

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

December 9, 2024

Board Vice Chair Sutley called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel (AB 2449 just cause, entered after rollcall), Fong-Sakai, Gold, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference, posted location), Lewitt, Miller, Pressman (teleconference, posted location), and Sutley.

Director Faessel indicated that he was participating under AB 2449 “just cause” to be a caretaker. He participated via audio and on camera and stated that he was alone in the room.

Members absent: Committee Chair Quinn and Director Cordero.

Other Board Members present: Directors Douglas, Gray (teleconference, posted location), Luna, McMillan, Ramos (teleconference, posted location), Seckel, and Smith (teleconference, posted location).

Committee Staff present: Bednarski, Crosson, Goshi, Hasencamp, Hawk, Schlotterbeck, Upadhyay, Wheeler, and Winn.

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

Name	Affiliation	Item
1. Marsha Ramos	City of Burbank	8-4
2. Kyle Griffith	California for Water Security	8-4
3. Wesley Chuang	Concerned Citizen, Los Angeles	8-4
4. Katy Wagner	Sierra Club California	8-4
5. Darcy Burke	Director, Elsinore Valley MWD	8-4
6. Richard Lambros	Southern California Leadership Council	8-4
7. Charles Wilson	Southern California Water Coalition	8-4
8. John Keyantash	Professor, California State University	8-4
9. Cedrick Farmer	Groundswell for Water & Housing Justice	8-4
10. Bruce Reznik	LA Waterkeeper	8-4
11. Cintia Cortez	Restore the Delta	8-4

12.	Barbara Barrigan Parrilla	Restore the Delta	8-4
13.	Krystal Moreno	Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	8-4
14.	Andrew Gonzales	LA/OC Building Trades Council	8-4
15.	Delfino De LA Cruz	Laborers Local 300	8-4
16.	Mario Barragan	IBEW Local 11	8-4
17.	Sandra Rose	Monte Vista Water District in the IE	8-4
18.	Domonic G.	Civil Engineer, Land Surveyor in Stockton	8-4
19.	Scott Quadi	Calleguas Municipal Water District	8-4
20.	Jan Warren	Delta Water Protector	8-4
21.	Emily Papalardo	Engineer in the Delta	8-4
22.	Greg Thomas	General Manager, Elsinore Valley MWD	8-4
23.	Nancy Glasgow	Inland Empire resident	8-4
24.	Joe Sullivan	IBEW Local 11	8-4
25.	Adam Ruiz	Southwest California Legislative Council	8-4
26.	Wanda Moyer	City of Simi Valley	8-4
27.	Blain Peugeot	Brentwood	8-4
28.	Marcy Stanodge	Rebuild So Cal Partnerships	8-4
29.	Chris W.	BizFed	8-4
30.	Michael Lewis	Construction Industry Coalition of Water Quality	8-4
31.	Penelope L.	Not mentioned	8-4
32.	Cydney	Not mentioned	8-4
33.	Les Kirshler	Resident of Santa Clara County	8-4
34.	Arnold San Miguel	Not mentioned	8-4
35.	Alison McKinsey	Environment & Water Committee of the Monday Moring Group of Western Riverside County	8-4
36.	John Minahan	Californian	8-4
37.	Lair Pierce	Pure Water Alliance	8-4
39.	Karen Jacques	Sacramento	8-4
40.	John Mendoza	Pomona	8-4
41.	Dan Barker	Independent Journalist	8-4

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the One Water and Stewardship Committee and Board of Directors Workshop for November 18, 2024

3 CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION.

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

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Gold, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Lewitt, Miller, and Sutley.
Noes: None
Abstentions: None
Absent Directors Cordero, Pressman, and Quinn.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

Director Faessel stated he was alone in the room during the vote.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

- 8-3 Subject:** Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to implement phase two of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program; and adopt CEQA determination that the environmental effects of the Antelope Valley-East Kern High Desert Water Bank and the Turf Replacement Programs were previously addressed in various CEQA documents and related actions

Presented by: Laura Lamdin, Engineer, Water Resource Management

Motion: Adopt CEQA determination that the environmental effects of the Antelope Valley-East Kern High Desert Water Bank and the Turf Replacement Programs were previously addressed in various CEQA documents and related actions and authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to implement phase two of the LC Conservation Program.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Gold
2. De Jesus

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Gold made a motion seconded by Director Ackerman to approve item 8-3.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Gold, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Lewitt, Miller, and Sutley.
Noes: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Directors Cordero, Pressman, and Quinn

The motion for Item 8-3 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

Director Pressman was muted during the vote on Item 8-3.

Director Faessel stated he was alone in the room during the vote.

8-4 Subject: Review and consider the Lead Agency's certified 2023 Final Environmental Impact Report for the Delta Conveyance Project and take related CEQA actions and authorize the General Manager to enter into an amended agreement for preconstruction work planned for 2026-2027

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

Amended Motion: Review and consider the Lead Agency's certified 2023 Final EIR for the DCP, take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into an amended agreement for preconstruction work on the DCP planned for 2026-2027. By approving Option 1, the Board is not approving the DCP, as reflected in the statement of overriding considerations, which is limited to the preconstruction funding only.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. De Jesus
3. Gold
4. Alvarez
5. Armstrong
6. Fellow
7. Kurtz
8. Lewitt
9. Board Chair Ortega
10. Luna

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Kurtz made a motion seconded by Director Lewitt to approve Amended item 8-4.

The vote was:

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

The motion for Item 8-4, amended option 1 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 1 no, 1 abstention, and 2 absent.

Director Faessel stated he was alone in the room during the vote.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-2. Subject: Update on developing State Water Project water management actions to meet multiple objectives of managing dry year and wet year water supplies and generating new revenues

Presented by: Brandon Goshi, Group Manager, Water Resource Management

Mr. Goshi reported on the following:

- Challenge of water management and financial stability.
- Noted that a written board letter can be referenced for more details.
- Staff will return to the One Water and Stewardship Committee in the future with an action letter and an oral report.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Lewitt
2. Miller
3. Gold
4. Fong-Sakai
5. Board Vice Chair Sutley
6. Board Chair Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

6 COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management

Presented by: There was no presentation

Mr. Goshi highlighted one key point regarding the initial water allocation and mentioned that there is a written report on the topic.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT AND HIGHLIGHTS

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

Presented by: John Bednarski, Interim Executive Officer/Assistant General Manager, Water Resources
Mr. Bednarski announced that next month Bay-Delta staff will present an item on the regulatory surroundings for the Water Quality Control Plan.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

There was no report provided.

- b. Report on Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Meeting

There was no report provided.

- c. Report on Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meeting

Director Ackerman reported on items discussed at the December 2, 2024, Bay-Delta Ad Hoc meeting.

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

Director Gold requested an update on the Colorado River activities.

Staff reported that a report will be provided at the December 10, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

12. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on January 13, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Nancy Sutley
Board Vice Chair