

MEETING OF THE SUNNYSIDE DIVISION
BOARD OF CONTROL

The regular meeting of the Sunnyside Division Board of Control (SDBOC) was held in-person and via conference call and was called to order by Chairman Doug Simpson on August 11, 2026, at 1:30 PM. Present in addition to Chairman Simpson was Director Paul Groeneweg, Kevin Golob, Markus Rollinger, Mike Hogue, and Will Scarlett; David Felman, SDBOC Secretary/Treasurer, Ron Cowin, Assistant Manager-Engineering, Dave Bos, Assistant Manager-Operations, and Nikki Musson, SVID Deputy Treasurer/Office Manager. Norman Semanko, Legal Counsel for the Sunnyside Division Board of Control participated virtually.

The minutes of the July 7, 2026, Board Meeting were reviewed. Upon a motion by Director Golob, that was seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes were approved.

The Board reviewed the monthly financial reports and vouchers numbered 6834-6850 in the total amount of \$447,925.54 which were submitted for approval. A motion was made by Director Hogue which was seconded and unanimously carried, authorizing payment of the vouchers as listed above.

Mr. Bos presented the water supply report. As of August 11, 2026, storage in the mountain reservoirs is at 515,734 acre-feet or 48% of capacity. Storage content is 77.8% of average. Precipitation for the year to date (Oct 1 to Aug 11) is 244.11 inches or 112% of average. Snowpack is not currently being measured and the Yakima Basin went on storage control on May 21st. The August pro-rationing set by the Bureau of Reclamation increased from 56% to 58% supply to prorated water rights. SDBOC is currently diverting 1100 cfs.

Staff discussed District allocations and operational limitations. In 2012, Benton Irrigation District received approval for a new Yakima River point of diversion downstream of Parker, which removed 21,044 acre-feet of demand from the lower end of the Sunnyside Canal. The 60-mile reservoir site had been selected based on the assumption that Benton Irrigation District would continue diverting its entitlements from the Sunnyside Canal. With Benton now pumping directly from the Yakima River, the reservoir is less effective as a water conservation tool. As with any open canal system, current lower-end demand requires operational spill at the Spring Wasteway to manage fluctuations and avoid shorting landowners at the tail ends of laterals. The District continues to work with the Bureau of Reclamation on a fourth re-regulation reservoir that would allow conserved water to be retained and used within the District.

Mr. Felman provided a brief update on the Senior Coalition. He reported that a response letter was submitted to the Department of Ecology and the Bureau of Reclamation on July 22. On August 6, 2026, Roland Springer, Acting Regional Director for the Bureau of Reclamation, responded that no carryover changes would be made, but stated there is reasonable certainty that senior October entitlements will be met this season. Ecology has not yet responded.

Mr. Felman updated the Board regarding the recent exclusion of senior canal diverters and Kennewick Irrigation District from future Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Implementation Committee meetings. Following discussion, the Board authorized the Manager to communicate with YBIP representatives requesting reconsideration of the decision and continued participation by senior irrigation districts in future non-public meetings, committees, and subcommittees.

At 2:15 PM Chairman Simpson announced the Board would convene into Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to last until 3:15 PM. The purpose of the executive session was to discuss litigation or potential litigation involving or likely to involve the District as a party.

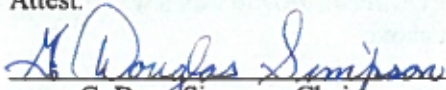
At 3:15 the Board reconvened into open session.

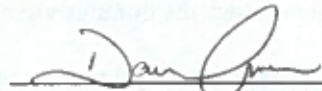
The Board discussed elevating the water rights matter to the Department of the Interior's Washington, D.C. office to seek review of the position taken by local and regional Reclamation field offices. Upon a motion by Director Groeneweg, which was seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved escalating the matter beyond the regional Boise office.

The Board discussed retaining Jeremiah Williamson to assist Parsons Behle & Latimer with senior water rights matters in the Yakima Basin. Upon a motion by Director Hogue, which was seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved engaging Williamson Law.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM.

Attest:


G. Doug Simpson, Chairman


David Felman, Secretary