

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

## **MINUTES**

### **ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**October 7, 2024**

Vice Chair Faessel called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

He announced that Chair Quinn was delayed and that the Consent Calendar was being pulled momentarily in order to go directly to Committee Items starting with Item 6b.

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

Members absent: Directors Armstrong and Erdman.

Other Board Members present: Directors, Fellow, McCoy, McMillan, Morris, Ortega, Ramos (teleconference posted location), Seckel, and Smith (teleconference posted location).

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

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

1. Bryce Lundberg, Lundberg Family Farms and Western Canal Water District, spoke in support of item 7-7.
2. Emily Papalardo, Sacramento San Joaquin Delta, spoke in opposition to Item 6a.
3. Walt Myer, Richvale Irrigation District, spoke in support of Item 7-7.
4. Barbara Barragan-Parrilla, Restore the Delta, spoke in opposition to item 6a.
5. Justin Breck, L.A. Water Keeper, spoke in opposition to Item 6a.

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

Chair Quinn and Director Gold entered the meeting. Chair Quinn took back control of the meeting.

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee Meeting for September 9, 2024.

### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

- 7-4**      Subject:            Authorize the General Manager to enter into Reverse-Cyclic Program agreements with participating agencies to defer deliveries of purchases under various water supply conditions; 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 Reverse-Cyclic Program agreements with participating agencies to defer deliveries of purchases under various water supply conditions consistent with the terms in the board letter.
- Presenter:        None.

Director Sutley made a motion, seconded by Director Alvarez, to defer item 7-4.

The vote was:

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

The motion to defer item 7-4 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 1 no, 2 abstentions, and 2 absent.

Director Miller requested discussion and presentations on items 7-6 and 7-7.

- 7-5**      Subject:            Authorize resolutions to support two applications selected to receive United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART; Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program funding for Fiscal year 2024 totalling \$2million; and authorize the General Manager to accept the funding and enter contract with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion:            Authorize resolutions to support two applications selected to receive for United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program funding for FY24 totaling \$2 million; and authorize the General Manager to accept this funding and enter contracts with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.
- Presenter:        No presentation was given.

**7-6**      **Subject:**            Review and consider the Lead Agency's certified 2022 Fiscal Environmental Impact Report for the Chino Basin Program and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into an exchange agreement with Inland Empire Utilities Agency to assist in the implementation of the program

**Motion:**                Review and consider the Lead Agency's certified 2022 Final Environmental Impact Report for the Chino Basin Program and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into an exchange agreement with Inland Empire Utilities Agency to assist in the implementation of the program.

**Presenter:**            Areeba Syed, Engineer, Water Resource Management

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

Ms. Syed gave a presentation on the proposed action that would authorize the General Manager to enter into an exchange agreement with Inland Empire Utilities Agency to assist in the implementation of the Chino Basin Program, and she explained the negotiated Agreement Terms.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Fong-Sakai
3. Smith

**7-7**      **Subject:**            Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Western Canal Water District and Richvale Irrigation District for water transfer options and first rights of refusal during 2025 through 2027; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

**Motion:**                Review and consider the Lead Agency's certified 2022 Final Environmental Impact Report for the Chino Basin Program and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into an exchange agreement with Inland Empire Utilities Agency to assist in the implementation of the program.

**Presenter:**            No presentation was given.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Lewitt
3. Ackerman
4. Sutley
5. Ortega
6. Cordero

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Director Sutley made a motion, seconded by Director Ackerman, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-5, 7-6, and 7-7.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None.

Abstentions: Director Cordero Item 2A.

Absent Directors Armstrong, and Erdman.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstentions, and 2 absent.  
The motion for items 7-5, 7-6, and 7-7 passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None.

### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None.

## 6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Bay-Delta and Conveyance: Managing Risks and Water Supply Reliability

Presented by: Nina Hawk, Manager, Bay Delta Initiatives  
Maureen Martin, Manager, Bay-Delta Science & Regulatory Strategy

Mss. Hawk and Martin co-presented an update on actions to address risks to the State Water Project and Bay-Delta water supply reliability. They discussed background information on Bay-Delta-related risk factors, the Delta Conveyance Project, and associated planning funding.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. Sutley     | 7. Miller  |
| 2. Gold       | 8. Seckel  |
| 3. Alvarez    | 9. Lewitt  |
| 4. Lefevre    | 10. Ortega |
| 5. Smith      | 11. Quinn  |
| 6. Fong-Sakai |            |

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Director Quinn left the meeting and Director Feassel took back control of the meeting. He requested that the rest of the committee items be deferred in the interests of time.

- b. Subject: Update on Basin States discussions regarding post-2026 operational guidelines

Presented by: This item was deferred.

- c. Subject: Update on Conservation As a California Way of Life

Presented by: This item was deferred.

- d. Subject: Update on Conservation Program

Presented by: This item was deferred.

- e. Subject: Draft Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water Policy Framework

Presented by: This item was deferred.

**7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

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

Presented by: John Bednarski, Interim Assistant General Manager

Mr. Bednarski noted that his management report was submitted in writing.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

There was none.

- b. Report on Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Meeting

There was none.

- c. Report on Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meeting

Director McMillan provided a report on the Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meeting held on September 16, 2024.

**9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

Vice Chair Faessel stated that there was no update from Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities since the committee has not met.

**10. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

Director Gold requested for future Colorado River updates to be scheduled where there would be adequate time for a presentation and discussion.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Tracy Quinn  
Chair