

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

November 13, 2023

Vice Chair Faessel called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Director Peterson made a request to participate remotely (via video conference) under AB 2449, noting that emergency circumstances prevented him from attending in person.

Director Erdman made a motion to vote to approve Director Peterson's attendance seconded by Director Miller.

AB 2449 "emergency circumstances" vote for Director Peterson was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Chacon, Cordero, and Quinn.

The motion for Director Peterson to participate using AB 2449 Emergency Circumstance passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Peterson (AB 2449), Pressman, and Sutley.

Members Absent: Directors Chacon, Cordero, and Quinn.

Other Board Members present: Abdo, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, McCoy, Ortega, Seckel, and Smith.

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

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 October 9, 2023.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

- 7-5** Subject: Authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing for up to \$864,000 in 2024 and escalated annually through 2026; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None.

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing for up to \$864,000 in 2024 and escalated annually through 2026.

- 7-6** Subject: Express support for the 2023 California Resilience Challenge and approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000 to continue as a Resilience Leader; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None.

Motion: Express support for the 2023 California Resilience Challenge and approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000 to continue as a Resilience Leader.

7-7 **Subject:** Authorize a \$200,000/ year increase to the existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc., currently set at \$200,000/year, for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program, for a total agreement not to exceed \$400,000/year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None.

Motion: Authorize an increase of \$200,000/year to a new amount not to exceed \$400,000/year for an existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program.

7-8 **Subject:** Authorize a \$350,000/ year increase to the existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc., currently set at \$500,000/year, to provide inspection services for turf removal, regional device rebates, and water savings incentive program projects for Metropolitan's conservation rebate programs, for a total agreement not to exceed \$850,000/year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: None.

Motion: Authorize an increase of \$350,000/year, to a new amount not to exceed \$850,000/year, for an existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. to provide inspection services for turf removal, regional device rebates, and water savings incentive program projects for Metropolitan's conservation rebate programs.

Director Sutley made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar consisting of items 2a, 7-5, 7-6, 7-7, and 7-8, seconded by Director Kurtz.

Director Fong Sakai asked a question related to item 7-5. Staff responded to her question.

Director Peterson announced that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Not voting: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Chacon, Cordero, and Quinn.

The vote for the Consent Calendar items passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

Director Fong-Sakai provided a disclosure and recusal statement related to item 8-3.

Director Goldberg disclosed that she receives per diem and reimbursement from the San Diego County Water Authority, but would remain to vote.

- 8-3** Subject: Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and San Diego County Water Authority to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under U.S Bureau of Reclamation’s Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program in 2023; the General Manger has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.
- Presented by: Laura Lamdin, Engineer, Water Resources Management
- Motion: Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and San Diego County Water Authority to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation’s LC Conservation Program in 2023.

Ms. Lamdin gave a presentation on the proposed agreements that would help California achieve the goals set out in the Colorado River Board of California’s October 5, 2022, letter proposing a goal that California agencies conserve 400,000 acre-feet (AF) per year of water in Lake Mead between 2023 and 2026. These

agreements would provide financial benefit to Metropolitan and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), and would demonstrate how multi-agency partnerships can benefit the Colorado River.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre
2. De Jesus
3. Ortega
4. Peterson
5. Kurtz

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

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

Director Peterson announced that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

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

The motion for item 8-4 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 4 absent, and 2 not voting.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Agreements to support healthy rivers

Presented by: George Nishikawa, Resource Specialist, Bay Delta Initiatives

Mr. Nishikawa's presentation discussed an update on the Water Quality Control Plan. He reviewed the background and history, elements of the report, overview of alternatives, and public review and comment periods.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Seckel
2. Peterson
3. Sutley
4. Fellow
5. Miller
6. Smith
7. Ortega

Staff responded to questions and comments.

- b. Subject: Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Changing the 2007 Colorado River Guidelines

Presented by: Shanti Rossett, Program Manager, Office of the General Manager

Ms. Rossett gave a presentation on revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Changing the 2007 Colorado River Guidelines and provided an overview of changes in the Revised Draft Supplemental Impact Environmental Statement (SEIS) analyzing proposed changes to operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead through 2026.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller

Staff responded to questions and comments.

- c. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management

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

Ms. Razavian gave an update on Water Surplus and Drought Management that focused on summarizing the previous water year.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson

d. Subject: Update on Conservation Activities

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

Ms. Goldman gave a summary of conservation activity and expenditures for September 2023.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Subject: Bay-Delta Resources, Colorado River Resources, Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation, and Water Resource Management activities

Presented by: Deven N. Upadhyay, Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager

Mr. Upadhyay made several staff recognitions, announced the 50th anniversary of the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum and noted Metropolitan's contributions, and reported on Bucket 2 proposals status.

Ms. Crosson reported on Climate Action Plan and Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation activity.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Kurtz

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Report from Subcommittee on Bay-Delta.

Director Ackerman provided an update from the October 18, 2023, Subcommittee Meeting on Bay-Delta that included Delta Island collaborative efforts, Delta Stewardship Council guest speakers who discussed current on future Delta initiatives and Delta levy records analysis, and an overview of the Bay-Delta memo that was provided to the Board in early September.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre

- b. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Bay-Delta

No direction given.

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

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1. Fong-Sakai
- 2. Seckel

Director Fong-Sakai requested that the subcommittee direct staff to provide a Board Report on Metropolitan's role in past Local Resource development projects, but effective and ineffective.

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Stephen Faessel
Vice Chair