

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PURE WATER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND REGIONAL CONVEYANCE

January 23, 2024

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

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Camacho (entered after roll call), Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre (teleconference location posted), McMillan, Morris, Peterson (entered after roll call), and Seckel.

Members absent: Directors Chacon, Luna, and Smith.

Other Board members present: Chair Ortega, Directors Armstrong, Bryant, Cordero, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Erdman, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference location posted), Kassakhian, Kurtz, and Miller.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Hagekhalil, Martinez, Quilizapa, and Upadhyay.

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

None

Director Peterson entered the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance for November 28, 2023 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions)

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

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Alvarez, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Morris, Peterson, Seckel.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Camacho, Chacon, Luna, and Smith.

The motion for Item 2a passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

3. SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Pure Water Southern California – Quarterly Update and 2023 Cost Estimate Details

Presented by: Bruce Chalmers, Program Manager- Pure Water Southern California, Engineering Services Group

Mr. John Bednarski introduced Mr. Chalmers. Mr. Chalmers reported on the following:

- Implementation of State Funds, preliminary design of pipeline reaches 1 & 2.
- Details of program cost estimate from November 2023.
- Current expenditures and budget status for O&M.
- Large Scale Water Recycling (LSWR) grant program updates, application status, feasibility study, cost eligibility, program authorization, and amount of funds requested.
- Sequencing plan and proposed scope of work for Pure Water Southern California with LSWR funds.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Peterson
2. Fellow
3. Fong-Sakai
4. Alvarez
5. DeJesus
6. Seckel
7. Ortega
8. Miller

Staff responded to Directors questions and comments.

Chair Camacho entered the meeting.

b. Subject: Assessment of Reuse Alternatives for Pure Water Southern California

Presented by: Heather Collins, Assistant Group Manager, Water System Operations

Mr. Mickey Chaudhuri introduced Ms. Collins. Ms. Collins reported on the following:

- Overview of recycled water regulatory development and Metropolitan's progressive approach to PWSC reuse alternatives.
- Program overview for Phase 1 (115 mgd: 90 mgd IPR, 25 mgd DPR to Weymouth using existing pipeline) and Phase 2 (adds additional 35 mgd of DPR with new pipeline).
- Benefits to PWSC pursuing raw water augmentation form of DPR for regional accessibility and increased operational control.
- Consideration for treated water augmentation and next steps for DPR development.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Morris
2. Erdman
3. Alvarez

Staff responded to Directors questions and comments.

c. Subject: Drought Mitigation Portfolio Progress Update: An Operational Perspective

Presented by: Keith Nobriga, Assistant Group Manager, Water System Operations

Mr. Mickey Chaudhuri introduced Mr. Nobriga. Mr. Nobriga reported on the following:

- Metropolitan's continued history of portfolio development; current focus on drought and climate mitigation.
- Case study for a three-year drought sequence like 2020-22, and a fourth drought year.
- Applying operational lessons learned from the last drought for improved reliability.
- Review of existing and near-term drought actions and how they have helped our overall reliability.
- Benefits of additional new drought actions for further improved drought reliability.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to Directors questions and comments.

d. Subject: State Water Project Dependent Areas Drought Mitigation Update

Presented by: John Shamma, Section Manager, Engineering Services Group

Mr. John Bednarski introduced Mr. Shamma. Mr. Shamma reported on the following:

- Drought mitigation portfolio implementation plan consisting of cost-effective projects providing timely relief for SWP dependent areas and projects for further consideration in CAMP4W.
- Potential incorporation of expansion of the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Station into the CIP.
- A portfolio of cost-effective projects for immediate implementation, and a portfolio of projects for further consideration to enhance Metropolitan's ability to deal with future droughts.
- Adjustments to CIP program descriptions for improved tracking of drought mitigation efforts and progress.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Lefevre
2. Miller
3. Alvarez
4. Fong-Sakai
5. Peterson

Staff responded to Directors questions and comments.

4. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Director Alvarez requested information about where the water will go, how it will be delivered, and who will own it.

Director Alvarez requested an analysis of overall demand and water delivery to agencies during the 2020 drought.

Director Alvarez would like to see an analysis (of the same depth as the conveyance facilities analysis) that looks at how the issues raised on slide 11 of this presentation might be addressed to make the goal of 115 mgd possible.

Director Fellow requested that staff provide a chart comparing costs of State Water Project, desalination, and Pure Water Southern California.

Director Seckel requested that staff prepare for a "Plan B" and prepare alternate and more prudent financial and engineering plans in the event that Metropolitan's original plan for PWSC becomes more costly and unaffordable in order to be able to move forward with the program.

Director Fong-Sakai requested that the board discussions reconvene next month to allow for directors to fully digest the information received last week and for ongoing discussions regarding Pure Water Southern California cost details stemming from the recently posted Memorandum on Pure Water Southern California – Cost Methodology.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on March 26, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

John Morris
Vice Chair