



# Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (MIRWMA)

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**APPROVED** BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
June 10, 2020

**The Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (MIRWMA) met virtually on the above date pursuant to notice at 2:00 P.M., consistent with temporary authorization to deviate from Brown Act meeting guidelines issued through Executive Order by California Governor Gavin Newsom.**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

At 2:00 P.M., Merced County (Daron McDaniel) welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. MIRWMA Board Secretary, Jennifer McMaster made an announcement regarding changes that have been made to the Board meeting procedures in order to make good faith efforts to comply with the Governor's Executive Orders and allow the public the opportunity to observe, participate and comment in the Board's meeting.

Ms. McMaster stated that staff had not received any emails from members of the public requesting a link to the video portion of the meeting or commenting on any agenda item. Ms. McMaster also informed the public of the procedure for submitting comments during the meeting.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: City of Merced (Mike Murphy), Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini), City of Livingston (Gurpal Samra), Merced County (Daron McDaniel)

Absent: City of Atwater

Acting Clerk: Merced Irrigation District (Jennifer McMaster)

## **WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **BOARD ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Acceptance of draft minutes by consensus: March 11, 2020 Board Minutes

**On Motion by City of Livingston (Gurpal Samra), seconded by Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini); the Board unanimously approved the minutes as written.**

## **REPORTS**

Kevin Padway, Merced Irrigation District, Water Resources Engineering Technician provided an overview of the status of the Proposition 1 - Integrated Regional Water Management grant application previously submitted for projects within the Merced IRWM Region. Mr. Padway discussed the draft award recommendations of DWR, which recommended funding for all of the Merced IRWM projects that were submitted. DWR has requested some additional information to be provided.

Mr. Padway provided an update on the Proposition 68 grant requested by the Merced Irrigated-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency, for which MIRWMA provided a letter of support. Mr. Padway reported that funding was awarded. Projects will be focused on filling data gaps related to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and a decision support tool for remote sensing throughout the basin.

Hicham Eltal, Merced Irrigation District, Deputy General Manager, Water Rights provided an update regarding the Department of Water Resources Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Grant. Mr. Eltal discussed two project phases. He noted that Phase 1 funding has been received, approximately 160 wells throughout the Merced IRWM Region have been surveyed for the purpose of obtaining location and elevation data, and work is being done to finalize the data management system integration. DWR requested a DACI needs assessment to identify needs that could be addressed through potential projects to be included in Phase 2 of the DACI Program. He also noted that project funding for Phase 2 has been distributed, and the Merced IRWM region anticipates approximately \$230,000.

Mr. Eltal discussed Phase 2 proposed projects, including project goals and regional benefits and the next steps moving forward. Mr. Eltal stated that the proposed projects are anticipated to improve the understanding of private domestic wells serving disadvantaged community dwellings for parameters that can inform groundwater management decisions.

## **ACTIONS**

Mr. Padway requested the Board review and consider authorizing the submittal of projects for a State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 1 Stormwater Management grant application, and further authorize a member agency to pursue and execute contract(s) necessary to hire a consultant to prepare and submit the Stormwater Grant Program application. Mr. Padway gave a presentation providing background information on the item and indicated that the MIRWMA Regional Advisory Committee previously reviewed the Regions proposed storm water projects in anticipation of the grant. Of those projects, the Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project involving flood control capabilities and a regulating reservoir for flood control activities was recommended for funding under the Storm Water Grant Program. Mr. Padway discussed the project goals, anticipated benefit and potential cost share.

Mr. Padway noted that the Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project is anticipated to help with fighting floods impacting the County and City of Merced, especially in the disadvantaged community of the Franklin/Beachwood area. He reported that the overall cost of the project is approximately \$34 million. He also noted that \$10 million of the overall cost has already been received from the USDA, and that the County, as owner and lead agency for the project, anticipates that it will receive approximately \$9 million from DWR.

Mr. Padway reported that staff will ask for approximately \$8 million from the state for the proposed Project, which if received will leave approximately \$5 million in funding still required. Mr. Padway recommended the Board provide authorization for a member agency to pursue grant funding on behalf of MIRWMA to support the construction of the Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project, as presented.

**On motion by Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini), seconded by Gurpal Samra (City of Livingston); the Board voted unanimously to approve.**

Lacey McBride, Merced County, Water Resources Coordinator presented and discussed the proposed FY 2020-2021 MIRWMA budget. Ms. McBride noted that the proposed budget is \$82,329 with a majority of the budget being used to fund special projects. Ms. McBride indicated that the budget includes the remaining \$21,000 on the 2018 Woodard and Curran contract to include continued work through the IRWM Implementation grant process. Ms. McBride indicates that the budget is otherwise unchanged from FY 2019-2020. Upon adoption of the budget, each member agency shall approve contributions. Ms. McBride noted that member agencies are only anticipated to be invoiced for the funds spent, MIRWMA will not invoice member agencies for the total of the budget but for actual funds expended.

Ms. McBride requested the Board approve the FY 2020-2021 Budget, as presented. Merced County (Daron McDaniel) solicited public questions and comments, none were provided. Upon further discussion between the Board and staff, the Board voted to approve the FY 2020-2021 Budget as presented.

**On motion by Gurpal Samra (City of Livingston), seconded by City of Merced (Mike Murphy); the Board voted unanimously to approve.**

#### **BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD**

None.

#### **ADJOURN**

Merced Irrigation District (Jeff Marchini) moved to adjourn the meeting, City of Livingston (Gurpal Samra) seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:54PM.