THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA: 5.B.11
AGENDA DATE: November 3, 2026

SUBJECT:
Approval to Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to Negotiate and Execute a Reciprocal Access License Agreement and an Interim Cost-Sharing Agreement with South San Joaquin Irrigation District in Connection with Closure of Woodward Reservoir

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS: **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-0582**

On motion of Supervisor Grewal **Seconded by Supervisor** C. Condit
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: B. Condit, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman Chiesa
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X **Approved as recommended**
2) _____ **Denied**
3) _____ **Approved as amended**
4) _____ **Other:**

MOTION:

ATTEST: MARY B. HARTSFIELD, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA:5.B.11
AGENDA DATE: November 3, 2026

CONSENT: ☑

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to Negotiate and Execute a Reciprocal Access License Agreement and an Interim Cost-Sharing Agreement with South San Joaquin Irrigation District in Connection with Closure of Woodward Reservoir

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to negotiate and execute a reciprocal access license agreement with South San Joaquin Irrigation District in connection with closure of Woodward Reservoir.
2. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to negotiate and execute an interim cost-sharing agreement with South San Joaquin Irrigation District in connection with closure of Woodward Reservoir.

DISCUSSION:

Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation has provided recreation at Woodward Reservoir, located in eastern Stanislaus County, for over 65 years. Owned by South San Joaquin Irrigation District (District), the reservoir helps store and manage water from the Stanislaus River for use throughout Southern San Joaquin County. Stanislaus County has partnered with the District to operate recreational activities under a series of license agreements, with the first dating back to 1959.

The most recent license agreement dates to 1985 and was amended three times, resulting in a term ending January 1, 2036, with the ability to extend every five years thereafter for five additional five-year terms. The agreement provided an early termination clause and identified requirements should that option be exercised. On October 14, 2025, the District chose to exercise its right to issue early termination of the license agreement with the County, with an effective end date of October 15, 2026.

While the District owns the reservoir and some surrounding land, the County owns eight parcels in and around the reservoir as well and has utilized the space to provide recreational activities to the community. The District has identified its intent to pursue acquisition of County-owned parcels for the purpose of continuing recreation at the reservoir. While the County and District have worked over these past several months to reach an agreement on the purchase and sale of County-owned parcels, the parties were unable to reach a settlement prior to the October 15, 2026, license termination.

Rather than extend the deadline to provide additional time for negotiations, the District chose to close the reservoir to the public, effective October 16, 2026. Logistically, this

now requires that temporary arrangements be made to allow for daily maintenance, monitoring, and security needs while the parties continue to work towards an agreeable purchase and sale resolution. The parties are close to finalizing two agreements to address this transitional period.

The first is a reciprocal access license agreement. This is intended to allow the parties to access their respective facilities and infrastructure to perform required maintenance and monitoring activities which may include crossing the boundary of the other's parcels in carrying out such actions. The license agreement will clarify expectations, limitations, and restrictions. There is no cost associated with the reciprocal access license agreement.

The second document is an interim cost-sharing agreement that is intended to address any shared utilities, security services, and water and wastewater facility management costs. Both parties benefit by sharing the costs to secure and operate essential functions at the reservoir. Preliminary estimates place the County share at approximately $87,000.

Both agreements will have a six-month term to provide time for the parties to continue purchase and sale negotiations.

Currently, both parties are working to navigate access needs as fairly as possible and cover costs independently until contracts can be finalized and signed. Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to negotiate and execute these two agreements will help expedite execution and benefit both parties.

POLICY ISSUE:

Board authority is required to enter into an agreement with another public entity.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Preliminary estimates for the costs for shared utilities, security, and water and wastewater facility management assume approximately $87,000. Projections include $62,000 for security and $25,000 for water and wastewater costs. Splitting utility costs will produce modest savings as the County has covered those previously at 100%.

All costs incurred throughout the transition away from operations at Woodward Reservoir are being paid out of the Parks and Recreation budget. The Department will address any budgetary needs associated with this and other Woodward Reservoir closure needs in the 2027 Midyear Budget process.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended actions are consistent with the Board's priority of *Enhancing Community Infrastructure* by supporting the transition in recreation at Woodward Reservoir.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing Parks and Recreation, Chief Executive Office, and County Counsel staff will continue to work to finalize agreements with the District.

CONTACT PERSON:

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