

Reclamation District No. 1607

VAN SICKLE ISLAND-SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Notice of a Special Meeting

**In Person and Online Meeting of the Van Sickle Island Board of Trustees
has been called by Board Member Steve Thomas
Monday October 12, 2026 at 4:00pm
at the District Office at 4301 Inverness Drive Pittsburg, CA 94565**

Join Zoom Meeting for Remote Attendance for the Meeting
<https://UCOP.zoom.us/j/5109879868?pwd=L3Ayb3h6VGZiTWw1MTVYS1FhZWJhLQ09>
Meeting ID: 510 987 9868 Passcode: 556575
One tap mobile +16692192599,,5109879868# US (San Jose)

Meeting Agenda

1.Meeting Called to Order

2. Approval of Minutes 7/16/26, 8/25/26

3. Discussion Of Financial Statements and status of levee.

4. Engineer update on upcoming final FEMA work. Resolution 10.12.1. Shall the Board authorize the engineer to complete the project as presented.

5. Presentation By Curt Schmutte on Floating Marsh Project.

Curt Schmutte, former director of the DWR Delta Subventions Program and past consultant to the Metropolitan Water District will propose a project that could provide huge benefits to aquatic species in the Delta and offer financial support for Van Sickle Island levee maintenance projects. Landowners would need to allow varying levels of water management during the year in exchange for levee maintenance.

Background and Project Summary: Reclamation District No. 1607 (Van Sickle Island) is partnering with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), GEI Consultants, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to advance a multi-benefit tidal wetland restoration and flood resilience project. The proposed project leverages state funding under the Delta Conservancy's Proposition 4 Climate Bond Grant Program to develop conceptual designs, ecology and hydrodynamic modeling necessary to position the District for future final design and construction funds. In alignment with state climate priorities, the project proposes to substantially improve perimeter levees to mitigate flood risk, contour interior landscapes for tidal marsh, and install operable control gates. These gates will enable managed tidal inundation during the spring, fall, and dry-year summers to export primary productivity ("fish food"), buffer Delta salinity, capture carbon, reverse island subsidence, and control invasive plants, while remaining closed during hunting season to preserve recreational operations.

Action and Next Steps: Board of Trustees approve a resolution authorizing the Reclamation District to act as the official project proponent and lead applicant for this Delta Conservancy planning grant. Upon Board approval, the technical partner team—consisting of SFEI, GEI, USGS, and MWD—will finalize the grant application materials in coordination with the District and submit the completed proposal in advance of the Delta Conservancy's October 24 deadline. Acceptance of this planning grant will facilitate the ecological evaluations, hydrodynamic modeling and engineering groundwork required to protect island infrastructure and secure long-term capital improvement funding.

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A comprehensive description of the special funding opportunities for this project can be found at:

<https://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/grant-program/prop-4/>

Agenda Item: Authorization to Serve as Project Proponent and Submit Proposal for Delta Conservancy Proposition 4 Grant Funding

Resolution 10.12.2 Shall the District be allowed to be the lead agent in a special funding request to allow Van Sickle Island to explore special environmental processes in exchange for future levee maintenance?

6. Resolution 10.12.3 Declaration of Emergency in anticipation of El Nino storms.

Due to the expectation that the super El Nino weather condition is predicted to caused extreme rainfall in the delta this upcoming winter, shall the district declare an emergency to be able to obtain additional flood fighting supplies to be distributed by the county, state and federal sources? This would include asking for or purchasing special flood fighting materials such as K Rails, Aquadams or Muscle walls. Should the district authorize the purchase of such materials as necessary.

7. Resolution 10.12.4 Island Flood-up date. How and when should the district commence flood up for the 10/24 opening day of hunting.

8. Andrew Cain has been working with Ducks Unlimited on a project that would create a living levee on the inside slope of some of our parcels. Ducks Unlimited would like to apply for a funding grant to create a plan for our island. **Resolution 10.12.5 Should the Reclamation District authorize Aaron Will (Ducks Unlimited) to submit grant applications on behalf of the district for the purpose of funding the living levee project plan for the south side of Van Sickle Island. The district shall serve as the lead agent for these applications, with no financial obligation incurred by the district unless terms are further negotiated and approved by the board.**

9. Discussion and recommendation on driving on west levees when the levee gets wet. Discussion of estimated cost of placing gravel on the Honker Bay and Spoonbill levees.

Adjournment

This agenda and supporting documents are posted on the RD1607 website at:

<https://rd1607.specialdistrict.org/2025-01-07-board-meeting>

Updates on the agenda may be posted up to 24 hours before the meeting