

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

January 13, 2025

Board Vice Chair Sutley called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Gold, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Lewitt, Miller, Pressman, and Sutley.

Member absent: Committee Chair Quinn.

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Dennstedt, Dick, Fellow, Garza, Jung, Katz, Luna, McMillan, Morris, Ramos, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Bednarski, Crosson, Goshi, Hasencamp, Hawk, Munguia, Rubin, Schlotterbeck, and Upadhyay.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

Vice Chair Sutley announced how public comments for this meeting would be heard.

A. Public Hearing on Metropolitan's Achievements in Conservation, Recycling and Groundwater Recharge ("SB 60 Report")

Vice Chair Sutley provided background information and introduced Mr. Carlos Carrillo, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management.

Mr. Carrillo provided a brief overview of today's Public Hearing and he gave a presentation summarizing the Draft SB 60 Report that, when finalized, will be submitted to the state legislature, as required by Metropolitan's Act.

Vice Chair Sutley announced that the Public Hearing was open to public comments and noted the order in which those comments would be heard. She also noted that Metropolitan was in receipt of letters from three organizations:

- Alliance for Water Efficiency; and California Water Efficiency Partnership
- Rowland Water District
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Public Speakers included:

1. Bob Gehan, American Legion Post 43, spoke in support of 1A
2. Parker Cohn, Brentwood Country Club, spoke in support of 1A.
3. Drew Berenc, of Northrop Grumman, spoke in support of 1A.
4. Tia Fleming, California Water Energy Partnership, spoke in support of 1A.
5. Connor Everts, Statewide Environmental Water Caucus, Southern California Watershed Alliance, spoke in support of 1A.
6. Maura Monigan, L.A Waterkeeper, spoke in support of 1A.
7. Charming Evelyn, of Sierra Club, spoke in support of 1A.

Vice Chair Sutley announced that the Public Hearing was now closed and asked if we had regular public comment. We had no regular public comment and therefore the line was closed.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting One Water and Stewardship Committee for December 9, 2024

Director Kurtz made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-2, 7-3, and 7-4. However, Chair Sutley announced that the committee would first hear the presentation on item 8-1, and then vote on Consent Calendar and item 8-1 in one vote.

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

- 8-1** Subject: Adopt a resolution to support a grant application selected to receive United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Program funding for fiscal year 2023 for an amount totaling \$390,000; authorize Metropolitan’s non-federal cost share of \$130,000; and authorize the General Manager to enter a contract with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, subject to General Counsel approval; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Maureen Martin, Manager, Bay-Delta Science & Regulatory Strategy

Motion: Adopt a resolution to support a grant application selected to receive United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Program funding for fiscal year 2023 for an amount totaling \$390,000; authorize Metropolitan’s non-federal cost share of \$130,000; and authorize the General Manager to enter a contract with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, subject to General Counsel approval.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION.

7-2 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to enter into a funding agreement for the Disadvantaged Communities Leak Detection and Repair Program with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to implement phase two of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

 Motion: Authorize the General Manager to enter into a funding agreement for the Disadvantaged Communities Leak Detection and Repair Program with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to implement phase two of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program.

7-3 Subject: Authorize: (1) renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Agreement between the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Contractors and participating urban State Water Project Contractors; and (2) renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Program Specific Project Agreement between the State Water Contractors and participating urban State Water Project Contractors; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

 Motion: Authorize:

- a. Renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Agreement between the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Contractors, and participating urban State Water Project Contractors.
- b. Renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Program Specific Project Agreement between the State Water Contractors and participating urban State Water Project Contractors.

7-4 Subject: Authorize extension of Metropolitan’s existing Colorado River System Conservation Agreement with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to fund Metropolitan’s Palo Verde Irrigation District Fallowing Program; and adopt CEQA determination that the environmental effects of the conservation efforts in Palo Verde Irrigation District are the subject of a proposed action that was previously addressed in various CEQA documents and related actions

 Motion: Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action related to the fallowing program was previously addressed in various CEQA documents and related actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement for Reclamation to fund the generation of up to 36,066 AF of conserved Colorado River system water between August 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026.

After completion of the presentation of item 8-1, Director Faessel made a motion seconded by Director De Jesus to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, and item 8-1.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Quinn

The motion passed by a vote of 16 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-3 Subject: Information on Developing State Water Project Water Management Actions

Presented by: Sarah J. Bartlett, Program Manager, Water Resource Management

Mr. Bartlett reported on water transactions that can generate new revenue through sale and exchange of available water supply, manage annual surplus water supplies for regional benefit, and manage and procure water transfers and exchanges to reduce the risk of future water supply shortages.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Fong-Sakai | 6. Pressman |
| 2. Miller | 7. Seckel |
| 3. Kurtz | 8. Ortega |
| 4. Gold | 9. Lewitt |
| 5. Erdman | 10. Sutley |

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Chair Sutley requested for staff to respond to questions before the committee takes action.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Report on Bay-Delta Regulatory Processes

Presented by: Jennifer Nevills, Program Manager, Bay Delta Resources
Maureen Martin, Manager,
Bay-Delta Science & Regulatory Strategy

Ms. Nevills and Ms. Martin reported on the status of the Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project and the Water Quality Control Plan Update and Proposed Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Gold
2. Sutley

- b. Subject: Update on Bay-Delta Agricultural Leases
- Presented by: David Bradshaw,
 Kevin Webb, Team Manager-Property Management

Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Webb reported on the following:

- state of farming on the Delta
- benefits of rice farming in the Delta
- Delta Islands leases
- Bouldin Island-West - Dinelli Farms
- Bouldin Island-East -Sierra Cattle
- Bacon Island – D&L Farms
- Webb Tract
- Holland Tract - Lemhi Land & Cattle

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Ortega
2. Miller
3. Sutley

- c. Subject: Update on Basin States Discussions Regarding
 Post -2026 Operational Guidelines

Presented by: Shanti Rossett, Special Projects Manager

Ms. Rossett provided updates on the development of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Environmental Impact Statement for the Post-2026 Guidelines and the Basin States' related efforts.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Gold
2. Ortega

- d. Subject: Report on Process to Fund Community
 Enhancement Projects in the Palo Verde Valley

Presented by: Jason Rollo, Program Manager, External Affairs Group

Mr. Rollo provided an update on the Palo Verde Irrigation District Community Enhancement Projects.

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

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

Ms. Razavian provided a summarized update on water supply and hydrologic information.

- f. Subject: Quarterly Update on Conservation

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

Ms. Sandique provided a summarized report on conservation expenditures and activity from July 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT AND HIGHLIGHTS

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

There was no report provided.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Director Luna reported on items discussed at the December 12, 2024, Bay-Delta Ad Hoc meeting.

- b. Report on Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Meeting

There was no report provided, as the meeting was cancelled.

- c. Report on Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meeting

Director McMillan reported on items discussed at meetings held on December 16, 2024, and January 6, 2025.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

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

There was no report provided.

10. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Chair Sutley requested for staff to respond to questions related to item 9-3 before the committee takes action.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Nancy Sutley
Board Vice Chair