

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

## **MINUTES**

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

**March 11, 2024**

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 3:23 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Peterson (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location)), Pressman, and Quinn.

Member absent: Director Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Directors Abdo, Dennstedt (AB 2449 “Just Cause”, Luna, McCoy, McMillan, Ortega, Seckel, and Smith.

Director Dennstedt indicated she is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding illness. Director Dennstedt appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee staff present: Goshi, Hasencamp, Hawk, Horton, Munguia, Neudeck, and Wheeler.

A nnouncement was made that teleconference location 525 Via La Selva • Redondo Beach, CA 90277 was not available as previously noted on agenda.

**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))**

None

### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for February 13, 2024.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

Director Miller made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar consisting of item 2a seconded by Director Erdman.

The vote was:

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

The vote for the Consent Calendar item passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 2 absent.

**\*\*END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS\*\***

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: Report on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Near-Term Colorado River Operations (through 2026)

Presented by: Laura Lamdin, Engineer, Water Resource Management

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

Ms. Lamdin’s presentation discussed the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s selection of the Lower Basin Plan as the preferred alternative and published the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for operation of the Colorado River System reservoirs through 2025.

Director Peterson entered the meeting.

- b. Subject: Report on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's development of the Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. [Conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation; based on existing facts and circumstances, including potential imposition of significant water use reductions in the Lower Basin under the regulatory authority of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation could lead to litigation among the United States and one or more Colorado River water users; there is a significant exposure to litigation against Metropolitan: unknown number of potential cases; a portion may be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]

Presented by: Shanti Rosset, Program Manager, Office of the General Manager

Ms. Rosset gave a presentation on a proposal developed by California, Arizona, and Nevada for operation of the Colorado River System reservoirs to be analyzed as part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Post-2026 Operational Guidelines Environmental Impact Statement

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. Lefevre
3. Armstrong
4. Erdman
5. Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions

- c. Subject: Update on Water Surplus Drought Management

Presented by: Noosha Razavian, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Mr. Brandon Goshi, Interim Group Manager of Water Resource Management, provided background information and introductory comments.

Ms. Razavian provided an update on hydrologic conditions and the Metropolitan's current water supply and demand conditions.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Pressman
2. Lefevre
3. Quinn
4. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions

d. Subject: Delta Levee Maintenance Funding

Presented by: Russ Ryan, Sr. Engineer, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Ms. Nina Hawk, Group Manager of Bay-Delta Initiatives, provided background information and introductory comments.

Mr. Ryan provided a presentation that explained how staff utilizes 2 State levee funding programs.

e. Subject: Potential Interagency Local Supply Exchange Program

Presented by: Nadia Hardjadinata, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Mr. Goshi provided background information and introductory comments.

Ms. Hardjadinata gave a presentation on how the potential Interagency Local Supply Exchange Program creates a framework for Metropolitan to facilitate the sale and exchange of extra local supply production among its member agencies.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Kurtz    | 5. Cordero  |
| 2. Lefevre  | 6. Goldberg |
| 3. Pressman | 7. Smith    |
| 4. Ortega   | 8. McMillan |

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions

## **7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

a. Subject: Bay-Delta Resources, Colorado River Resources, Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation, and Water Resource Management activities

Presented by: Nina Hawk, Manager, Bay Delta Initiatives  
Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources  
Brandon Goshi, Interim Manager, Water Resource Management

Ms. Hawk noted that her update was provided during this committee's discussion of item 6a.

Mr. Hasencamp reported on a recent property utilization meeting between Metropolitan and Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) where the two discussed community funding in PVID, non-fallowing programs in PVID, and he noted two PVID Board of Directors that were in attendance at this meeting.

Mr. Goshi's report included an update on the State Water Project allocation, and a discussion on the impact of Metropolitan's Conservation Program investments.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega
2. Erdman
3. Quinn
4. Cordero

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Report on the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Meeting

Director Luna reported on committee activity from January to the present.

- b. Report on Delta Conveyance Finance Authority

Director Lefevre reported on committee activity from November 2023 to the present.

- c. Report on Ad Hoc Committee on Bay-Delta

Director McMillan reported on Ad Hoc committee activity from the February 23, 2024 meeting.

**9. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

- a. Discuss and Provide Direction to Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities

Chair Ortega made a recommendation to have a joint meeting with Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee to discuss the findings in a public opinion survey on water conservation, and ways Metropolitan could promote conservation.

Director Luna made a recommendation for a report on the socioeconomic demographics of individual recipients of benefiting from Metropolitan's Rebate Program.

**10. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Quinn noted Directors Ortega's and Luna's recommendations.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Tracy Quinn  
Chair