



COLUSA BASIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting Notice & Agenda

Monday, April 14, 2025, 1:00pm –Board Meeting
Westside Water District
5005 State Highway 20, Williams, CA 95987

1. **Call to Order** – George Tibbitts, Chairperson
2. **Consent Agenda** (any of these items can be moved to Business items for more discussion and action at the Board's direction.)
 - A) Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2024, Board Meeting
 - B) Approval and/or Ratification of March 2025 claims.
 - C) Review and receive March 31, 2025, Financial Statements
3. **Public Hearing** – Recharge Support Project
4. **Business Items for Discussion & Action**
 - A) Recharge Support Project
 - i. Resolution 2025-002: Participation in Research Support Project
 - B) Resolution 2025-003: Call for Election
5. **Reoccurring Calendared Items**
 - A) Project Committee
 - B) South Fork Willow Creek Ranch Report
 - C) SGMA
 - i) Yolo, Colusa, and Glenn Counties
 - D) Sites Reservoir
6. **Director's and/or Manager's Reports**
 - A) Informational only! Director's reports are optional

7. Correspondence:

8. Next Meeting Monday, June 9, 2025 @ 1:00pm at _____

9. Adjourn

Please Note:

1. Members of the public may be allowed to address the board or presenters on agenized items, as items are presented, should said be required by law. However, the Chair will recognize the Colusa Basin Drainage District Board Members first.
2. Any documents related to agenda items that are made available to the board before the meeting will be available for review by the public at the District's temporary Office located at 1030 W. Wood St, Ste 3, Willows, California, during normal business hours. Copies may be requested in writing at a cost of 0.25 per page, payable upon request.

MEETING NOTIFICATION REQUEST: If you would like to be notified of future Colusa Basin Drainage District meeting and events, please call the General Manager at (530) 934-7794 or email at cbdd61@yahoo.com

Colusa Basin Drainage District

P.O. Box 390, Willows, Ca. 95988
Phone (530) 934-7794

To: Colusa County Auditor
Attn: Pat / Alma
From: Merrilee Vanderwaal

17-Mar-25

Enclosed are requests for payment of claims for the Colusa Basin Drainage District Account 03190
The Board of Directors have approved all claims listed and directed that I forward them to you for
payment

Payables

Order Payee	Amount	Acct. No.	Vendor No.	
Downey Brand Attorneys	2,840.00	53180	407	28-Feb
Pacific Gas & Electric	86.02	53260	761	26-Feb
Randy Linquist	18,500.00	57350	639V	1-Apr
Sac Valley CPA	3,946.00	53180	1554	7-Mar
Total Claims	<u>25,372.02</u>			

_____, Director
_____, Director
_____, Director
_____, Director

_____, Director
_____, Director
_____, Director
_____, Director

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
COLUSA BASIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION 2025-02

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RECHARGE SUPPORT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Colusa Basin Drainage District (the “District”) is a special district formed and organized pursuant to the Colusa Basin Drainage District Act, Water Code Appendix sections 127-001 and following; and

WHEREAS, the District was formed for the purpose of studying and addressing subsurface drainage and land subsidence issues within the Colusa Basin (Wat Code App’x § 127-20); and

WHEREAS, the voters of the District approved the District’s Integrated Water Management Program (“Initial Plan”) in a District-wide election held on November 14, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Plan sought to identify and fund projects that provide flood protection and improve drainage, protect agricultural production, improve groundwater recharge, capture flood waters to increase water supplies, improve water quality, and improve wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Colusa Basin Drainage Act provides that the District “shall, wherever possible,” coordinate with other local agencies to develop and implement projects pursuant to the Initial Plan (Wat. Code App’x § 127-611); and

WHEREAS, the Recharge Support Project would support Colusa County Water District and Dunnigan Water District in their groundwater recharge projects, consistent with the purposes for which the District was formed and the voters’ intent in approving the Initial Plan; and

WHEREAS, at a duly held meeting of the District’s Board of Directors (“Board”) on March 10, 2025, the Board adopted Resolution 2025-01, declaring the District’s intent to undertake the Recharge Support Project and hold a public hearing pursuant to the Colusa Basin Drainage District Act; and

