

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**MINUTES**  
**ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**August 19, 2024**

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

Members absent: Director Cordero

Other Board Members present: Directors Dennstedt, Gold (teleconference posted location), Luna, McMillan, Morris, Ortega, Seckel, and Smith.

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. Karl Rogers, Sierran Supra Community on Environment, spoke on item 9-2.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

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

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

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None.

Director Kurtz entered the meeting room.

Director Sutley made a motion, seconded by Director Erdman, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A.

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

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

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

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

Director Miller read a disclosure statement regarding item 8-1, stating that he would not vote, including abstaining.

Director Fong-Sakai read a disclosure statement regarding item 8-1, stating that she would not vote, including abstaining.

Director Goldberg read a disclosure statement regarding item 8-1, stating that she may participate in the item.

Director Smith read a disclosure statement regarding item 8-1, stating that he would not vote, including abstaining. Director Smith is not a committee member.

**8-1** Subject: Authorize the General Manger to enter into a: (1) a forbearance agreement with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, and the City of Needles to allow water conserved under the U.S. Burea of Reclamation’s conservation program to be added to Lake Mead; and (2) an agreement with Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s conservation program to add water conserved by Imperial Irrigation District to Lake Mead that would otherwise accrue to San Diego County Water Authority; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Laura Lamdin, Engineer, Water Resource Management

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to enter into: (1) a forbearance agreement with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, and the City of Needles to allow water conserved under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's conservation program to be added to Lake Mead; and (2) agreements with Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority under Reclamation's conservation program to add water conserved by Imperial Irrigation District to Lake Mead that would otherwise accrue to San Diego County Water Authority

Mr. Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources provided background information and introduced this presentation.

Ms. Lamdin gave a presentation on the proposed action to to enter into agreements to allow water to be added to Lake Mead pursuant to funding provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Conservation Program. These agreements demonstrate how multi-agency partnerships can benefit the Colorado River.

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

The vote was:

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

Noes: None.

Not voting: Directors Fong-Sakai and Miller.

Absent: Director Cordero.

The motion for item 8-1 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 2 not voting, and 1 absent.

## 5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

**9-2** Subject: Update on proposed agreement with the Plumas Community Protection I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, and Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond LLC to establish watershed partnerships and forest health pilot investigations in North Sierra Nevada; each agreement will not exceed \$200,000 per year for a maximum of two years.

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

Nina Hawk, Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives provided background information and introductory comments.

Ms. Nevills gave a presentation on watershed agreements would help Metropolitan assess the potential benefits and value of investments in watershed health through pilot investigations, while advancing the relevant science and building relationships within the watersheds.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. Miller  | 5. Fong-Sakai |
| 2. Sutley  | 6. Erdman     |
| 3. Lefevre | 7. Lewitt     |
| 4. Gold    | 8. Kurtz      |

Staff responded to Directors questions and comments.

## 6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Science Update: Salmon Reorienting to Recovery

Presented by: Alison L. Collins, Sr. Resource Specialist, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Ms. Hawk provided background information and introductory comments.

Ms. Collins gave a presentation on Salmon Reorienting to Recovery Project status.

Director Sutley left the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

- b.      Subject:           Approaches for Securing Dry-Year Water Transfers
- Presented by:   Sarah J. Bartlett, Program Manager,  
Water Resource Management

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

Ms. Bartlett gave a presentation on past practices and current challenges in securing dry-year water transfers via State Water Project facilities.

- c.      Subject:           Update on Chino Basin Program Development with  
Metropolitan and Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Presented by:   Areeba Syed, Engineer, Water Resource Management

Ms. Syed gave an abbreviated presentation that included a brief program overview and recent activity.

- d.      Subject:           Update on Conservation
- Presented by:   Karina Sandique, Associate Resource Specialist,  
Water Resource Management

Ms. Sandique gave an update on Conservation expenditures and activity.

Chair Quinn requested an update next month on lifetime statistics on device and turf replacements.

- e.      Subject:           CAMP4W Policies, Initiatives, and Partnerships Discussion
- Presented by:   Liz Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation  
Officer

Ms. Crosson provided a presentation on the development of a Climate Adaptation Policy Framework for Board Approval in early 2025.

Chair Quinn requested for this item to return next month to allow more time for Directors to provide feedback.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Ackerman | 4. Smith      |
| 2. Alvarez  | 5. Seckel     |
| 3. Ortega   | 6. Fong-Sakai |

## **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, Water Resources and Technical Services  
Liz Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Officer

Mr. Bednarski reported on the timelines for hearings for Sites Reservoir water rights, and Delta Conveyance water rights.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Director Luna provided a report from the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Meeting held on August 15, 2024.

- 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 three Bay-Delta Ad Hoc Meetings held on July 1, 2024, July 15, 2024, and August 5, 2024.

## **9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

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

Director Armstrong commented on proposed future meetings for that committee. Chair Quinn requested that staff coordinate a meeting with Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles on stacked incentives report.

**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