

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**June 12, 2023**

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman (entered after roll call), Armstrong, Chacon, Erdman (entered after roll call), Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Peterson, Quinn, and Sutley (entered after roll call).

Members Absent: Directors Alvarez, Cordero, De Jesus, Goldberg, and Petersen.

Other Board Members present: Abdo, Dennstedt, Dick, Fellow, Garza, Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Seckel, and Smith.

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))**

Public speakers included:

1. Mark Gold, National Resources Council, spoke in support of item 7b
2. Justin Breck, Los Angeles Water Keeper, spoke in support of item 7b
3. Devon Provo, Accelerate Resilience L.A. spoke in support of item 7b.
4. Osha Maserve, Soluri Meserve Law Corporation, spoke in opposition of item 7-8.
5. Bruce Blodgett, Executive Director, Delta Protective Commission

#### **2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a.** Subject: Report from Subcommittee on Bay-Delta

Subcommittee on Bay-Delta did not meet. Nothing to report.

- b.** Subject: Report from Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities

Presented by: Director Armstrong.

Director Armstrong reported on two subcommittee items discussed at an earlier meeting of the Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities. The first item was an update on Local Resources Program. The second item was a conservation update.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

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

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for May 8, 2023.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

- 7-7**      Subject:                      By a two-thirds vote, authorize payment of up to \$932,800 for support of the Colorado River Board and Six Agency Committee for fiscal year 2023/35; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by:                  None. No presentation requested.

Motion:                        By a two-thirds vote, authorize payment of up to \$932,800 for support of the Colorado River Board and Six Agency Committee for FY 2023/2024

Brad Coffey provided background information on the following item giving the committee the option of viewing the presentation.

- 7-8**      Subject:                      Adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project and take related CEQA actions

Presented by:                  Sean Carlson, Manager, Environmental Planning

Motion:                        Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project and take related CEQA actions.

Mr. Carlson gave a presentation on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project, which, if approved by a future Board action, would include the construction of two marsh-pond complexes to house native fish for research and experimental study.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Fong-Sakai | 4. Peterson |
| 2. Ortega     | 5. Kurtz    |
| 3. Miller     | 6. Ackerman |

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz, to approve the Consent Calendar consisting of items 3a, 7-7, and 7-8.

The vote was:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Ayes:        | Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Chacon, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Peterson, Quinn, and Sutley. |
| Noes:        | Chacon (item 7-8), Fong-Sakai (item 7-8), and Miller (item 7-8)  |
| Abstentions: | Fong-Sakai (item 3a).  |
| Absent:      | Directors Alvarez, Cordero, De Jesus, Goldberg, and Petersen.  |

The motion for item 3A passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 5 absent.

The motion for item 7-7 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 5 absent.

The motion for item 7-8 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 3 noes, 0 abstentions, and 5 absent.

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

**5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION**

None.

**6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None.

## 7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Metropolitan's Groundwater Storage and Delivery Programs

Presented by: Anna Garcia, Associate Engineer, Water Acquisition Team

Ms. Garcia's presentation on Metropolitan's Groundwater Storage and Delivery Programs was provided in response to Directors' comments at the May 8, 2023, OW&S Committee. Her presentation gave a high-level status update and a broad overview of those storage and delivery programs.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Seckel
2. Armstrong
3. Ortega

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

- b. Subject: Update on Stormwater Activities

Presented by: Warren Teitz, Manager, Resource Development Team

Mr. Teitz gave a presentation that discussed updates on Stormwater conditions, Stormwater for Direct-Use Pilot Program, and upcoming activities as they relate to planning.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Erdman

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

- c.     Subject:                   Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management
- Presented by:         Noosha Razavian, Associate Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Ms. Razavian provided an abbreviated presentation that reviewed hydrological conditions and Metropolitan's current water supply-demand balance.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.     Smith

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

## **8.     MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a.     Subject:                   Colorado River Manager's Report
- Presented by:         Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp provided an update on Colorado River activity.

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

Ms. Hawk provided an update on Bay-Delta activity.

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

Mr. Coffey's update highlighted two of Water Resource Management's staff members, Mr. Gary Tilkian and Mr. James Morgutia. Mr. Tilkian's cover article was published in the May issue of American Water Works Association. Mr. Morgutia has been instrumental in preparing and submitting grant applications resulting in nearly \$50M in grant funding. Finally, Mr. Coffey provided an update on Metropolitan's developing proposal to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to pursue funding from the Inflation Reduction Act for Colorado River Bucket 2 projects.

**9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on July 10, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Tracy Quinn  
Chair