

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

## **MINUTES**

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-TERM REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS AND BUSINESS MODELING**

**August 22, 2023**

Vice Chair Seckel called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Petersen (entered after roll call), Quinn (entered after roll call), Seckel.

Member absent: Director Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Bryant, Cordero, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dennstedt, Dick, Garza, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McCoy, McMillan, Morris, Ortega, Peterson (teleconference posted location), Pressman (Cedars Sinai Medical Center staff teleconferenced from posted location), Ramos, and Smith.

Committee Staff present: Crosson, Hagekhalil, Kasaine, Quilizapa, Ros, and Upadhyay.

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

None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

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

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling for April 25, 2023 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, Any additions, corrections, or omissions)

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

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Armstrong, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, and Seckel.

Noes: None

Abstentions:    None

Absent:           Directors Alvarez, Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley.

The motion for Item 2a failed due to lack of quorum by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 4 absent.

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

Chair Petersen entered the meeting.

Director Quinn entered the meeting.

### **3.      SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS**

a.      Subject:              Climate Adaptation Utility Panel

Moderator: Kit Batten, Climate Change and Sustainability Innovator,  
Kit Batten Consulting

Panelists:

- Nathan Bengtsson, Interim Director of Climate Resilience and  
Adaptation at Pacific Gas & Electric Company - Nolie Templeton,  
Planning Analyst II at Central Arizona Project - Stephen Torres,  
Principal Manager at Southern California Edison

Presenter:              Elizabeth Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation  
Officer  
Kit Batten, Climate Change and Sustainability Innovator, Kit Batten  
Consulting

Ms. Crosson introduced the item and introduced Ms. Batten, who moderated today's panel discussion. Ms. Batten introduced the panelists: Nathan Bengtsson, Interim Director of Climate Resilience and Adaptation at Pacific Gas & Electric Company; Nolie Templeton, Planning Analyst II at Central Arizona Project, and Stephen Torres, Principal Manager at Southern California Edison.

Ms. Batten asked the panel the following questions: 1. give us a bit more background on your work at your organization beyond your title and briefly share with us the arc of your utility's climate adaptation planning and implementation process to date, for example: a. when did you begin, b. what are your future steps and can you share an example of how your planning and implementation processes have changed as a result of analyzing climate change impacts on your system. c. What are the deliverables and potential outcomes of your process? 2. How do you connect technical/scientific information to your climate adaptation planning tools? a. Which climate scenario(s) is/are your utility using for planning purposes (e.g., RCP 4.5, 8.5) and why? 3. Have you developed evaluative criteria for prioritizing projects and/or portfolios to increase the climate resilience of your infrastructure, operations, employees and/or customers? 4. Affordability is always a top priority – how are you paying for/justifying

additional costs for climate resilience work, from both economic feasibility (afford the technology/infrastructure) and customer affordability perspectives? a. Has your climate adaptation work shifted budget priorities? b. How do you incorporate the costs of inaction into your financial planning? c. Please share your approaches to spreading costs/recovering costs of adaptation measures through raising rates and other approaches

Ms. Crosson provided an overview of the key points from the panel discussion.

The following Directors asked questions and provided comments:

1. Petersen
2. Morris
3. Erdman
4. Seckel
5. Armstrong
6. Fong-Sakai
7. Quinn
8. Peterson
9. Smith
10. Ortega
11. Goldberg

Staff responded to Directors' comments and questions.

Chair Petersen called for a revote of item 2A.

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

The vote was:

Ayes:                 Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Petersen, Quinn, and Seckel.

Noes:                 None

Abstentions:       None

Absent:               Directors Sutley.

The motion passed by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 1 absent.

- b.     Subject:                 Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water: Discussion  
         Presenter:             Elizabeth Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Officer

Ms. Crosson provided an overview of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water process.

Chair Petersen directed staff to use Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 as the climate forecast for planning in the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water process.

Mr. Hagekhalil acknowledged the direction and confirmed RCP 8.5 will be included in the workplan moving forward.

The following Directors asked questions and provided comments:

1. Ortega
2. Seckel
3. Goldberg
4. Smith
5. Fong-Sakai
6. Petersen
7. Armstrong

Staff responded to Directors' comments and questions.

**4. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Matt Petersen

Chair