WHEREAS, the District duly held a public hearing as part of the District’s regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a majority of eligible voters in the area affected by the Recharge Support Project did not submit written protests against the Project pursuant to Water Code Appendix § 127-613; and

WHEREAS, the Staff Report attached hereto accurately describes the Recharge Support Project; and

WHEREAS, the District’s existing assessment would fund the Recharge Support Project as the Recharge Support Project is consistent with the Initial Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends to proceed with the Recharge Support Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colusa Basin Drainage District Board of Directors as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
2. The Recharge Support Project, as described in Resolution 2025-01 and the Staff Report attached hereto, is hereby approved.
3. The District's staff are hereby directed and authorized to take any actions necessary or convenient to carry out the Board's intent and direction in this Resolution.

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colusa Basin Drainage District held on April 14, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Certification

I, _____, hereby certify that I am and at all times mentioned herein was contracted as the Secretary of the Colusa Basin Drainage District, organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said District duly held on April 14, 2025, a majority and quorum of the members of said Board of Directors being present and voting in favor of said Resolution; and that said Resolution has not been modified, rescinded, altered or amended and is now in full force and effect.

Secretary of the Board

COLUSA BASIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

RE: Recharge Support Project

DATED: April 14, 2025

Background

The Colusa Basin Drainage District (“District”) was formed to address subsurface drainage and land subsidence issues in the Colusa Basin. (Wat. Code App’x § 127-20.) Pursuant to this legislative directive, the District adopted an Integrated Water Management Program (“Initial Plan”) for studying and supporting projects consistent with six principal goals:

1. Preserve and enhance agricultural production.
2. Capture surface water or stormwater for conservation, conjunctive use, and increased water supplies.
3. Provide flood and drainage water protection for both urban and agricultural interests.
4. Assist in groundwater recharge efforts to help alleviate overdraft and land subsidence problems.
5. Improve and enhance opportunities for the restoration of wetland and riparian habitats.
6. Improve water quality.

Per Water Code Appendix section 127-610, the District’s voters approved the Initial Plan in a special election held on November 14, 1995. The Initial Plan provided that the District would not implement projects under the Initial Plan unless three conditions were met. First, the District must partner with another local agency per the District’s authorizing legislation, which requires the District to partner with and encourage other local agencies in developing and implementing projects. (Wat. Code App’x § 127-611.) Second, there must be a cost-share from a non-District source to cover a substantial portion of the project's costs. Third, unless the District can fund the project without increasing the present assessment, it must first secure landowner approval through an election.

The District’s only assessment is the same “present assessment” contemplated by the Initial Plan. In fact, the District originally levied the assessment in 1994 for the purpose of funding the District’s development and implementation of the Initial Plan. The assessment’s rate has remained the same: \$0.10 per acre with a minimum assessment of \$5.00 per parcel.

Recharge Support Project

The Recharge Support Project would authorize the District to provide the Colusa County Water District (“CCWD”) and Dunnigan Water District (“DWD”) with up to \$50,000 each for the purpose of assisting their implementation of groundwater recharge pilot projects. These funds would be paid by the District’s existing assessment; the District does not need to levy any additional assessments, fees, or charges to implement the Recharge Support Project.

The two agencies, CCWD in Division II and the DWD in Division III, are undertaking multiple groundwater recharge projects and plan to develop additional projects in the future. In addition to serving as water supply districts, CCWD and DWD each have a role (either as a member of a JPA or individually) in ensuring compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in their respective groundwater basins. In this role, CCWD and DWD are developing in lieu and direct groundwater recharge projects for the sound management of groundwater resources in the Colusa and Yolo Subbasins, respectively. These projects address SGMA's undesirable results of land subsidence, depletion of interconnected surface water, and reduced groundwater storage by redirecting floodwaters from the Sacramento Valley into the groundwater basin.

Subsidence and reductions in groundwater supply are issues of special concern in Divisions II and III of the District. The District is interested in assisting CCWD and DWD with their groundwater recharge projects, which directly respond to these issues by capturing otherwise unused, flood, or surplus flows for groundwater recharge. CCWD's and DWD's pilot projects are located in Divisions II and III of the District and are described more specifically below.

