# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MINUTES

## ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

## September 9, 2024

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 2:48 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman (AB 2449 just cause), Alvarez (entered after roll call), Armstrong, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Gold (teleconference posted location), Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), Lewitt, Miller, Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Quinn.

Members absent: Directors Cordero and Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Directors Dennstedt (teleconference posted location), Gray (teleconference posted location), McCoy, McMillan (teleconference posted location), Ortega, Ramos (teleconference posted location), Seckel, and Smith (teleconference posted location).

Director Ackerman indicated that she was participating under AB 2449 "just cause" regarding an injury. Director Ackerman appeared by audio and on camera and stated that she was alone.

Committee Staff present: Bednarski, Crosson, Goshi, Hasencamp, Hawk, Munguia, Schlotterbeck, Upadhyay, and Wheeler.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

None.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

- 2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION
  - **A.** Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee Meeting for August 19, 2024.
- 3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ACTION
- 7-4 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with the Plumas Community Protection I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, North Feather I Forest Reslience Bond LLC, and Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond LLC to establish watershed partnerships and forest health pilot

investigations in the Northern Sierra Nevada: the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to

CEQA

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with the Plumas

Community Protection I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, and Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond LLC to establish watershed partnerships and forest health pilot investigations in the Northern Sierra Nevada, each agreement is not to

exceed \$200,000 per year for a maximum of two years.

Presenter: None.

No presentation was given. Director Miller made a motion, seconded by Director Armstrong, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-4.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

## 1. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to Director's questions and comments.

Director Ackerman announced before the vote that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, De Jesus, Erdman,

Faessel, Gold, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Lewitt, Miller,

Pressman, and Quinn.

Noes: Director Fong-Sakai (Item 7-4)

Abstentions: None.

Absent Directors Cordero and Sutley.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent. The motion for item 7-4 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 1 no, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

### END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

## 4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

#### 5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

**9-2** Subject: Proposed modifications to the Reverse Cyclic Program.

Presented by: Anna M. Garcia, Associate Engineer, Water Resource Management

Mr. Goshi provided background and introductory comments.

Ms. Garcia provided a presentation on potential modifications to the Reverse-Cyclic Program to defer deliveries of purchased water under various water supply conditions.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1. Gold
- 2. Miller
- 3. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

9-3 Subject: Update on proposed agreements with Western Canal Water District and

Richvale Irrigation District for water transfer options and rights of first

refusal during 2025 through 2027.

Presented by: Sarah J. Bartlett, Program Manager, Water Resource Management

Mr. Goshi provided background and introductory comments.

Ms. Bartlett provided a presentation on water transfer agreements with Western Canal Water District (Western) and Richvale Irrigation District (Richvale) for annual north-of-Delta water transfers during 2025 through 2027. Under the proposed agreements, Metropolitan would pay an option to each agency, located in the Feather River service area, in return for the first right to annually call on each agency's available water transfer supplies during 2025 through 2027.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1. Fong-Sakai
- 2. Miller
- 3. Lefevre
- 4. Ortega

Staff responded to Directors questions and comments.

#### 6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

Chair Quinn announced a reordering of the Agenda where item 6d would be heard ahead of the other Committee Items.

d. Subject: Update on State Water Project Overview

Presented by: Brandon J. Goshi, Interim Manager,

Water Resource Management

Interim General Manager, Deven N. Upadhyay provided background and introductory comments.

Mr. Goshi gave an overview presentation of the State Water Project, with discussion on its significance for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in terms of investment, benefits, and ongoing challenges.

Chair Quinn announced that Committee Item 6b would deferred to the following month and requested an abbreviated version of Item 6c.

a. Subject: Update on Webb Tract Rice Development and Wetland

**Restoration Projects** 

Presented by: Malinda Stalvey, Program Manager, Bay-Delta Innitiatives

Ms. Hawk provided background and introductory comments.

Ms. Stalvey gave a presentation on Webb Tract Rice Development and Wetland Restoration Projects status.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

## 1. Miller

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

b. Subject: Update on Conservation as a California Way of Life

This item was deferred.

c. Subject: Update on Conservation

Presented by: Karina Sandique, Associate Resource Specialist,

Water Resource Management

Ms. Sandique provided an abbreviated presentation on the Conservation Program highlighting biennial expenditures and commitments, activity on turf and tree replacement, device incentives, and fiscal year 22/23-23/24 achievements.

#### 7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: Bay-Delta Resources, Colorado River Resources, Sustainability,

Resilience and Innovation, and Water Resource Management

activities

Presented by: John Bednarski, Interim Assistant General Manager

Mr. Bednarski reported on operations of water transport through the Delta, and Sites Water Rights application status.

#### 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Report on the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Meeting

There was none.

b. Report on Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Meeting

There was none.

c. Report on Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meeting

Chair Quinn provided a report on behalf of Director McMillen on the Bay-Delta Ad Hoc meeting held on August 26, 2024.

## 9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Director Armstrong noted that the Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities is planning to meet in January 2025.

#### 10. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None.

#### 11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

#### 12. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on October 7, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.