

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

May 9, 2022

Chair Atwater called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

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

Members absent: Directors Luna and Petersen.

Other Board Members present: Directors Blois, Dennstedt, Erdman, Fellow, McCoy, Ortega, Quinn, Ramos, Repenning, 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))**

- a. Presentation on the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority's role in the Delta Conveyance Project Environmental Impact Report: Graham Bradner, Executive Director

Mr. Bradner gave a presentation on Delta Conveyance Project Engineering Update.

Public speakers included:

- 1. Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9
- 2. Jim, the Valley, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9
- 3. Barbara Barragan, Restore the Delta, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9.
- 4. Doug Obegi, NRDC, spoke in opposition of 7-9.
- 5. Nancy Blassman, Redlands, CA, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9
- 6. Elizabeth Dodge, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9.
- 7. Sydney, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9
- 8. Dan Still, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9
- 9. Melanie Cohen, Food & Water Watch, spoke in opposition Item of 7-9
- 10. Valerie, Los Osos, CA, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9
- 11. Roseann Witt, Ventura, CA, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9
- 12. Bill Neiman, Downey, CA, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9
- 13. Lionel Mare, Los Angeles, CA, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9,
- 14. Wesley Chung, Los Angeles, CA, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9
- 15. Faith Grant, Thousand Oaks, CA spoke in opposition of Item 7-9

16. Maura Monagan, L.A. Water Keeper, spoke in opposition of Item 7-9.

Director Pressman entered the meeting.

### **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 April 12, 2022, and the Special Meeting held April 26, 2022

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

**7-9**      Subject:                      Express support for developing the Voluntary Agreement approach as an alternative in the State Water Resources Control Board’s Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by:                      Steve Arakawa, Manager, Bay Delta Initiatives

Motion:                              Express support for developing the Voluntary Agreements (VAs) approach as an alternative in the State Water Resources Control Board’s Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

Deven Upadhyay, Assistant General Manager/ COO provided background information and introductory comments.

Ms. Arakawa gave a presentation that discussed the inclusion of VAs approach in the State Water Resources Control Board’s public process of environmental review and decision-making as part of its Water Quality Control Plan update. The VAs approach allows non-flow measures to be considered along with flow requirements, resulting in a more robust Bay-Delta Plan, including options for early implementation of measures in an effort to expeditiously improve operating and ecological conditions.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |            |             |               |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Morris  | 6. Peterson | 11. Repenning |
| 2. Miller  | 7. Lefevre  | 12. Goldberg  |
| 3. Sutley  | 8. Ortega   | 13. Blois     |
| 4. Cordero | 9. Record   | 14. Erdman    |
| 5. Quinn   | 10. Abdo    |               |

Staff and Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager, responded to Directors' comments and questions.

Director Kurtz left the meeting.

After completion of the presentation, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Pressman to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-9.

Director Pressman left the meeting.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: Directors Goldberg and Miller for item 7-9 only.

Absent: Directors Kurtz, Luna, Petersen, and Pressman.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain,, and 4 absent.

The motion for item 7-9 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 2 abstain, and 4 absent.

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

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

None

### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: Review of Policy Principles Regarding the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Bay-Delta

Presented by: Nina Hawk, Bay-Delta Initiatives Policy Manager

Ms. Hawk provided a report on the Review of Policy Principles. She reviewed the Bay Delta Initiatives Policy Update Timeline, past key concepts and initiatives of the past 15 years, emerging trends, policy areas, and next steps.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. Goldberg
3. Record

Director Goldberg requested that a letter from San Diego County Water Authority be included as part of this meeting's record.

- b. Subject: Colorado River Tribal Partnerships

Presented by: Meena Westford, Special Projects Manager

Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources, provided background information and introductory comments.

Ms. Westford gave a presentation that discussed roles that Native American tribes have in managing Colorado River water, Colorado River Policy framework, Quechan Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program, and tribes in Metropolitan's service area.

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

This item was deferred.

- d. Subject: Update on Water Surplus Drought Management

This item was deferred.

- e. Subject: Update on Water Shortage Emergency Condition

This item was deferred.

**7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a. Subject: Colorado River Manager's Report

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp noted that Lake Mead dropped one third of an inch and two thousand acre-feet during the time of this meeting.

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

This item was deferred by Steve Arakawa, Manager, Bay Delta Initiatives

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

This item was deferred by Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Management.

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting will be held on June 13, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Richard Atwater  
Chair