

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

November 8, 2021

Chair Atwater called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:23 p.m.

Members present: Chair Atwater, Vice Chair Kurtz, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Goldberg, Lefevre, Morris, Peterson, Pressman (entered after rollcall) and Record.

Member absent: Directors Hogan, Luna, and Petersen.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Blois, Butkiewicz, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Jung, Ortega, Quinn, Ramos, Repenning, Smith, and Tamaribuchi

Committee staff present: Coffey, Hagekhalil, Hasencamp, Munguia, Schlotterbeck, and Upadhyay.

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))

Public Speaker included:

1. Mr. Jack Bebee, General Manager, Fallbrook Public Utility District, expressed gratitude to Metropolitan for the work and LRP Programs, and he addressed a letter from Fallbrook related to agenda item 6c.

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee held October 11, 2021

Chair Atwater announced that the committee would proceed to other Consent Calendar Action items, and he requested recusal statements from committee members representing Municipal Water District of Orange County.

Directors Ackerman, Ortega, and Dick provided recusal statements.

Other non-committee members who also provided recusal statements were Directors Erdman and Tamaribuchi.

Director Pressman joined the meeting.

Chair Atwater announced that item 6a would be heard ahead of Consent Calendar items. He also announced that Metropolitan received a letter from San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) related to item 7-8.

Brad Coffey provided brief background information and introduced item 6a.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management
- Presented by: Tiffany Tran, Assistant Resource Specialist II, Water Resource Management

Ms. Tran gave an oral report that included updates on current conditions and described a scenario for 2022.

Director Butkiewicz announced that he would abstain from voting on item 7-9. Though, he is not a member of this committee.

Chair Atwater announced that the committee would resume the Consent Calendar items.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

- 7-8 Subject: Adopt resolution declaring a Regional Drought Emergency, calling on Member Agencies to reduce use of State Water Project supplies, and granting the General Manager certain additional authorities; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

 Presented by: Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Management

 Motion: Adopt the Resolution Declaring a Regional Drought Emergency as revised at committee subject to further review at Board.

Mr. Coffey also acknowledged a letter from SDCWA regarding this item, and he gave a presentation that explained staff's recommendation that the Board adopt a Drought Emergency Resolution calling on local agencies to immediately reduce their use of State Water Project supplies.

General Manager, Hagekhalil also provided comments related to this item.

7-9 Subject: Authorize implementation of modifications to the Turf Replacement Program, the Member Agency Administered Funds Program, the Pre-1994 Multi-Family Property Toilet Replacement Program, and the Southern California Gas Company Direct Install Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None.

Motion: 1. Authorize changes to the Turf Replacement Programs.
 a) Authorize increase of the Turf Replacement Program incentive for public agencies from \$2 to \$3 per square foot.
 b) Authorize increase of the square footage maximum to 200,000 square feet for public agency projects.
 c) Authorize turf replacement public agency assistance program.
 2. Authorize changes to the Member Agency Administered Funds Program to include a public agency local project category.
 3. Authorize expansion and changes to the Pre-1994 Multi-Family Property Toilet Replacement Program.
 a) Authorize one additional funding cycle for the installation of 20,000 toilets.
 b) Authorize change to eliminate tiered incentive and offer flat incentive of \$250 for all eligible toilets.
 4. Authorize expansion of SoCal Gas Direct Install Program.

7-10 Subject: Authorize implementation of a new Municipal Leak Detection and Repair Grant Pilot Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None.

Motion: Authorize implementation of the Municipal Leak Detection and Repair Grant Pilot Program.

7-11 Subject: Adopt resolution to support Metropolitan's application for the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Energy Efficiency FY 2022 Grant Program of \$2 million to supplement funding for public agency landscapes within the Turf Replacement Program; authorize the General Manager to accept grant funds, if awarded; and authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with United States Bureau of Reclamation for the grant funds, if awarded; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None.

Motion: Adopt the resolution to support Metropolitan's application for United States Bureau of Reclamation grant funding of \$2 million to provide supplemental funding for public agency landscapes in the Turf Replacement Program;

- a. Authorize the General Manager to accept grant funds, if awarded; and
- b. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with United States Bureau of Reclamation for the grant funds, if awarded

7-12 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land to provide incentives for land fallowing related to the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program, for up to \$1.6 million in 2022 and 2023; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None.

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Program agreement with the Quechan Tribe and seasonal fallowing agreements with farmers within the Quechan tribal land. Additionally, approve payment of up to \$1.6 million for the 2022 and 2023 fallowing seasons.

