

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

January 8, 2024

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Director Armstrong stated that he was participating under AB 2449 “just cause” because of a contagious illness that prevented him from attending in person. Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong (AB 2449 “just cause”), Chacon, Cordero, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), Miller, Peterson, Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Quinn.

Member absent: Director Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Abdo, Bryant, Dennstedt, Fellow, Luna, McMillan, Ortega, Ramos, Seckel, and Smith.

Committee staff present: Crosson, Goshi, Hasencamp, Munguia, Neudeck, Schlotterbeck, Upadhyay, and Wheeler.

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))

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

Chair Quinn provided background information and she introduced Mr. Carlos Carrillo, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management.

A. Public Hearing on Metropolitan’s Achievements in Conservation, Recycling and Groundwater Recharge

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

Chair Quinn 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 two organizations:

- Alliance for Water Efficiency; and
- California Water Efficiency Partnership and WaterReuse.

Public Speakers included:

1. Connor Everts, Statewide Environmental Water Caucus, Southern California Watershed Alliance, spoke in support of 1A.
2. John Wuerth, Water Resource Planning Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District, spoke in support of 1A.
3. Don Hohman, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, spoke in support of 1A.
4. Caty Wagner, Sierra Club, spoke in support of 1a, and opposition to items 6c and 7a.
5. Vicki Kirshenbaum, Burbank, CA, spoke in opposition to item 6a.
6. Penelope LePone, spoke in opposition to item 6a.
7. Sarah Foley, California Water Efficiency Partnership, spoke in support of 1A.
8. Nancy Blastos, spoke in opposition to item 6a.
9. John, spoke in opposition to 6a.
10. Cynthia Cortez, Restore the Delta, spoke in opposition to 6a.
11. Sidney Fisher, spoke in opposition to 6a.
12. Wes, spoke in opposition to 6a.
13. Charles Wilson, Southern California Water Coalition, spoke in support of 6a.
14. Rosario Cortez, Water Reuse California, spoke in support of 6a.
15. Lioel Mares, CA resident, spoke in opposition of 6a and general comment.

Chair Quinn announced that the Public Hearing was now closed and moved on to the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for November 13, 2023.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Peterson made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar consisting of item 2A, seconded by Director Chacon.

Director Armstrong announced that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Chacon, Cordero, DeJesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Peterson, and Pressman.
Noes: None
Abstentions: Director Quinn.
Absent: Director Sutley.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 1 absent.

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

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Update on Delta Conveyance Project

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

Ms. Nina Hawk, Manager, Bay Delta Initiatives, provided brief background information and noted the presentation would be given by two presenters.

Ms. Dee Bradshaw's portion of the presentation focused on an overview of Delta Conveyance Project milestones and the California Department of Water Resources' recent certification of the final environmental impact report.

Ms. Nevills' portion of the presentation described a newly released planning timeline of the Delta Conveyance Project and discussed State Water Project reliability beyond 2040.

Ms. Hawk provided next steps.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Quinn | 5. Fong-Sakai |
| 2. Kurtz | 6. Seckel |
| 3. Armstrong | 7. Miller |
| 4. Peterson | 8. Alvarez |

Staff responded to questions and comments.

Chair Quinn requested that the Directors' requests be included as part of the minutes.

b. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management

Presented by: Noosha Razavian, Resource Specialist

Ms. Razavian reported on water supply and hydrologic information.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller

Staff responded to questions and comments.

c. Subject: Update on Conservation

Presented by: Elise Goldman, Resource Specialist

Ms. Goldman gave an update on Conservation expenditures through the fiscal year.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Quinn

Staff responded to questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

- a. Subject: Bay-Delta Resources, Colorado River Resources,
Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation, and Water Resource
Management activities
- Presented by: Deven N. Upadhyay, Executive Officer and Assistant General
Manager

Mr. Upadhyay remarked that Metropolitan staff, along with the General Manager, are in discussions related to Lower Basin and seven basin states.

Ms. Crosson reported on activity in the Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation office.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- a. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Bay-Delta
- No direction given.
- b. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Demand
Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities
- No direction given.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Fong-Sakai made a request for a report on specific timeline for Metropolitan's Board action; a report on environmental impact report; 2070 report; and economic analysis.

Director Alvarez requested a report on modeling assumptions for the scenarios in the presentation.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on February 13, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Tracy Quinn
Chair