

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

IMPORTED WATER COMMITTEE

September 12, 2022

Committee Chair Peterson called the teleconference meeting to order at 1:19 p.m.

Members present: Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Erdman, Directors Ackerman, Cordero, Dick (entered after roll call at 1:35 p.m.), Faessel, Jung, McCoy, Morris, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Record, and Smith.

Member absent: Director Atwater.

Other Board Members present: Directors Abdo, Blois, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Goldberg, Hawkins, Kurtz, Lefevre, Luna, and Tamaribuchi.

Committee Staff present: Arakawa, Hagekhalil, , 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, addressed the committee regarding agenda item 7-6.
2. Ms. Charming Evelyn, Chair of the Water Committee, Sierra Club California, Angeles Chapter, addressed the committee regarding agenda item 7-6.
3. Ms. Alice Neuhauser (sic), Manahattan Beach, California, addressed the committee regarding regarding agenda item 7-6.
4. Ms. Kasil Willie, Staff Attorney, Save California Salmon, addressed the committee regarding agenda item 7-6.
5. Ms. Maura Monagan, Los Angeles Water Keeper, addressed the committee regarding agenda item 7-6.

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

Chair Peterson announced there would be a reordering of the meeting agenda. Items 7a, 7b, and 7c would be heard first.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Subject: Colorado River Manager's Report

Presented by: Colorado River Resources Policy Manager Shanti Rosset

Ms. Rosset reported on the water elevations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) third and fourth consultations, and provided information on the joint response letter the Seven Basin States provided to Reclamation's published request for input on the post-2026 operations.

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

Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Steve Arakawa,

Mr. Arakawa commented that the California Department of Water Resources public comment hearings for the Delta Conveyance Project Draft Environmental Impact Report are being held virtually, and gave the dates of the hearings. He also highlighted Metropolitan's science efforts regarding salmon recovery and reported on the State Water Project's and Central Valley Project's Delta operations, and the impending removal of the drought salinity barrier.

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

Presented by: Water Resource Management Group, Resource Implementation Section Manager Kevin Donhoff

Mr. Donhoff presented information regarding: the State Water Project (SWP) water order, the Colorado River diversion request, expectations regarding the anticipated low December 1 SWP water supply allocation, and the SWP energy emergency response efforts to assist with electrical grid issues during the recent heat wave.

Chair Peterson announced that the meeting would now return to its originally scheduled order as listed on the agenda.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-6. 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

Substitute Motion: Defer action for one month regarding Adopt the revision and restatement of Bay-Delta Policies

Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Policy Manager Nina Hawk

Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Steve Arakawa introduced Ms. Hawk. She provided a recap and overview of the timeline and staff work to date on the revised Bay-Delta Policies. She also described the proposed policy objectives, the reason for the update, and a schedule for bringing it back to the board for possible action.

Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager, Water Resources Deven Upadhyay commented on recent input that and suggested that staff return next month with the action item.

The following Director provided comment or asked a question.

1. Morris
2. Faessel
3. Ackerman
4. Smith
5. Goldberg
6. Quinn
7. Blois
8. Chair Peterson

Staff responded to the Director's question and comments.

General Manager Hagekhalil supported deferring the action item for one month.

Director Quinn made a substitute motion, seconded by Director Cordero to defer action for one month on the consent calendar consisting of item 7-6:

The vote on the Substitute motion was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions:

Absent: Directors Atwater and Morris.

Non-voting:

The motion passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 2 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 and Water Shortage Emergency Condition

Presented by: Water Resource Management Associate Resource Specialist
 Noosha Razivian

Ms. Razivian reported on the supply and demand balance by noting recent weather conditions, provided updates on Metropolitan's Upper Feeder pipeline shut down, and status of the Emergency Water Conservation Program within the SWP dependant area.

The following Director provided comment or asked a question.

1. Smith
2. Goldberg
3. Ramos

Staff responded to the Director's question and comments.

- b. Subject: Update on Colorado River Basin System Conditions and Colorado River Basin State Discussions

Presented by: Colorado River Resources Policy Manager Shanti Rosset

Ms. Rosset provided updates on Lake Powell and Lake Mead operations, by discussing the Reclamation's 24-month study, including forecast assumptions. She also reported the federal Inflation Reduction Act provides funds for drought mitigation.

The following Director provided comments or asked a question.

1. Lefevre
2. Smith
3. Record
4. Erdman
5. Ackerman

Staff responded to the Director's question.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Added Director Smith requested staff to provide a two-year water supply and demand outlook as part of the WSDM Report, and staff concurred.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12p.m.

Glen Peterson
Chair