7-13 Subject: (1) Rescind the Board's June 8, 2021 action authorizing the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program (LRP) agreement with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) for the Las Flores Recycled Water Expansion Project (Las Flores Project); review and consider SMWD's approved Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum for the Las Flores Project and take related CEQA actions; and, after the disclosure of a remote financial interest under Government Code Section 1090 (Section 1090) and director recusal, consider and authorize an LRP agreement with MWDOC and SMWD for the Las Flores Project.

(2) Rescind the Board's December 13, 2016 actions authorizing the General Manager to enter into LRP agreements with MWDOC and SMWD for the Lake Mission Viejo Advanced Purification Water Treatment Facilities (Lake Mission Viejo Facilities) and with MWDOC and the El Toro Water District (ETWD) for the

El Toro Recycled Water System Expansion Phase II Project (El Toro Project); after the disclosure of a remote financial interest under section 1090 and director recusal, consider and authorize LRP agreements with MWDOC and SMWD for the Lake Mission Viejo Facilities and with MWDOC and ETWD for the El Toro Project; and authorize retroactive LRP payments in the amounts of \$522,000 and \$110,000 for the Lake Mission Viejo Facilities and El Toro Project, respectively, as credit against returned payments in the same amount. The General Manager has determined these proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None.

Motion: (1) Rescind the Board's June 8, 2021 action authorizing the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program (LRP) agreement with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) for the Las Flores Recycled Water Expansion Project (Las Flores Project); review and consider SMWD's approved Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum for the Las Flores Project and take related CEQA actions; and, after the disclosure of a remote financial interest under Government Code Section 1090 (Section 1090) and director recusal, consider and authorize an LRP agreement with MWDOC and SMWD for the Las Flores Project;

(2) Rescind the Board's December 13, 2016 actions authorizing the General Manager to enter into LRP agreements with MWDOC and SMWD for the Lake Mission Viejo Advanced Purification Water Treatment Facilities (Lake Mission Viejo Facilities) and with MWDOC and the El Toro Water District (ETWD) for the El Toro Recycled Water System Expansion Phase II Project (El Toro Project); after the disclosure of a remote financial interest under Section 1090 and director recusal, consider and authorize LRP agreements with MWDOC and SMWD for the Lake Mission Viejo Facilities and with MWDOC and ETWD for the El Toro Project; and authorize retroactive LRP payments in the amounts of \$522,000 and \$110,000 for the Lake Mission Viejo Facilities and El Toro Project, respectively, as credit against returned payments in the same amount.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. Kurtz
3. Record
4. Pressman
5. Cordero
6. Repenning
7. Peterson
8. Quinn
9. Ortega
10. Goldberg

Deven Upahyay, Assistant General Manager added additional comments.

After a discussion between board members and staff, Director Goldberg made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-8, 7-9, 7-10, 7-11, 7-12, and 7-13.

Director Ackerman recused herself from voting on item 7-13.

Director Dick was disqualified from voting on item 7-13.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick , Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Morris, Peterson, Pressman, and Record.
Noes:	Director Peterson for item 7-8 only
Abstentions:	None
Recusals:	Director Ackerman for item 7-13 only.
Not voting:	Director Dick for item 7-13 only.
Absent:	Directors Hogan, Luna, and Petersen.

The motion for items 2A, 7-9, 7-10, 7-11, and 7-12 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

The motion for item 7-8 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 1 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

The motion for item 7-13 passed by a vote of 11 ayes and 2 noes, 0 abstentions, 1 recusal, 1 not voting, and 3 absent

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

b. Subject: Report on Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Implementation

Presented by: Shanti Rossett, Program Manager

Ms. Rossett gave an update on Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan Implementation. She provided background information and explained recent activity, plans for going forward, and Metropolitan's preparedness.

- c. Subject: Update on Proposed Reorganization of Fallbrook Public Utility District and Rainbow Municipal Water District before the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission
Presented by: Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Manager

Mr. Coffey gave presentation that reviewed the proposed reorganization applications of both Fallbrook Public Utility District and Rainbow Municipal Water District that are both agencies of SDCWA. They both request detachment from SDCWA and request annexation to Eastern Municipal Water District.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Goldberg
2. Quinn
3. Ortega
4. Record
5. Dick
6. Peterson
7. Repenning
8. Atwater
9. Chairwoman Gray

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Subject: Colorado River Matters
Presented by: None

This item was deferred due to time limitations

- b. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report
Presented by: None

This item was deferred due to time limitations.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be held on December 13, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Richard Atwater
Chair