

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**September 11, 2023**

Vice Chair Faessel called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Chacon, Cordero (teleconference posted location), De Jesus teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg (AB2449), Kurtz, Lefevre (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Miller, Peterson, Pressman (teleconference posted location).

Members Absent: Directors Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Bryant, Dennstedt, Dick, Fellow, Garza, Gray, McMillan, Ortega, Seckel, and Smith.

Director Goldberg indicated she is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding being covid positive. Director Goldberg appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee staff present: Coffey, Crosson, Hasencamp, Munguia, Neudeck, Schlotterbeck, Upadhyay, and Wheeler.

**1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION (AS REQUIRED BY GOV. CODE SECTION 54954.3(A))**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

A. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for August 14, 2023.

Director Armstrong disclosed that he is disqualified under Metropolitan’s Act 56, and will not vote on nor participate in, including abstain, Agenda item 7-4.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

**7-4** Subject: Review and consider the Eastern Municipal Water District’s certified Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum, and take related CEQA actions; Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Eastern Municipal Water District for the French Valley Recycled Water Distribution System Project for up to 140 acre-feet per year of recycled water for irrigation use in the Eastern Municipal Water District service area

Presented by: None

Motion: Review and consider Eastern Municipal Water District’s certified Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum, and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Eastern Municipal Water District for the French Valley Recycled Water Distribution Project for up to 140 acre-feet per year of recycled water for irrigation use in the Eastern Municipal Water District service area.

No presentations were given, Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director Chacon, to approve Consent Calendar Items 2A and 7-4.

Director Goldberg 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, Chacon, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Miller, Peterson, and Pressman.

Noes: None

Not voting: Directors Armstrong (item 7-4)

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Lefevre, Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

The motion for item 7-4 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 1 not voting, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

**\*\*END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS\*\***

#### 4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

**8-2** Subject: Authorize payments, by a two-thirds vote, of up to \$4.16 million for participation in the State Water Contractors for FY 2023/24; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Jaime Dalida, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Motion: By a two-thirds vote, authorize payments of up to \$4.16 million for participation in the State Water Contractors for FY 2023/24.

Mr. Coffey provided brief background information and introduced Ms. Dalida.

Ms. Dalida gave a detailed presentation on the proposed request to authorize continued funding and participation in the State Water Contractors (SWC). Participation in this organization allows Metropolitan to advocate for effective operations and management of the State Water Project (SWP), with an emphasis on the reliability of the SWP infrastructure, managing electrical power resources, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay/Delta (Delta). Metropolitan's participation enhances the effectiveness of relationships with the other SWP contractors.

Mr. Coffey presented and explained additional slides in response to questions from Directors.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Fong-Sakai
2. Ortega
3. Fellow
4. Garza

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

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

After completion of the presentation, Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director Chacon, to approve option 1 of the board letter.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Miller, Peterson, and Pressman.

Noes: None.

Abstentions: Director Chacon.

Absent: Director Lefevre, Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley.

The motion for item 8-2 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 4 absent.

Director Chacon left the meeting.

Directors Cordero and Erdman provided statements recusing themselves from item 8-3.

**8-3** Subject: Review and consider the Addenda Nos. 1, 2, and 3 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration previously adopted by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency for the High Desert Water Bank; approve changes to the design, construction, and operation of Water Bank facilities; authorize up to \$80 million for additional costs associated with these changes; the General Manager has determined that a portion of the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Tracy Abundez, Water Resource Management

Motion: Review and consider Addenda Nos. 1, 2, and 3 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration previously adopted by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency for the High Desert Water Bank; approve changes to the design, construction, and operation of Water Bank facilities as discussed in this letter; and authorize up to \$80 million for additional costs associated with these changes.

Mr. Coffey provided brief background information and introduced Ms. Abundez.

Ms. Abundez gave a presentation that explained the proposed changes to the design, construction, and operation of the Water Bank. Ms. Abundez then described the costs and the need to authorize up to \$80 million for the additional costs associated with these changes.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Pressman
3. DeJesus
4. McMillan
5. Smith
6. Seckel
7. Garza
8. Ortega

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

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

After completion of the presentation, Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director De Jesus, to approve option 1 of the board letter.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, De Jesus, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Miller, Peterson, and Pressman.  
Noes: None  
Not voting: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: Directors Chacon, Cordero, Erdman, Lefevre, Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley

The motion for item 8-3 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 not voting, 0 abstentions, and 7 absent.

## **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

## **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Vice Chair Faessel announced there would be a reordering of the meeting agenda. Item 6c would be heard next, followed by item 7a.

c. Subject: Update on Conservation

Presented by: Elise Goldman, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Mr. Coffey explained that item 6c and 6a are companions, gave background information, and introduced Ms. Goldman.

Ms. Goldman gave an update on Conservation Program expenditures and activity.

Vice Chair Faessel announced that item 6a would immediately follow.

a. Subject: Update on Conservation Budget and Expenditures

Presented by: Elise Goldman, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Ms. Goldman gave an in-depth presentation on the Conservation budget, expenditures, and management of Program reserved dollars.

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

a. Subject: Colorado River Manager's Report

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp gave an update on Colorado River activity including an update on the significant efforts to reduce water use demands in the lower Colorado River basin.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. Seckel

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Vice Chair Faessel announced the reordering of the meeting agenda and called on Mr. Coffey to introduce item 6b.

## **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (CONTINUE)**

b. Subject: Information on Round 3 Future Supply Action Funding Program

Presented by: Warren Teitz, Manager, Resource Development

Mr. Coffey provided brief background information and introduced Mr. Teitz.

Mr. Teitz gave a presentation on Round 3 of Metropolitan's Future Supply Action Program which was developed as part of the IRP to accelerate the need for long-term development.

Director Chacon entered the meeting.

Director Kurtz and Miller left the meeting.

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- b. Subject: Bay-Delta Manager's Report  
Presented by: Nina Hawk, Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager

Ms. Hawk reported on Bay-Delta activity including updates on the Sites Reservoir Project, follow-up on the staff's memo regarding the Bay Delta 101 Workshop, and collaborative work between Bay Delta and Water Resource Management on a grant submission.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Fong-Sakai

Director De Jesus left the meeting.

Director Lefevre entered the meeting.

- c. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report  
Presented by: Manager, Water Resource Management

Mr. Coffey reported on current water supply conditions, the potential water exchange with United Water, water storage conditions, and the staff's participation in the Water Data Conference.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith

- d. Subject: Chief Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Officer's Report  
Presented by: Liz Crosson, Manager, Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation.

Ms. Crosson reported on the Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation office's activities.

**8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

- a. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Bay-Delta
- b. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities

Director Goldberg made a request regarding Agenda Item 8b, for a written report on how Assembly Member Laura Freidman's AB1572 impacts the projected demands assumed in the 2020 IRP Needs Assessment including the impacts of recent State Water Board water use regulations.

**9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

Director Peterson requested a staff analysis on Metropolitan's energy use on the State Water Project.

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on October 9, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Stephen J. Faessel  
Vice Chair