

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

February 10, 2025

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Gold, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Lewitt (entered after roll call), Miller, Quinn, and Sutley (entered after roll call).

Members absent: Directors Ackerman and Pressman.

Other Board Members present: Chair Ortega, and Directors Dennstedt, Fellow, , and Seckel.

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

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

Public Speakers included:

1. Christine McCaffrey, General Manager, Calleguas Municipal Water District spoke in support of item 9-2.
2. Jennifer Tribo, City of Ventura, spoke in support of item 9-2.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting One Water and Stewardship Committee for January 13, 2025

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

- 7-4** Subject: Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Palo Verde Irrigation District to jointly fund community investment in Palo Verde Irrigation District’s service area; 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 an agreement with Palo Verde Irrigation District to jointly fund community investment in Palo Verde Irrigation District’s service area.
- 7-5** Subject: Authorize the General Manager to approve a new three-year agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program, for a total agreement not to exceed \$200,000/year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion: Authorize the General Manager to approve a new three-year agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program, for a total agreement not to exceed \$200,000/year.
- 7-6** Subject: Authorize the General Manager to expand the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program and amend the System Conservation Implementation Agreement for Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program to increase its program size from 3,000 acres to 6,000 acres for the years 2025 and 2026; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion: Authorize the General Manager to expand the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program and amend the System Conservation Implementation Agreement for Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program to increase its program size from 3,000 acres to 6,000 acres for the years 2025 and 2026.

No presentations were given. Director Alvarez made a motion seconded by Director Faessel, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2a, 7-4, 7-5, and 7-6.

The vote was:

- Ayes: Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, DeJesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Gold, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Lewitt, Miller, Quinn, and Sutley.
- Noes: None.
- Abstentions: Director Quinn (Item 2a).
- Absent: Directors Ackerman and Pressman.

The motion for item 2a passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 2 absent.

The motion for items 7-4, 7-5, and 7-6 passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

8-1 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to execute transfers, exchanges, and other State Water Project management transactions during 2025 and 2026; grant final decision-making authority to the General Manager subject to the terms set forth in this letter; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [2/3/2025 SUBJECT REVISED]

Presented by: Sarah J. Bartlett, Water Resources Program Manager

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to execute transfers, exchanges, and other State Water Project (SWP) management transactions during 2025 and 2026 and grant final decision-making authority to the General Manager subject to the terms set forth in this letter with the understanding that:

- (1) Such transactions will only be pursued under conditions when Metropolitan projects adding to or spilling stored supplies accessible by the SWP-dependent areas;
- (2) Staff will monitor, evaluate, and report on the efficacy of this program as it progresses; and
- (3) An ad hoc committee will be established that will provide ongoing oversight and review of this program.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

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|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Ortega | 7. Goldberg |
| 2. Sutley | 8. Kurtz |
| 3. Gold | 9. Cordero |
| 4. Miller | 10. Quinn |
| 5. Armstrong | 11. DeJesus |
| 6. Lewitt | |

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Sutley left the meeting.

After completion of the presentation and a committee discussion, Director Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Director Cordero, to approve option #1 as amended,

Authorize the General Manager to execute transfers, exchanges, and other State Water Project management transactions during 2025 and 2026 and grant final decision-making authority to the General Manager subject to the terms set forth in this letter with the understanding that:

- (1) Such transactions will only be pursued under conditions when Metropolitan projects adding to or spilling stored supplies accessible by the SWP-dependent ;
- (2) Staff will monitor, evaluate, and report on the efficacy this program as it progresses; and
- (3) An ad hoc committee will be established that will provide ongoing oversight and review of this program.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Director Ackerman, Pressman, and Sutley.

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

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-2 Subject: Information on proposed agreements with the City of San Buenaventura and Calleguas Municipal Water District for wheeling and emergency delivery of State Water Project water

Presented by: Marcia Ferreira, Engineer, Water Resource Management

Ms. Ferreira reported on the proposed wheeling of up to 2,000 acre-feet (AF) per year of City of Buenaventura's (Ventura) State Water Project (SWP) water through Metropolitan's system, and she provided information on the proposed exchange of water supplies during emergencies between Calleguas Municipal Water District and Ventura that may require delivery of Ventura and Metropolitan's SWP water into each other's service areas.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Fong-Sakai
2. Gold

Staff and Ms. Jennifer Tribo, City of Ventura, responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

9-3 Subject: Update on treatment approaches, contingencies, and amendments to the High Desert Water Bank Program agreement.

Presented by: Nadia Hardjadinata, Sr. Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Ms. Hardjadinata provided an update on the status, debt financing, groundwater modeling, and water quality of the High Desert Water Bank Program with Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Gold
2. Sutley
3. Miller

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Director Sutley returned to the meeting.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Overview of Sites Reservoir Project

Presented by: Randall Neudeck, Manager, Bay-Delta Programs

Mr. Neudeck provided an overview of the Sites Project, its progress, and proposed Board informational & feedback sessions.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Erdman
2. Lewitt
3. Sutley
4. Lefevre

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

b. Subject: Report on State Water Project 2025 Statement of Charges and Audit

Presented by: Jaime L. Dalida, Sr. Resource Specialist

Ms. Dalida provided information on the 2025 audit of State Water Project charges in advance of a future request to extend audit contract.

- c. Subject: Report on Metropolitan's existing partnerships and exchange agreements with the Coachella Valley Water District

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp provided information on all the existing exchange agreements between the Coachella Valley Water District and Metropolitan, and a update on the status of an additional exchange agreement that is under development.

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

Presented by: Larry Lai, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Mr. Lai provided an update on water supply and hydrologic information.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT AND HIGHLIGHTS

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

John Bednarski, Assistant General Manager, noted that there was nothing to add beyond the reports that were distributed.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

There was nothing to report as there was not a meeting in January.

- b. Report on Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Meeting

Chair Quinn provided the report in Director Luna's absence.

- c. Report on Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meeting

Chair Quinn provided the report in Director McMillan's absence.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

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

Director Armstrong noted that he had nothing to report and that the committee was being eliminated.

10. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 5:08p.m.

Tracy Quinn
Chair