

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

IMPORTED WATER COMMITTEE

October 10, 2022

Committee Chair Peterson called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Members present: Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Erdman, Directors Ackerman, Atwater, Cordero, Dick, Faessel (entered after roll call), Jung, Morris, Pressman, Quinn (entered after roll call), Ramos (entered after roll call), Record, and Smith.

Member absent: Director McCoy.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Abdo, Blois, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Ortega, Petersen, Sutley, and Tamaribuchi.

Committee Staff present: Arakawa, Hagekhalil, Hasencamp, Horton, Upadhyay, Winn, and Zinke

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

1. Ms. Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California, spoke in support of agenda item 7-9, and she addressed the committee regarding item 6a.

Director Faessel entered the meeting

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Imported Water Committee held September 12, 2022

Director Smith requested revisions to the September 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

- 7-8. Subject: Authorization to extend the term of the Operational Shift Cost Offset Program to provide credits in calendar year 2023; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion: Authorize to extend the term of the Operational Shift Cost Offset Program to provide credits in calendar year 2023, consistent with the terms in Attachment 1.
- Presented by: No presentation was requested

Director Ramos entered the meeting

Director Quinn entered the meeting

- 7-9. Subject: Adopt the Revision and Restatement of Bay-Delta Policies; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Motion: Adopt the revision and restatement of Bay-Delta Policies, including amendments offered by Directors Ackerman and Smith, as shown on “Attachment 1 with redlines”
- Presented by: Nina Hawk, Bay-Delta Initiatives Policy Manager
- General Manager Adel Hagekhalil provided a brief background and overview, and he introduced Ms. Hawk.
- She focused on the feedback received from the September 12, 2022 Imported Water Committee, public comments and member agency comments, including the different feedback areas, how that feedback has been incorporated into the revised Bay-Delta Policies, and she highlighted the revised Bay-Delta Policy Framework.
- The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:
1. Smith
 2. Ramos
 3. Morris
 4. Record
 5. Sutley
 6. Ackerman
 7. Cordero
 8. Quinn

Staff responded to the Directors’ questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Smith made a motion, seconded by Director Morris to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-8 and 7-9:

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Atwater, Cordero, Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Jung, Morris, Peterson, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Record, and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions:

Absent: Directors McCoy.

Non-voting:

The motion passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 1 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Update on Delta Conveyance Public Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Presented by: Nina Hawk, Bay-Delta Initiatives Policy Manager
Dee Bradshaw, Bay-Delta Initiatives Program Manager
Jennifer Nevills, Bay-Delta Initiatives Program Manager

Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Steve Arakawa introduced the first speaker.

Ms. Hawk provided information on the Draft EIR at the beginning, and she noted that today's update is Part 1 and that Part 2 will be presented at the November Imported Water Committee meeting. She then introduced the next speaker.

Ms. Bradshaw provided an overview of the proposed Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), including the planning timeline, project objectives, and key elements of the project. She then introduced the next speaker.

Ms. Nevills discussed the water supply reliability and resiliency aspects by focusing on climate change impacts on the State Water Project (SWP) and how the DCP performs under modeled scenarios, and she highlighted key climate change and operational assumptions.

Ms. Hawk completed the presentation by highlighting how the DCP relates to Metropolitan's One Water approach, and that the SWP has an important role for Metropolitan in its water resource portfolio. She also provided a preview of Part 2.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Fong Sakai
2. Record
3. Smith
4. Lefevre

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- b. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management and
 WaterShortage Emergency Condition
- Presented by: Noosha Razavian, Water Resource Management Associate
 Resource Specialist

Brad Coffey, Water Resource Management Group Manger addressed a request that was raised by Director Smith last month and noted that staff is working on bringing that report to the committee, and he introduced the speaker.

Ms. Razavian provided a brief recap of water year 2021/22, and she reviewed the current supply and demand balance, the monthly update on the Emergency Water Conservation Program, and current planning efforts for next year.

The following Director asked questions.

1. Smith

Staff responded to the Director's questions.

- c. Subject: Update on plan to add 500,000 acre-feet of water to Lake Mead
 (500 Plus Plan)

Presented by: Laura Lamdin, Water Resource Management Engineer
Bill Hasencamp, Colorado River Resources Manger introduced the speaker.

Ms. Lamdin provided background on the 500 Plus Plan, a description of the plan, and when it was approved. She provided information on the current status of the plan, noted that the water conservation goal has increased, and that staff will keep the committee up to date on the evolving situation.

The following Director asked a question.

1. Lefevre

Staff responded to the Director's questions in the following report.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Subject: Colorado River Manager's Report

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Colorado River Resources Manager

Mr. Hasencamp reported good news, a summer to remember; the Colorado River Basin summer rains resulted in significant precipitation in the Basin. He discussed the efforts to produce a long-term plan to have a sustainable Colorado River into the future, and he reported on a meeting with Bard Water District and the Quechan Tribe.

The following Director provided a comment:

1. Smith

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

Presented by: Steve Arakawa, Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager

Mr. Arakawa reported that staff included a quarterly science update in the Bay-Delta Management Report, starting this month, to show progress in meeting the General Manager's Strategic Priorities. He also reported that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its proposal to list longfin smelt under the Federal Endangered Species Act, and that staff would be involved in the public comment process.

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

Presented by: Brad Coffey, Water Resource Management Group Manager

Mr. Coffey reported on the Colorado River water order, the SWP water order, and the SWP human health and safety supplies.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Glen Peterson
Chair