surplus.

Director Knights moved to approve the mid-year budget revisions for Fiscal Year 2022-23. Director Vann seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

Absent: Director Amaro

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Department Reports**

Maintenance

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson was absent from the meeting and no department report was provided.

Water Operations

Water Operations Superintendent Ed Henderson reported that Shasta storage is approximately 4.55 million acre-feet, Wilkins Slough is approximately 14,400 cubic feet per second (cfs) and Keswick is approximately 13,000 cfs. He reported that water orders are varying between 120 to 250 cfs per day and the GCID Pump Station is running approximately 2,350 cfs.

Interim Assistant Water Operations Superintendent Jake Hancock reported that Lurline Check is maxed out and areas 29 and 33 are slow to get going. Director Vann commented that the Water Operators in Area 33 are doing a great job.

#### Engineering

District Engineer Dickens reported that measurement efforts are going well and there is still room for improvement. He reported that he is working to wrap up the Abel Check post-construction workflows.

#### Treasurer's Report

Finance Director Jarvis provided a report on the Treasurer's Report and Damage Claims Report for the month of April.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

#### Meeting Reports

None.

#### Manager's Report

General Manager Bettner reported that there was a Sites site visit at the GCID Pump Station to look at the District's diversion point.

General Manager Bettner reported that he attended the ACWA Conference last week in Monterey and participated in meetings with the Bureau of Reclamation.

General Manager Bettner reported that he participated in the Glenn Groundwater Authority meeting.

#### Communications Report

None.

#### Attorney's Report

Counsel Hitchings reported that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) sent a letter to Sites confirming that the application is now deemed complete and they will be noticing it within 30 days, by June 6. Once that is posted, the protest period will begin and the application will proceed to hearing. This was an important milestone for the Sites project.

#### Other Business

None.

#### Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 10:26 a.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation, Existing Litigation, Labor Negotiations, and Public Employee Appointment:

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Potential Initiation of Litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9: Two Potential Cases
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION

(Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9) Name of Cases:

- i. *PCFFA v. Raimondo* (USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 1:20-cv-00431-JLT-EPG);
- ii. *CNRA v. Raimondo* (USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 1:20-cv-00426-JLT-EPG) [2019 BiOps Lawsuits];

C. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representatives: Donald Bransford; Peter Knight; Louis Jarvis;  
Karen Alves

Employee Organization: UPEC 792

The Board reconvened to open session at 11:05 a.m.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9, during which the Board heard updates on *Anticipated Litigation*, provided direction to staff, and took no action.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9, during which the Board heard updates on *Existing Litigation* and took no action.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6, Conference with Labor Negotiators, where the Board heard an update and took no action.

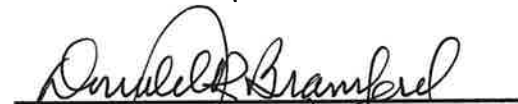

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,




Thaddeus L. Bettner  
Secretary

Attest a true record of proceedings made and  
taken at the above foregoing meeting our consent  
thereto and our presence thereat.

  
Donald R. Bransford  
Peter Knight

Absent  
John Amaro



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Logan Dennis



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Blake Vann



## ATTACHMENT A

**GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-07**

**RESOLUTION OF THE GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO  
CONCUR WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF  
RECLAMATION'S CONSENT TO MULTI-YEAR TRANSFER OF BASE SUPPLY AND PROJECT  
WATER TO THE COLUSA DRAIN MUTUAL WATER COMPANY**

**WHEREAS**, Since 1999, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has consented to transfers of Base Supply and Project Water from Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) to the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company (CDMWC); and

**WHEREAS**, Reclamation conducted an Environmental Assessment (No. EA-23-06-NCAO) dated April, 2023 to assess the potential impacts of GCID transferring a maximum quantity of 15,000 acre-feet of Base Supply and 30,000 acre-feet of Project Water annually from 2023 to 2027 and adopted a related Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI No. CGB-EA-2023-014) dated May 2, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Reclamation has provided a letter describing the terms and conditions of its consent for GCID to the multi-year transfer of Base Supply and Project Water to the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company; and

**WHEREAS**, Reclamation requires a resolution from GCID's Board of Directors affirming concurrence with such terms and conditions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors (Board) of Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District as follows:

1. GCID concurs with all the terms and conditions of Reclamation's consent for the multi-year transfer of Base Supply and Project Water to the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company.
2. The GCID General Manager is authorized and directed to sign and return to Reclamation a copy of the letter describing such terms and conditions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the following vote of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Board of Directors on May 18, 2023.

