

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

## **MINUTES**

### **ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**January 9, 2023**

Chair Quinn called the hybrid teleconference meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Members present: Chair Quinn, Vice Chair Faessel, Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Chacon, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Peterson, and Sutley.

Member absent: Director Petersen.

Other Board Members present: Board Chair Ortega, Directors, Atwater, Blois, Dennstedt, Dick, McCoy, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, Smith, and Williams.

Committee staff present: Coffey, Hagekhalil, Hughes, Munguia, and Upadhyay

Chair Quinn made opening remarks regarding the committee's objectives.

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. Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California, spoke in support of item 6a.

Chair Quinn announced that the two guest presenters would be heard ahead of the Consent Calendar items.

#### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Nina Hawk, Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives Policy provided background information and introduced Mr. Willie Whittlesey, General Manager, Yuba Water Agency.

- a. Subject: North Yuba Forest Partnership Watershed Resilience Project

Presented by: Willie Whittlesey, General Manager, Yuba Water Agency

Mr. Whittlesey gave a presentation on updates regarding Yuba Watershed and Yuba River Accord activity. He explained the need for forest management, and his presentation also included Yuba Water Agency's Watershed Resilience Program, North Yuba Forest Partnership, Forest Resilience Bond, and additional forest health efforts

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Feassel
3. Erdman.

Mr. Deven N. Upadhyay, Executive Officer & Assistant General Manager provided additional comments related to a watershed management plan.

- b.      Subject:                      The Untapped Potential of California's Urban Water Supply
- Presented by:              Heather Cooley, Director of Research of the Pacific Institute

Ms. Cooley gave a presentation on the findings of a report by the Pacific Institute, and how it relates to Metropolitan's efforts in water conservation and efficiency, stormwater capture, water reuse, and water resiliency.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Sutley
2. Armstrong
3. Goldberg
4. Repenning
5. Quinn
6. Kurtz

Staff responded to Directors' comments and questions.

Chair Quinn announced we would return to the Consent Calendar.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

General Manager Hagekhalil responded to a question made by Director Goldberg on item 7-11.

Director Smith requested the presentation of item 7-11.

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

- a..      Approve creating the Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities Subcommittee and establish a two year term.

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM – ACTION

7-10 Subject: Authorize an agreement with the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and the City of South Pasadena for a Stormwater for Direct Use Pilot Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: None.

Motion: Authorize an agreement with Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and the city of South Pasadena for a Stormwater for Direct Use Pilot Program project

7-11 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to: (1) secure one-year water transfers with various water districts for up to \$100 million from Water Supply Program and State Water Project Budget for such transfers; (2) secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts to facilitate these transfers; (3) grant final decision-making authority to the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Kira Alonzo, Manager, Water Acquisition Team

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to:

- (1) Secure one-year water transfers with various water districts for up to \$100 million
- (2) Secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts to facilitate these transfers consistent with Articles 55 and 56 of Metropolitan's State Water Project Supply Contract.

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

Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Management gave brief background information and introduced Ms. Alonzo. Ms. Alonzo gave a presentation that explained 2023 water transfers to secure the one-year transfers with various water districts.

Ms. Alonzo described similarities to a previous Board-approved water transfer agreement in 2022, and staff's approach to the proposed agreement.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions regarding item 7-11:

1. Goldberg
2. Smith
3. Peterson

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions regarding to item 2a:

1. Kurtz
2. Peterson

Marcia Scully, General Counsel, and Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager responded to Director's questions.

Following a group discussion, Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director Goldberg to approve items 2a, 7-10, and 7-11.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Chacon, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Peterson, Quinn, and Sutley.
Noes:	None.
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Director Petersen

The motion for items 2a, 7-10, and 7-11 passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

#### **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

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

None

## 6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- c. Subject: Update on State and Federal Bay-Delta Regulatory Processes

Presented by: George Nishikawa, Resource Specialist, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Mr. Nishikawa gave a presentation that included a high-level overview of regulations governing the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Bay Delta, and water operational conditions.

- d. Subject: State Water Project 2023 Statement of Charges and Annual Audit Update

Presented by: Jamie Dalida, Resource Specialist, Resource Implementation Unit

Mr. Coffey introduced Ms. Dalida who gave a presentation on the annual Department of Water Resources statement of State Water Project charges for 2023. Her report included Metropolitan’s independent audit and a summary of the charges and audit findings.

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

Presented by: Noosha Razavian, Associate Resourced Specialist, Resource Analysis Unit

Mr. Coffey provided brief background and introductory comments.

Ms. Razavian provided a presentation that included updates on water supply demand balance, hydrological conditions, and water shortage emergency conditions.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre
2. Erdman
3. Pressman

Mr. Deven N. Upadhyay, Executive Officer & Assistant General Manager provided additional comments related to a watershed management plan.

Dee Zinke, also provided comments regarding Metropolitan’s messaging.

f. Subject: Update on Conservation

Presented by: None

Mr. Coffey offered to have the committee review the presentation that is posted on the website.

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

a. Subject: Colorado River Manager's Report

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp provided an update on Colorado River conditions and the Supplemental Environmental Impact Study process.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith

b. Subject: Bay-Delta Manager's Report

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

Mr. Neudeck gave an update on developing activity on Metropolitan's islands in Northern California.

c. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Presented by: Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Management

Mr. Coffey's report discussed the State Water Contract extension.

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

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Chair Quinn proposed that starting in March, this committee does not vote on any items that are not posted at least seven days in advance.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Tracy Quinn  
Chair