

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

July 8, 2024

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Lewitt, Miller, Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Quinn.

Members absent: Directors Ackerman, Fong-Sakai, and Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Dennstedt, Luna, Morris, Ortega, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Chapman, Crosson, Goshi, Hasencamp, Hawk, Munguia, Schlotterbeck, and Wheeler.

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

None.

Chair Quinn announced a reordering of the Agenda and stated that item 6a would be heard first.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Update on the State Water Project

Presented by: John Yarbrough, Deputy Director,
California Department of Water Resources

Mr. Goshi, Interim Group Manager, Water Resource Management provided background information and introductory comments.

Mr. Yarbrough gave a presentation on the State Water Project (SWP). He provided background information and explained the SWP physical system and operational reliability as well as financial reliability, and SWP contractor engagement.

- 7-4** **Subject:** Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$298,500 funding agreement with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program for the Identifying and Removing PFAS Used in Well Drilling Pilot Study; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion:** Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$298,500 funding agreement with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency under the FSA Program for the Identifying and Removing PFAS Used in Well Drilling Pilot Study.
- 7-5** **Subject:** Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$500,000 funding agreement with the San Diego County Water Authority under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program for the Lake Henshaw Oxygenation Pilot Study; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion:** Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$500,000 funding agreement with the San Diego County Water Authority under the FSA Program for the Lake Henshaw Oxygenation Pilot Study.
- 7-6** **Subject:** Authorize entering into a not-to exceed \$499,802 funding agreement with the City of Long Beach under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program for the Groundwater Augmentation, Groundwater Collection System, and New Wells Site Study; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion:** Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$499,802 funding agreement with the City of Long Beach under the FSA Program for the Groundwater Augmentation, Groundwater Collection System and New Wells Site Study.
- 7-7** **Subject:** Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$500,000 funding agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program for the Headworks Reservoir Complex Direct Potable Reuse Pilot; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion:** Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$500,000 funding agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power under the FSA Program for the Headworks Reservoir Complex Direct Potable Reuse Pilot.

- 7-8** **Subject:** Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$500,000 funding agreement with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program for the OceanWell Pilot Study; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion:** Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$500,000 funding agreement with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District under the FSA Program for the OceanWell Pilot Study.

No presentations were given. Director Erdman made a motion, seconded by Director Alvarez to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6, 7-7, and 7-8.

The vote was:

- Ayes:** Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Lewitt, Miller, Pressman, and Quinn
- Noes:** None
- Abstentions:** None
- Not voting:** Cordero (item 7-6), Miller (item 7-5), Lewitt (item 7-8), and Pressman (item 7-7)
- Absent** Directors Ackerman, Fong-Sakai, and Sutley

The motion for the consent calendar passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 1 not voting on 7-5, 1 not voting on 7-6, 1 not voting on 7-7, 1 not voting on 7-8, and 3 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

- 8-2** **Subject:** By a two-thirds vote, authorize payments of up to \$4.18 million for participation in the State Water Contractors for fiscal year 2024/25 and up to \$4.30 million for fiscal year 2025/26; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Presented by:** Jaime Dalida, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management
- Motion:** By a two-thirds vote, authorize payments of up to \$4.18 million for participation in the State Water Contractors for FY 2024/25 and up to \$4.30 million for FY 2025/26.

Ms. Dalida provided a presentation on the proposed action to continue funding and participating in the State Water Contractors. Participation in this organization allows Metropolitan to advocate for effective operations and management of the State Water Project (SWP), with an emphasis on the reliability of the SWP infrastructure, managing electrical power resources, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay/Delta.

After completion of the presentation, Director Lefevre made a motion, seconded by Director Erdman, to approve option 1 of the board letter.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Alvarez
2. Ortega

Staff responded to the comments and questions.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Lewitt, Miller, Pressman, and Quinn.

Noes: None.

Abstentions: None.

Absent: Directors Ackerman, Fong-Sakai, and Sutley.

The motion for item 8-2 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

Chair Quinn announced that there would be adjustments to the meeting agenda – noting that item 6d would be heard next, followed by the remaining committee items.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

d. Subject: Palo Verde Valley Regenerative Farming Studies

Presented by: Cynthia Daly, California State University of Chico
Tim LaSalle, California State University of Chico

Liz Crosson, Chief, Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation provided introductory remarks.

Mr. La Salle's portion of the presentation explained background information on regenerative farming.

Ms. Daly's portion of the presentation discussed updated project data and explained the benefits of the study's management strategy that focuses on rebuilding soil health compared to standard land following practices.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Erdman
2. Lefevre
3. Quinn

Staff responded to the comments and questions.

Ms. Crosson and Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources provided additional comments related to land fallowing and water conservation.

b. Subject: Delta Levee Real-Time Monitoring

Presented by: Russ Ryan, Sr. Engineer, Bay Delta Initiatives

Mr. Ryan gave a presentation on Delta Levee real-time monitoring and Metropolitan's work on the Bay Delta.

c. Subject: Science Update: Salmon Reorienting to Recovery Project

Presented by: This item was deferred.

d. Subject: Update on Conservation Program

Presented by: This item was deferred.

e. Subject: Update on Conservation

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

Mr. Goshi highlighted that Metropolitan successfully met the goal of fully investing the biennial budget for Conservation and credited WRM's Water Use Efficiency Team staff as well as External Affairs staff.

Ms. Sandique provided an update on expenditures of incentives as well as May Conservation Program Activity.

Chair Quinn relayed a request from Vice Chair Faessel for a report on the amount of tree replacement incentives that Metropolitan has funded.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Presented by: Nina Hawk, Bill Hasencamp, and Brandon Goshi

Ms. Hawk reported on Bay-Delta group's new staff member, State Water Resources Control Board's Sites water rights schedule, SB 147 extending CEQA exemptions for habitat restoration projects through 2030, preliminary injunction stalling geotechnical work on Delta Conveyance.

Mr. Hasencamp reported on Glen Canyon Dam bypass tubes and water releases, Palo Verde Irrigation District agreements status, and lower basin and upper basin discussions.

Mr. Goshi noted that, in addition to his written report, the State Water Project allocation remains at 40 percent for the year and that surplus amounts will be managed in Metropolitan's storage portfolio in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Director Levefre provided a report from the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Meeting held on June 20, 2024.

- b. Report on Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Meeting

There was none.

- c. Report on Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meeting

Chair Quinn provided a report on Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meetings held on May 20, 2024, and June 17, 2024.

9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

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

None.

10. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on August 19, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Tracy Quinn
Chair