

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

December 13, 2021

Chair Atwater called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:15p.m.

Members present: Chair Atwater, Vice Chair Kurtz, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Lefevre, Petersen, Pressman, and Record.

Members absent: Directors Goldberg, Luna, Morris, Peterson.

Other Board Members present: Blois, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Jung, McCoy, Miller, Quinn, Ramos, Smith, Tamaribuchi and Williams.

Committee staff present: Coffey, Hasencamp, Hagekhalil, 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))

Chair Atwater announced how public comments for this meeting would be heard. He explained that Public Hearing comments would precede public comments for regular business of this committee.

Chair Atwater provided background information and he introduced Mr. Carlos Carrillo, Associate Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management.

1a Public Hearing for Achievements in Conservation, Recycling and Groundwater Recharge

Mr. Carrillo provided a brief overview of today's Public Hearing and gave a presentation summarizing the Draft Report that, when finalized, will be submitted to the state legislature, as required by Metropolitan's Act.

Public Hearing Speakers included:

1. Jack Simes, Acting Area Manager – USBR Southern California Area Office. Mr. Simes spoke in support of Metropolitan's conservation efforts.

2. Alex Zaragoza, Cross Connection Specialist – Rowland Water District and Three Valleys Municipal Water District. Mr. Zaragoza spoke in support of Metropolitan’s On-Site Retrofit Program.
3. Lucie McGovern, Public Works Director – City of Camarillo North Pleasant Valley Groundwater Desalter. Ms. McGovern spoke in support of Metropolitan’s Local Resource Program.
4. David Silva, Water Certification Program Manager – California Landscape Contractors Association. Mr. Silva spoke in support of Metropolitan’s Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Program.
5. Cora Kammeyer, Senior Researcher – Pacific Institute. Ms. Kammeyer spoke in support of Metropolitan’s Water Savings Incentive Program.
6. Jennifer West, Managing Director – WateReuse California. Ms. West provided general comments of support for Metropolitan’s conservation efforts.

Chair Atwater announced that the Public Hearing was closed and moved to regular public comment. No speakers for regular public comment.

Chair Atwater announced we would move on to the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEM – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee held November 8, 2021

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM – ACTION

- 7-4** Subject: Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate near-term actions to maintain the elevation of water in Lake Mead above elevation 1,020 feet, and to provide up to 20 percent of the non-federal cost share of any such actions, not to exceed \$10 million per year in 2022 and 2023, and delegate authority to the General Manager to enter into additional agreements as needed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding; the General Manager

determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Shanti Rossett, Program Manager II, Office of the General Manager

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to enter into the 500+ Plan MOU to facilitate near-term actions necessary to maintain the elevation of water in Lake Mead above elevation 1,020 feet and to provide up to 20 percent of the non-federal cost share of any such actions, not to exceed \$10 million per year in 2022 and 2023, and delegate authority to the General Manager to enter into additional agreements as needed to implement the MOU

Ms. Rossett gave a presentation on a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with three lower Colorado River basin states known as the “500+ Plan MOU” to keep Lake Mead above elevation. The 500+ Plan MOU is a commitment by water managers in Arizona, Nevada, and California to facilitate actions that could add 500,000 acre-feet (AF) of water to Lake Mead in both 2022 and 2023.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre
2. Atwater
3. Smith
4. Miller
5. Pressman

General Manager, Hagekhalil provided additional comments.

7-5 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and the California Department of Water Resources to improve the management of State Water Project supplies, including the exchange of water; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: James D. Bodnar, Program Manager, Water Resource Management

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to execute agreements with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and the Department of Water Resources consistent with the key terms outlined herein and in the letter, and in a form approved by the General Counsel

Mr. Bodnar provided a presentation on the proposed agreements with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

to enhance Metropolitan's capability of delivering supplies to areas dependent on State Water Project (SWP) supplies. This is in response to the current drought conditions on the State Water Project side of Metropolitan's system.

7-6 Subject: Authorize General Manager to enter into agreements with San Diego County Water Authority, Semitropic Water Storage District, and the California Department of Water Resources to purchase water, lease groundwater return capacity, exchange water, and to convey water in the State Water Project facilities; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: James D. Bodnar, Program Manager, Water Resource Management

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with San Diego County Water Authority, Semitropic Water Storage District, and the California Department of Water Resources to purchase water, lease groundwater return capacity, exchange water, and to convey water in the State Water Project facilities consistent with the terms outlined herein and in the letter, and in a form approved by the General Counsel

Mr. Bodnar gave a presentation on the proposed agreement with San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) to access 4,200 acre-feet (AF) of water supply and 5,000 AF per year (AFY) of contractual return capacity to the California Aqueduct from SDCWA's groundwater storage program with Semitropic Water Storage District (Semitropic). By partnering with SDCWA in the proposed agreement, Metropolitan's water supply reliability for deliveries to the East and West branches of the California Aqueduct will be increased by 9,200 AF in 2022.

7-8 Subject: Adopt resolutions to support Metropolitan's applications for the California Department of Water Resources 2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program of \$7.5 million to supplement funding for residential and commercial landscapes within the Turf Replacement Program and \$2.5 million to supplement funding for the Residential Direct Install Program in partnership with the Southern California Gas Company; authorize the General Manager to accept grant funds, if awarded; and authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with the California Department of Water Resources for the grant funds, if awarded; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt of otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: None

Motion: Adopt the resolutions to support Metropolitan's application to the California Department of Water Resources 2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Program grant funding of \$7.5 million to provide supplemental funding for residential and commercial landscapes in the Turf Replacement Program and \$2.5 million for the direct installation of water efficiency devices for the Residential Direct Install Program; authorize the General Manager to accept grant funds, if awarded; and authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with the California Department of Water Resources for the grant funds, if awarded

After completion of presentations, Director Lefevre made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6, and 7-8.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Atwater, Cordero, Dick, Kurtz, Lefevre, Pressman, and Record.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Ackerman, De Jesus, Goldberg, Luna, Morris, Petersen, and Peterson.

The motion for items 2A, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6, and 7-8 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 7 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

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 2021 supply and demand balance, 2022 initial SWP Allocation, California's actions for a potential third consecutive dry year, and Metropolitan's action to meet demands for SWP-dependant areas.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Subject: Colorado River Matters

Presented by: None.

Mr. Coffey announced written report was provided.

b. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Presented by: Brad Coffey, Manager Water Resource Management

Mr. Coffey gave an update on conservation activity and expenditures.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be held on January 10, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Richard Atwater
Chair