

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**March 14, 2023**

Chair Quinn called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members present: Chair Quinn, Vice Chair Faessel, Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Chacon, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, and Peterson.

Members Absent: Petersen and Sutley

Other Board Members present: Board Chair Ortega, Directors Alvarez, Atwater, Camacho, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Fellow, Garza, Jung, Kassakhian, Luna, McCoy, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, Seckel, and Smith.

Committee staff present: Coffey, Hagekhalil, Munguia, Schlotterbeck and Upadhyay.

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. Bob Tincher, Deputy General Manager, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
  2. Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California
  3. Brian Laddusaw, Rubidoux Community Services
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2. Opportunity for Directors who are not members of the committee to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction

No members responded.

Chair Quinn made announcements related to the Consent Calendar Action item and the re-ordering of the agenda.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for January 9, 2023.

B. Approve creating the Subcommittee on Bay-Delta and establish a two year term.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEM – ACTION**

7-8 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Western Municipal Water District, Rubidoux Community Services District, West Valley Water District, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District to provide Rubidoux Community Services District assistance with water deliveries; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Jessica Arm, Associate Resource Specialist

Motion: The committee chair announced that this item would be heard for discussion only.

Ms. Arm gave a presentation on the proposed agreement to assist Rubidoux Community Services District with water deliveries. Under the proposed agreement, Metropolitan would provide up to 2,000 acre-feet of water per year (AFY) to Rubidoux through Valley District’s connection on the San Gabriel Valley Devil Canyon – Azusa Pipeline (Azusa Pipeline), provided there is available capacity. Water delivered under this agreement would only be used by Rubidoux within Western’s service area.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Armstrong  | 6. Smith    |
| 2. Fong-Sakai | 7. Peterson |
| 3. Alvarez    | 8. Cordero  |
| 4. Goldberg   | 9. Ortega   |
| 5. Kurtz      | 10. Dick    |

Staff responded to Directors’ comments and questions.  
The committee did not take action on item 7-8.

Chair Quinn announced Agenda item 7c.

**7. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

c. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management and Water Shortage Emergency Condition

Presented by: Noosha Razavian, Associate Resourced Specialist, Resource Analysis Unit

Ms. Razavian provided a presentation that included updates on current water supply demand balance, hydrological conditions, and the Emergency Conservation Program.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Lefevre

Staff responded to questions.

Chair Quinn announced that the meeting would return to the Consent Calendar.

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEM – ACTION**

7-9      Subject:                      Consider changes to the Water Shortage Emergency Condition and the Emergency Water Conservation Program for the State Water Project dependent area and reaffirm the Regional Drought Emergency for all member agencies; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by:                  Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Manager

Motion:                          Remove the Water Shortage Emergency Condition declared on April 26, 2022, for the SWP Dependent Area, terminate the Emergency Water Conservation Program and application of any penalties accrued, and reaffirm the Regional Drought Emergency declared on December 13, 2022

Mr. Coffey gave a presentation on the proposed changes to the Water Shortage Emergency Condition and the Emergency Water Conservation Program for the State Water Project Dependent Area and reaffirm the Regional Drought Emergency for all member agencies.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Peterson | 5. Armstrong |
| 2. Pressman | 6. Kurtz     |
| 3. Ortega   | 7. Smith     |
| 4. Fellow   | 8. Lefevre   |

Staff responded to comments and questions.

Following a group discussion, Director Lefevre made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz to approve the Consent Calendar items 3A, 3B, and 7-9 that included the following modified motion for item 7-9.

*Remove the Water Shortage Emergency Condition declared on April 26, 2022, for the SWP Dependent Area, terminate the Emergency Water Conservation Program and application of any penalties accrued.*

The vote was:

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

Noes: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Directors Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley.

The motion for items 3A, 3B, and 7-9 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

## **5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS**

None

## **6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

9-2 Information on the High Desert Water Bank Program status, updated costs, and water quality

Presented by: Tracy Abundez, Resource Specialist, Water Acquisition Team

Ms. Abundez's presentation provided an update on the status, costs, and water quality of the High Desert Water Bank (HDWB) Program with Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency (AVEK).

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Erdman     | 5. Peterson |
| 2. Fong-Sakai | 6. Alvarez  |
| 3. Miller     | 7. Seckle   |
| 4. Lefevre    |             |

Staff responded to comments and questions.

**7. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

a. Subject: Proposed Grant Opportunity for Webb Tract

Presented by: None.

This item was not presented due to time constraints.

b. Subject: Update on Watershed Initiatives

Presented by: Jennifer Nevills, Program Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Ms. Nevills gave a presentation with an update on watershed activities and explained Metropolitan's work on upper watersheds, participation on protecting State Water Project source water, and innovative partnerships.

Chair Quinn requested that any questions related to this agenda item be directed to staff following this meeting.

d. Subject: Update on Conservation

Presented by: None.

There was no acknowledgment of this item.

**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 including Lake Powell, Lake Mead, seven states collaborative effort for Supplemental Environmental Impact Study for near-term Colorado River operations.

b. Subject: Bay-Delta Manager's Report

Presented by: Nina Hawk, Manager, Bay Delta Initiatives

Ms. Hawk gave an update on two Executive Orders that were signed by Governor Newsom. The first one accelerates groundwater recharge and reduces flooding, and suspends regulations and restrictions on permitting and use, to enable diversions of flood stage water. The second would ensure adequate water supplies for health, safety, the environment, cold water pools and drought resilient water supplies, and call on the State Board to consider modifying reservoir release and diversion requirements.

c. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Presented by: None

This item was not heard.

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Tracy Quinn  
Chair