Ayes: Directors Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann  
Absent: Director Amaro  
Noes:  
Abstain:

\* \* \*

I hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said District at a regular meeting thereof duly held on May 18, 2023, at which meeting a quorum of said Board of Directors was at all times present and acting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and the seal of the District this 18<sup>th</sup> day of  
May 2023.



Thaddeus L. Bettner, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

## ATTACHMENT B

**GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08**

**Resolution of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District to Concur with Terms and Conditions of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Consent to In-Basin Water Transfer Program, Adopt CEQA Addendum and Approve Inclusion of Contiguous Agricultural Parcels to In-Basin Water Transfer Program and Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Individual In-Basin Transfer Agreement to Effectuate the Approval**

WHEREAS, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District's (GCID) In-Basin Water Transfer Program (Program) has previously been approved to deliver surface water to agricultural properties outside of, but contiguous with, GCID's boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Program (which was originally titled GCID Water Transfer to Various Contiguous Agricultural Parcels Along District Boundary) was evaluated in a Negative Declaration adopted by GCID in April 2005 (Initial Study/Negative Declaration for GCID Water Transfer to Various Contiguous Agricultural Parcels Along GCID Boundary, State Clearinghouse Number 1996112013) and a 2017 Addendum; and

WHEREAS, the Program requires the written consent of the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation); and

WHEREAS, Reclamation conducted an Environmental Analysis related to continuing the Program for a period of five years commencing with contract year 2023 and continuing through contract year 2027 and adopted a related Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on March 28, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation has provided a letter describing the terms and conditions of its consent to GCID for continued operation of the Program; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation requires a resolution from GCID's Board of Directors affirming concurrence with such terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, the owner of approximately 92 acres of agricultural land west of the town of Maxwell, adjacent to and/or in the vicinity of Maxwell-Sites Road and the Tehama-Colusa Canal and contiguous to GCID's boundary (Colusa County Assessor Parcel Numbers 011-210-027, 011-210-025, 011-210-017, of 014-090-062, 011-210-026, 011-210-023 (the Property)), has requested to receive surface water pursuant to the Program; and

WHEREAS, GCID is the lead agency for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). GCID conducted an environmental evaluation

of modifying the Program to provide surface water to the Property and determined that serving the Property is within the scope of the Program, and consistent with the environmental analysis and determinations in the adopted Negative Declaration, and therefore an addendum to the adopted Negative Declaration is appropriate for CEQA compliance purposes. A copy of the Second Addendum to the Negative Declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit 1; and

WHEREAS, including the Property within the Program will not result in any significant environmental impacts or involve other environmental considerations not considered in the adopted Negative Declaration, and the District's Board of Directors has determined that the circumstances of this minor modification to the Program do not trigger the need for subsequent environmental review under Public Resources Code section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines section 15162; and

WHEREAS, GCID staff has prepared an agreement with the Property owner seeking to participate in the Program, in order to set forth the terms and conditions of such participation. The GCID Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the form of this agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED, AND DIRECTED as follows:

1. GCID concurs with all the terms and conditions of Reclamation's consent for continued operation of the Program, and the GCID General Manager is authorized to sign and return to Reclamation a copy of the letter describing such terms and conditions.
2. The Negative Declaration evaluated all potentially significant impacts of the In-Basin Water Transfer Program. GCID has evaluated the potential environmental impacts of this minor modification to the Program and determined that an Addendum is the appropriate CEQA document to support GCID's decision to deliver water to this property under the Program.
3. Delivering water to the Property under the Program will not result in any significant environmental impacts, and thus does not require preparation of a subsequent negative declaration or environmental impact report for the modification. The Board finds, consistent with substantial evidence contained in the Second Addendum to the Negative Declaration for the Program and the entire record, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed amendment to the In-Basin Transfer Program will have a significant effect on the environment. Based on these findings, GCID hereby adopts the Second Addendum and approves inclusion of the Property within the Program.
4. The GCID General Manager is authorized to file a Notice of Determination for this approval, as appropriate, within five (5) days of this Resolution and pay any and all fees associated therewith.
5. The GCID General Manager is authorized to execute all additional documentation required to include the Property within the Program and

implement in-basin transfers of surface water to the Property consistent with the Program.

6. The documents and materials constituting the record of this proceeding are located at the District's administrative offices, 344 East Laurel Street, Willows, CA 95988. The custodian of said records is the District Secretary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following vote of the Board of Directors on May 18, 2023.

AYES:	Directors Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann
NOES:	
ABSENT:	Director Amaro
ABSTAINING:	

\* \* \*

I hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said District at a regular meeting thereof duly held on May 18, 2023, at which meeting a quorum of said Board of Directors was at all time present and acting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and the seal of the District this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.



Thaddeus Bettner, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District