Ephemeral Stream Trickle Flow Recharge. CCWD and DWD would redirect Sacramento Valley floodwaters through the Tehama-Colusa Canal into ephemeral streams overlying the Colusa and Yolo Subbasins. The surface water percolates into the groundwater basin as it flows through the stream's channel towards the Sacramento River, thus increasing the area recharged by these facilities. DWD has already implemented one such trickle flow project on Buckeye Creek with remarkable success.

On-Farm Direct Recharge. DWD is already operating a direct recharge project on a landowner's agricultural property in the Yolo Subbasin. These projects operate by applying surface water supplies to the property, effectively flooding the field, and allowing that water to percolate. On-farm recharge projects are notable for providing multiple benefits. In addition to augmenting groundwater supplies, on-farm recharge creates habitat for migratory birds and other species.

Percolation Ponds. DWD proposed constructing percolation ponds in areas with high percolation rates that would allow drainage of excess surface water into the Yolo Subbasin.

These projects will benefit District's landowners within Divisions II and III. A map of these groundwater recharge projects can be found here: <https://arcg.is/mOHmr>

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve the Recharge Support Project. Supporting the pilot projects through the Recharge Support Project directly aligns with the Initial Plan's six principles and the purpose for which the District was formed. Similarly, the Recharge Support Project meets the three criteria for approval. The District will partner with DWD and CCWD to carry out the groundwater recharge projects; DWD and CCWD are bearing most of the costs themselves; and the District can implement the project without needing to increase the existing assessment.

Fiscal Impact: Up to \$100,000 paid entirely by existing revenue source.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
COLUSA BASIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION 2025-03

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN ALL-MAILED BALLOT ELECTION AND WATER
DISTRICT ELECTION**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Water Code Appendix § 127 and following (“District Act”), Colusa Basin Drainage District (“District”) elects its Directors to 4 year terms, commencing in January; and

WHEREAS, the seat of two (2) Directors are up for selection by the irrigation districts, water districts, drainage districts, and reclamation districts (collectively “water districts”) within Divisions I and III of the District for the term commencing in January 2026; and

WHEREAS, the seat of one (1) Director is up for election by the landowners of Division III for the term commencing in January 2026; and

WHEREAS, the District’s landowner elections have historically been conducted by the county on behalf of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Directors may adopt a resolution determining that the District shall conduct its own election, and designating an officer who shall perform the duties of the county clerk in conducting the election, pursuant to § 127-304 of the District Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board may also direct that any District election be conducted by all mailed ballots, under the procedures set forth for mailed ballot elections in the Elections Code, pursuant to § 127-305 of the District Act; and

WHEREAS, an all-mailed ballot election may be held on any date other than an established election date, pursuant to Elections Code § 4108; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the District for the District to conduct its own all-mailed ballot election for the 2025 General District Election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colusa Basin Drainage District Board of Directors as follows:

1. The above recitals are adopted and incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
2. An all-mailed ballot election shall be held on November 13, 2025, to elect a candidate to serve as the Director for Division III for the term commencing January 2026.
3. The General Manager of the District is designated as the officer who shall perform the duties of the county clerks in conducting the election, and the General Manager shall take all actions necessary or convenient to carry out the Board of Directors’ intent in adopting this Resolution.

4. The District shall hold a water district election to select candidates to serve as Directors for Divisions I and III for the term commencing January 2026.
5. The General Manager is directed to mail the necessary nomination forms to the governing boards of the water districts fully or partially within Divisions I and III.
6. The governing boards of the water districts shall submit nominations to the General Manager no later than 5:00 p.m., July 18, 2025. Any nominations received after 5:00 p.m., July 18, 2025 shall not be considered eligible for inclusion on the ballot.
7. If more than one eligible candidate is nominated by the water districts for each division, respectively, by the deadline, the General Manager shall cause written ballots to be sent to the water districts for an election.

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colusa Basin Drainage District held on April 14, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Certification

I, _____, hereby certify that I am and at all times mentioned herein was contracted as the Secretary of the Colusa Basin Drainage District, organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said District duly held on April 14, 2025, a majority and quorum of the members of said Board of Directors being present and voting in favor of said Resolution; and that said Resolution has not been modified, rescinded, altered or amended and is now in full force and effect.

Secretary of the Board