

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

## **MINUTES**

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

**April 8, 2024**

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong (AB 2449 “just cause” ), De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Erdman, Miller, Peterson, Pressman, and Quinn.

Members absent: Directors Cordero, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, and Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Directors Abdo, Dennstedt, Luna, McCoy, McMillan, Ortega, Seckel, and Smith.

Director Armstrong indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding illness. Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera

Committee staff present: Crosson, Goshi, Hagekhalil, 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. Anselmo Collins, Senior Assistant General Manager – Water System, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, spoke in support of 8-6.
2. Jay Lewitt, Division 5 Director and President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, spoke in favor of items 8-3, 8-4, 8-5, and 8-6.

Chair Quinn announced the reordering of the Agenda and noted that item 6a would be heard first.

#### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation California-Great Basin: Presented by Regional Director: Karl Stock  
Presented by: Karl Stock, Regional Director U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Mr. Randall Neudeck provided brief background information and introductory comments.

Mr. Stock gave a detailed report of Reclamation's priorities that relate to its workforce, operations, water and power infrastructure investments, and science partnerships.

General Manager, Hagekhalil and Board Chair, Ortega made commentary remarks.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for March 11, 2024.

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

None

Director Erdman made a motion, seconded by Director Miller to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A.

Director Armstrong announced during roll call that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, DeJesus, Erdman, Miller, Peterson, Pressman, and Quinn.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Directors Cordero, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, and Sutley.

The vote for the Consent Calendar item passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 7 absent.

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

Chair Quinn announced that due to teleconference procedures and the need for disclosures and recusals by certain directors, the committee would vote separately on items 8-3 through 8-6. She noted that there would first be a general presentation on the Local Resources Program (LRP), followed by separate presentations and votes for each proposed project.

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

Mr. Brandon J. Goshi, Interim Manager, Water Resource Management, provided background information on the LRP and introduced Ms. Lagman.

Ms. Lagman provided a detailed presentation explaining each of the proposed LRP projects. She described the purpose, benefits, the incentive payment structure options that were set by the Board in 2014, reviewed agreement yields, and highlighted project details and key terms for each of the proposed projects.

Director Armstrong read a disclosure statement and stated that he was disqualified from voting on item 8-3.

**8-3**      Subject:            Review and consider Eastern Municipal Water District's five approved Initial Studies/Mitigated Negative Declarations and two Addenda, and take related CEQA actions; authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Eastern Municipal Water District for the Perris North Basin Groundwater Contamination Prevention and Remediation Program for up to 3,466 acre-feet per year of treated groundwater for potable purposes in the Eastern Municipal Water District service area

Presented by:        Jewls Lagman, Assistant Engineer II, Water Resource Management

Motion:                Review and consider Eastern Municipal Water District's five approved Initial Studies/Mitigated Negative Declarations and two Addenda, 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 Perris North Basin Groundwater Contamination Prevention and Remediation Program for up to 3,466 AFY of treated groundwater for potable purposes in the Eastern Municipal Water District service area.

Ms. Lagman reviewed the options in the board letter and staff's recommendation.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Erdman

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

Director Armstrong announced during roll call that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, DeJesus, Erdman, Miller, Peterson, Pressman, and Quinn.
Noes:	None
Not voting:	Director Armstrong.
Abstain:	None.
Absent:	Directors Cordero, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, and Sutley.

The vote for item 8-3 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 1 not voting, 0 abstentions, and 7 absent.

Director Peterson read a disclosure statement prior to item 8-4, noting that he may participate in the item.

**8-4**      Subject:              Review and consider the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority certified Final Environmental Impact Report and two Addenda, and take related CEQA actions; authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority for the PURE Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo for up to 5,000 acre-feet per year of treated recycled water for potable purposes in the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District service area

Presented by:              Jewls Lagman, Assistant Engineer II, Water Resource Management

Motion:                      Review and consider the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority certified Final Environmental Impact Report and two Addenda and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority for

the PURE Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo for up to 5,000 AFY of treated recycled water for potable purposes in the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District service area.

Mr. Goshi introduced this item and Ms. Lagman reviewed the options in the board letter and staff's recommendation.

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

Director Armstrong announced during roll call that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, DeJesus, Erdman, Miller, Peterson, Pressman, and Quinn.
Noes:	None.
Abstain:	None.
Absent:	Directors Cordero, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, and Sutley.

The vote for item 8-4 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 7 absent.

Director Ackerman read a disclosure statement prior to item 8-5 recusing herself from the item.

Director Erdman also read a disclosure statement but noted that he may participate in item 8-5.

**8-5**      Subject:            Review and consider the South Coast Water Agency's certified Final Environmental Impact Report and take related CEQA actions; authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Municipal Water District of Orange County and South Coast Water District for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project for up to 5,600 acre-feet per year of treated desalinated water for potable purposes in the Municipal Water District of Orange County service area

Presented by: Jewls Lagman, Assistant Engineer II, Water Resource Management

Motion: Review and consider the Lead Agency's certified Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with the Municipal Water District of Orange County and South Coast Water District for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project for up to 5,600 acre-feet per year of treated desalinated seawater for potable purposes in the Municipal Water District of Orange County service area.

Mr. Goshi introduced this item and Ms. Lagman reviewed the options in the board letter and staff's recommendation

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

Director Armstrong announced during roll call that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, DeJesus, Erdman, Miller, Peterson, Pressman, and Quinn.

