

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**June 13, 2022**

Chair Atwater called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

Members present: Chair Atwater, Vice Chair Kurtz, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, De Jesus, Lefevre, Miller, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, and Record.

Members absent: Directors Cordero, Dick, Goldberg, Luna, and Pressman.

Other Board Members present: Directors Blois, Dennstedt, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Jung, Ortega, Quinn, Smith, 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. Update on Release of Delta Conveyance Project Public Draft Environmental Impact Report: Carrie Buckman, California Department of Water Resources

Nina Hawk provided a brief background and introductory comments, and she introduced Ms. Buckman. Ms. Buckman provided an update on the Delta Conveyance Project that included an overview of the Delta Conveyance Project schedule, proposed project and alternatives, and Community Benefits Program overview and next steps.

Public speakers included:

- 1. Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California, spoke in opposition to the Delta Conveyance Project
- 2. Conner Everts, Southern California Watershed Alliance, spoke in opposition to the Delta Conveyance Project
- 3. Maura Monagan, L.A. Waterkeeper, spoke in opposition to the Delta Conveyance Project

## **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Bay-Delta Committee held January 25, 2022; Integrated Resources Plan Committee held March 22, 2022; and Water Planning and Stewardship Committee held May 9, 2022

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM – ACTION**

- 7-14** Subject: By a two thirds vote, authorize the General Manager to make payment of up to \$871,680 for support of the Colorado River Board and Six Agency Committee for FY 2022/23; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None

Motion: By a two-thirds vote, authorize the General Manager to make payment of up to \$871,680 for support of the Colorado River Board and Six Agency Committee for FY 2022/23.

No presentation was given, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director De Jesus to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-14.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Blois, Cordero, Erdman, Fellow, Morris, Peterson, Pressman, and Quinn.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Cordero, Dick, Goldberg, Luna, and Pressman.

The motion for items 2A and 7-14 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent.

The motion for item 2A (Minutes of the Meeting of the Bay-Delta) failed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 2 absent.

Note: Staff will seek approval at the following WPS meeting.

**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, and  
Jennifer Nevills, Program Manager, Bay Delta Initiatives

Steve Arakawa provided background information and introduced Ms. Hawk. Ms. Hawk noted that both she and Ms. Nevills would be co-presenting this report. Their presentation discussed a general overview and key points to date, feedback from committee members and Directors from the May Water Planning and Stewardship Committee Meeting, and an overview of Policy Principles that included cited examples.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Smith
3. Ortega
4. Fong-Sakai
5. Erdman
6. Tamaribuchi

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

Presented by: Tracy Abundez, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Ms. Abundez gave a presentation that discussed background information on Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency, Board-approved Water Bank Program, Program operation, and terms and benefits.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

- c. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management and Water Shortage Emergency Condition

Presented by: Demetri J. Polyzos, Manager, Resource Planning, Water Resource Management

Mr. Polyzos provided an update on water surplus and drought management and reviewed supply and demand balances of the Colorado River and State Water Project supplies. He also provided a detailed explanation of the early performance of the Emergency Water Conservation Program.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

- d. Subject: Colorado River Conditions and Planning for Next Steps Following the 2007 Interim Guidelines

Presented by: Shanti Rossett, Colorado River Resources Policies Manager

Ms. Rossett gave a presentation that addressed current conditions and the plan for the next steps to follow the current interim guidelines.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Atwater
2. Miller

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a. Subject: Colorado River Manager's Report

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp gave a brief update on Colorado River activity.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

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

Presented by: Steve Arakawa, Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Mr. Arakawa's report included an update on curtailment on the Delta System and Delta Watershed.

c.      Subject:                      Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Mr. Coffey's report included an overview of the group's activity including an awarded grant by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for a Water and Energy application, State Water Resources Control Board-adopted emergency regulations actions, and an application to Department of Water Resources relating to fire prevention and fire safety water.

**8.      FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**9.      FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10.     ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting will be held on July 12, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Richard Atwater  
Chair