EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
150 South E Street
Exeter, California

February 12, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Exeter Irrigation District was called to order by President Ferrara at 1:30 p.m. Directors present were Joe Ferrara, Greg Crosson, Keith Cosart, and David Nielsen. Director Bob Ward was absent. Others present were General Manager Gene Kilgore, Office Manager Selena Rossman, Tri-District Water Authority Controller Janice Daniel, Engineering Consultant Nick Keller and landowner Fabian Acevedo.

PUBLIC COMMENT
President Ferrara opened the floor for public comments, none were presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mr. Kilgore reported Director Cosart attended the Friant Water Authority Board meeting held on January 22, 2026. Director Ferrara attended the East Kaweah GSA Board meeting held on January 26, 2026. Mr. Kilgore announced SB 827, which required fiscal/financial training for directors and 700 Forms need to be submitted by April 1, 2026.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
President Ferrara called for the acceptance of the Agenda. The Agenda was accepted as posted.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
President Ferrara called for the approval of the January 12, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. On motion by Director Crosson, seconded by Director Cosart and carried, the Minutes were approved as presented. Director Ward was absent.

WARRANTS/ACCOUNTS PAYABLES
Ms. Daniel presented January's Payroll and Accounts Payables, which amounted to $185,569.99. Following review and discussion, on motion by Director Cosart, seconded by Director Crosson and carried, the Board approved the expenditures for January as presented and ordered payments of warrants, Bank of Sierra, #1532 - 1561, and included herewith as Exhibit "A".

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT
Ms. Daniel presented the Financial Statements and Reports prepared for January, noting cash deposits of $387,137.21. As of January 31st, the District had active ending bank balances in the Bank of Sierra, and Bank of Sierra 5015 amounting to $1,231,791.42, and $3,459.79, respectively. All banking accounts amounted to $1,235,251.21, an increase of $151,506.29 from the previous month's ending balances.

January's investments totaled $2,541,751.17, with total District funds amounting to $3,777,002.38. Investments were earning interest between 3.25% and 3.88%. on motion by Director Cosart, seconded by Director Crosson and carried, the Board accepted the Financial Reports as presented and ordered to be placed on file, copies of which are included herewith as Exhibit "B."

Ms. Rossman presented the Grower Delinquent Accounts summary showing delinquent balances for 2022, 2023 and 2024 amounting to $2,325.90, $2,313.50, and $12,098.37, respectively. As previously reported, property liens have been filed on all other delinquent accounts.

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Kilgore reported that the District delivered 277 acre-feet of Class 1 water supply in January for irrigation and recharge. The 2024-2025 water deliveries totaled 12,172 acre-feet. The Average precipitation recorded in January was 1.86 inches, for a season total of 8.98 inches. On February 12th, approximate reservoir conditions for Shasta, Millerton, San Luis, and Kaweah were 3,554,459; 318,623; 1,613,303 and 43,014 acre-feet, respectively.

YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT HEARING

President Ferrara opened the public hearing at 2:02 p.m. to consider the filing of the Notice of Determination and the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Yokohl Creek Recharge Project. There were no oral public comments and one written comment received from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, dated February 12, 2026. Engineering consultant Nick Keller, in consultation with the District's legal counsel, will prepare a written response addressing the Department's comments and concerns.

President Ferrara closed the public hearing at 2:06 p.m. On motion by Director Cosart, seconded by Director Nielsen, and carried, the Board approved the filing of the Notice of Determination and adopted the CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Yokohl Creek Recharge Project, subject to final review and approval by legal counsel.

DRAFT 2026 BUDGET

Mr. Kilgore briefly discussed the draft 2026 Budget and stated the proposed 2026 Budget will be on March's agenda for approval.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kilgore reported Staff has been repairing or replacing broken meters and performing other routine maintenance to the pumping stations. A motor at the E-4 pumping station failed and is being repaired. Mr. Kilgore reported the research and development for a repair coupling is still moving along and it is anticipated to have another test of the prototype in the upcoming weeks.

PAREGIEN BASIN PROJECT HEARING

President Ferrara opened the public hearing at 2:30 p.m., for consideration to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Paregien Basin Project. There were no public comments presented and written comments provided by California Department of Fish & Wildlife, California Department of Land Conservation and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District were addressed by the District's consultants. President Ferrara closed the hearing at 2:41 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2026-01 ADOPTING MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The District prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act requirements for the Paregien Basin Project. Mr. Kilgore presented Resolution 2026-1 formalizing the adoption of the mitigation negative declaration, mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the Paregien Basin Project. On motion by Director Nielsen, seconded by Director Crosson and carried, the Board adopted Resolution 2026-1.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY (FWA)

Mr. Kilgore announced the hiring of Johnny Amaral as the new FWA CEO. An update on the ongoing Golden Mussel issue in the Lower Friant Canal was provided. Friant Water Authority (FWA) staff are preparing a proposal for discussion and approval at the February 19th Friant Board meeting. The proposal will include:

- Identifying areas affected by Golden Mussels
- Engaging subject-matter experts to design an abatement and management program.
- Initiating the permitting process required for mitigation activities.
- A preliminary budget estimate of approximately $500,000.

Staff have submitted comments to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the revised draft Water Quality Guidelines for the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta and Bay. At this time, staff believe the submitted comments have been acknowledged and incorporated into the updated plan.

A bipartisan letter—signed by Representatives Costa, Gray, Valadao, and Fong—was sent to Governor Newsom. The letter requests modifications to Delta water operations, citing concerns that current restrictions are based on outdated scientific assumptions intended to support the Delta food web. According to the letter, recent evidence shows these measures provide little to no benefit to the food web, while the associated pumping limitations significantly reduce water supplies for agricultural users south of the Delta.

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. Kilgore reported there were no new EKGSA updates.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board convened to Closed Session at 2:56 p.m.

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION

The Board convened back to Open Session at 3:10 p.m.; There were no recordable actions taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

President Ferrara adjourned the Board meeting at 3:11 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Exeter Irrigation District's Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026.

Gene Kilgore

Secretary/Manager