Noes: None

Not voting: Director Ackerman.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Directors Cordero, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, and Sutley.

The vote for item 8-5 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 1 not voting, 0 abstentions, and 7 absent

Director Quinn read a disclosure statement prior to item 8-6 but noted that she may participate in the item.

Director Pressman read a disclosure recusing himself from item 8-6.

**8-6**      **Subject:**                Review and consider the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's certified Environmental Impact Report and Addendum, and take related CEQA actions; authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project for up to 19,500 acre-feet per year of potable recycled water through groundwater replenishment in the San Fernando Valley

**Presented by:**                Jewls Lagman, Assistant Engineer II, Water Resource Management

**Motion:**                        Review and consider the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Addendum, and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project for up to 19,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) of potable recycled water through groundwater replenishment in the San Fernando Valley.

Mr. Goshi introduced this item and Ms. Lagman reviewed the options in the board letter and staff's recommendation

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

Director Armstrong announced during roll call that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera

The vote was:

**Ayes:**                         Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, DeJesus, Erdman, Miller, Peterson, and Quinn.

**Noes:**                        None.

**Not voting:**                Director Pressman.

**Abstain:**                    None.

**Absent:**                     Directors Cordero, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, and Sutley.

The vote for item 8-6 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 1 not voting, 0 abstentions, and 7 absent.

## **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

**9-2** Subject: Proposed Interagency Local Supply Exchange Program

Presented by: Nadia Hardjadinata, Resource Specialist, Water Acquisition Team

Brandon Goshi, Interim Manager, Water Resource Management provided background information and introductory comments.

Ms. Hardjadinata's oral report provided details on the Interagency Local Supply Exchange Program (ILSEP) that would allow transfers of locally produced supplies between Metropolitan's member agencies. She explained the proposed framework for Metropolitan to facilitate the sale and exchange of local supply production, and key terms.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Miller  | 5. Armstrong |
| 2. Ortega  | 6. Peterson  |
| 3. Alvarez | 7. Smith     |
| 4. Seckel  |              |

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions

Director Lefevre entered the meeting.

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

**b.** Subject: Update on Water Surplus Drought Management

Presented by: Noosha Razavian, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Mr. Brandon Goshi, Interim Manager, Water Resource Management provided background information and introductory comments.

Ms. Razavian reported on the increased State Water Project Table A water allocation, hydrological conditions, and above-average snowpack conditions.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith

Staff responded to Director's comments and questions.



- c. Subject: Update on California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future:  
Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems in the Age of Climate Change

Presented by: Corey Phillis, PhD., Sr. Resource Specialist, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Mr. Neudeck provided brief information and introductory comments and introduced Dr. Corey Phillis.

Dr. Phillis gave an update on a recently released State report on salmon strategy and actions to recover salmon throughout the State. He explained the background of the report and discussed the identified priority actions and long-term impacts.

- d. Subject: State Water Project Audit Report

Presented by: David Reukema, Sr. Resource Specialist, Water Resource  
Management

Mr. Goshi provided background information and introductory comments noting Mr. Reukema's retirement at the end of April. Mr. Goshi also noted some of Mr. Reukema's career highlights.

Mr. Reukema gave a presentation on the annual report of State Water Project charges and audit for calendar year 2024. He discussed the statement of charges and audit processes, and audit findings.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Armstrong
3. Miller

Staff responded to Director's comments and questions.

- e. Subject: Update on Conservation

Presented by: Karina Sandique, Associate Resource Specialist, Water Resource  
Management

Mr. Goshi provided information on continued challenges related to administering and budgeting for the Conservation Program.

Ms. Sandique provided the monthly update on conservation expenditures and activity from July 1, 2022 – February 29, 2024. She reviewed data on regional conservation, budget activity, and biennium expenditures.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Quinn
2. Abdo

General Manager, Adel Hagekhalil provided additional comments.

- f.     Subject:                 Update on Making Conservation A California Way of Life Rule-making  
Presented by:             Krista Guerrero, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Ms. Guerrero gave an update on the implementation status of the legislation, developing regulation, and Metropolitan's efforts in support of member and retail agencies for making conservation a way of life rule-making. She also explained Metropolitan's successes and accomplishments, investments in Conservation outreach and education, and described regulation progress and primary goals.

- g.     Subject:                 Update on the Flow Monitor/Leak Detection Device Pilot Program  
Presented by:             Elise Goldman, Resource Specialist

Ms. Goldman gave an update on the Flow Monitor/Leak Detection Device Pilot Program where she explained the device's purpose and functionality, Metropolitan's rebate incentives through Regional Rebate Program; and benefits and challenges.

## **7.     MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

- a.     Subject:                 Bay-Delta Resources, Colorado River Resources, Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation, and Water Resource Management activities  
  
Presented by:             Meena Westford, Executive Policy Advisor, Colorado River

Assistant General Manager, Deven Upadhyay deferred to Mr. Hagekhalil who announced Ms. Meena Westford's resignation, as she accepted a position with San Diego County Water Authority, and he noted some of Ms. Westford's contributions to Metropolitan.

Ms. Westford remarked on her work and accomplishments with Metropolitan over the course of the last twelve years as well as recognizing several colleagues.

Chair Quinn added additional comments.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Nothing to report.

- b. Report on Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Meeting

Nothing to report.

- c. Report on Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meeting

Director Ackerman reported on items discussed at the 3 Bay-Delta Ad Hoc meetings from March and April 2024.

**9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

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

None

**10. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Tracy Quinn  
Chair