

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

**April 12, 2022**

Chair Atwater called the teleconference meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

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

Members absent: Directors Goldberg and Luna.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Blois, Camacho, Dennstedt, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Jung, McCoy, Ortega, Quinn, Ramos, Smith, Sutley, and Tamaribuchi

Committee staff present: Coffey, 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))**

1. Sandra S. Rose, Board President, Monte Vista Water District, spoke in opposition of Item 9-2
2. Justin Scott-Coe, General Manager, Monte Vista Water District, spoke in opposition of Item 9-2
3. Randall Reed, President, Cucamonga Valley Water District, spoke in opposition of on Item 9-2.
4. Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California, spoke in opposition of Item 7-13
5. Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E., General Manager of IEUA, spoke in opposition of Item 9-2
6. Doug Obegi, NRDC, spoke in opposition of Items 7-13 and 6d
7. Charming Evelyn, Sierra Club, spoke in opposition of Items 7-13 and 6d
8. Maura Monagan, Los Angeles Water Keeper, spoke in opposition of Item 7-13

### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

#### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEM – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee held March 7, 2022

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

- 7-10 Subject: Authorize agreement with Western Municipal Water District, Rubidoux Community Services District, West Valley Water District, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District to provide Rubidoux Community Services District assistance on water deliveries; the General Manager determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Jessica Arm, Associate Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to enter into a one-year agreement with Western Municipal Water District, Rubidoux Community Services District, West Valley Water District, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District to provide Rubidoux assistance with water deliveries, subject to a possible extension if approved by the Board following a review by the General Manager on alternative means of addressing Rubidoux's needs.

Ms. Arm provided a presentation on a proposed agreement with Western Municipal Water District (WMWD), Rubidoux Community Services District, West Valley Water District, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District to assist with water deliveries where Metropolitan would deliver, provided there is available capacity, up to 2,000 acre-feet of water per year to Rubidoux for use within WMWD's service area.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |             |                |             |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Ortega   | 6. Abdo        | 11. Dick    |
| 2. Miller   | 7. Tamaribuchi | 12. Lefevre |
| 3. Pressman | 8. Fong-Sakai  | 13. Kurtz   |
| 4. Peterson | 9. Morris      | 14. Record  |
| 5. DeJesus  | 10. Blois      |             |

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Record made a motion with amended language, seconded by Director Kurtz.

Chair Atwater announced that the committee would hear the remaining Consent Calendar items before taking a vote.

7-11     Subject:             Authorize the General Manager to negotiate an agreement consistent with the draft terms of the Metropolitan Water District/Inland Empire Utilities Agency Exchange Agreement; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by:             Brandon J. Goshi, Manager, Resource Planning & Development Section

Motion:                     Authorize the General Manager to negotiate an agreement consistent with the draft terms of the Metropolitan Water District/Inland Empire Utilities Agency Exchange Agreement.

Mr. Goshi gave a presentation that seeks authorization for the General Manager to negotiate an agreement to facilitate the exchange of an equivalent portion of Metropolitan's State Water Project Table A allocation for stored Chino Basin groundwater. He explained that the draft terms for this exchange cover the exchange quantities, operations, costs, and additional benefits provided for participation in the Chino Basin Program.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Dick

Mr. Coffey announced that Agenda item 6a would be provided ahead of 7-12, as to provide more context on item 7-12.

## **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

a.     Subject:             Update on Water Supply and Drought Management

Presented by:             Tiffany Tran, Associate Resource Specialist, Resource Planning Team

Ms. Tran provided an update on hydrological conditions of the two imported watersheds, drought actions, and supply demand balances.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Sutley

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

7-12 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to: (1) secure one-year water transfers with various water districts north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for up to 75,000 acre-feet of additional supplies; (2) secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts to facilitate these transfers; (3) pay up to \$60 million from the State Water Project Budget for such transfers; and grant final decision-making authority to the General Manager subject to the terms set forth in this letter; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Nadia Hardjadinata, Resource Specialist, Resource Implementation Unit

Motion: a. Authorize the General Manager to:

- (a) Secure one-year water transfers with various water districts north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for up to 75,000 AF of additional supplies.
- (b) Secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to facilitate these transfers consistent with Articles 55 and 56 of Metropolitan's State Water Project Supply Contract.
- (c) Pay up to \$60 million from the State Water Project Budget for such transfers.

b. Grant the General Manager final decision-making authority to determine whether or not to move forward with these transfers following completion of any environmental reviews required under CEQA, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this letter.

Ms. Hardjadinata gave a presentation on a proposed action that authorizes the General Manager to secure one-year water transfers with north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta water districts for up to 75,000 acre-feet of additional supplies and to secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts as needed to facilitate these transfers, including Sacramento Valley water districts and the Yuba County Water Agency.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. Blois
3. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

7-13 Subject: Appropriate \$20 million and authorize an amendment to the 2019 Reservoir Project Agreement with the Sites Project Authority to allow

participation in the Sites Reservoir Project Amendment 3 Workplan; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Randall Neudeck, Manager, Bay-Delta Programs

Motion: a. Authorize the General Manager to sign the Third Amendment to the 2019 Reservoir Project Agreement with the Sites Project Authority and other participants for participation in the Amendment 3 Workplan process for an amount not to exceed \$20,000,000; and  
b. Appropriate \$20,000,000 for the Amendment 3 Workplan based on reserving 311,700 acre-feet of storage rights, which is equivalent to approximately 50,000 AF of annual water supply reservoir releases.

Mr. Neudeck provided a presentation that explained the proposed authorization for Metropolitan to participate in and fund completion of the planning, permitting, and environmental review effort of the proposed multi-benefit Sites Reservoir Project over the next three years.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Miller   | 7. Quinn        |
| 2. Sutley   | 8. Record       |
| 3. Cordero  | 9. Camacho      |
| 4. Ortega   | 10. Dick        |
| 5. Petersen | 11. Tamaribuchi |
| 6. Peterson | 12. Lefevre     |

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Chair Atwater reminded committee members that Agenda items 7-14 and 7-15 were withdrawn.

After completion of presentations, Director Record made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-10, 7-11, 7-12, and 7-13.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Pressman, and Record.

Noes: Directors Abdo, Cordero, and Petersen for item 7-13 only.

Abstentions: Director Miller for item 7-13 only.

Absent: Directors Goldberg and Luna.

The motion for items 2A, 7-10, 7-11, and 7-12 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions and 2 absent.

The motion for item 7-13, passed by a vote of 10 yes, 3 noes, 1 abstain, and 2 absent.

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

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

- 9-2 Information on a proposed Water Shortage Emergency Condition and Emergency Water Conservation Program to Preserve Metropolitan's Supplies in the State Water Project-Dependent Areas

Presented by: Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Management

Mr. Coffey gave a presentation on proposed board actions to reduce demands and preserve supplies in Metropolitan's State Water Project-Dependent service areas.

Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager, provided additional comments.

Chairwoman Gray commented on the lateness of the meeting, and she recommended deferring the balance of the agenda.

### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- b. Subject: Update on Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency High Desert Water Bank

This item was deferred.

- c. Subject: Colorado River Tribal Partnerships

This item was deferred.

- d. Subject: Review Term Sheet for the Bay Delta Watershed Voluntary Agreements

This item was deferred.

- e. Subject: Bay-Delta Policies Workshop #1

This item was deferred.

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a. Subject: Colorado River Manager's Report

This item was deferred.

- b. Subject: Bay-Delta Manager's Report

This item was deferred.

- c. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

This item was deferred.

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting will be held on May 9, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Water Planning and  
Stewardship Committee

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April 12, 2022

Richard Atwater  
Chair