

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ADJOURNED WATER PLANNING AND  
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**August 16, 2021**

Chair Atwater called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members present: Chair Atwater, Vice Chair Kurtz, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, De Jesus, Dick, Goldberg, Hogan, Lefevre, Luna, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Pressman, and Record.

Member absent: Director Cordero.

Other Board Members present: Directors Blois, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Jung, Murray, Quinn, Ramos, Smith, Tamaribuchi, and Williams.

Committee staff present: Coffey, Hagekhalil, Hasencamp, 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))**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee held July 12, 2021

Chair Atwater announced that Agenda item 6a would be heard ahead of 7-5, as it would provide greater context.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Management, provided brief background information on both of Metropolitan’s imported watersheds, and on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation actions relating to the drought conditions in Lakes Mead and Powell, and he introduced Demetri Polyzos, Manager, Resource Planning Team.

## **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

a. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management

Presented by: Demetri Polyzos, Manager, Resource Planning Team,  
Water Resource Management

Mr. Polyzos briefly explained an added feature to the written Water Surplus Drought Management (WSDM) report under the Supply section.

He then provided the presentation that discussed current water supply conditions and outlook of imported water from the State Water Project and Colorado River, and California's and Metropolitan's actions in response to the drought.

Brad Coffey, Deven N. Upadhyay, Assistant General Manager/ COO, and General Manager Hagekhalil responded to comments relating to budgeted and authorized amounts for Conservation Programs.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre
2. Petersen
3. Abdo
4. Atwater

## **3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION CONT'D**

7-5 Subject: Adopt resolution to declare a "Condition 2 - Water Supply Alert"; 21-385 the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Brandon Goshi, Manager, Section Manager-Water Resource Management

Motion: Adopt the proposed Water Supply Alert Resolution.

Mr. Goshi provided a presentation that reviewed and revisited the Water Supply Condition 2 framework, staff's recommendation to move into a Condition 2 Water Supply Alert, and the resolution that provides a basis for the outreach, communication, and collaboration in Metropolitan's service area.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Hogan
2. Abdo

- 7-6      Subject:            Authorize agreement with the United States Geological Survey for \$357,000 to evaluate existing ponds on Metropolitan's Delta islands for their potential to assist in preserving Delta smelt; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Presented by:        Randall Neudeck, Special Project Manager, Bay Delta Initiatives
- Motion:                Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with USGS for up to \$357,000 for water quality and biological monitoring and assessments on Metropolitan's Delta properties.

Mr. Neudeck presented on the proposed agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to evaluate existing ponds on Metropolitan's Delta Islands for their potential to assist in preserving Delta smelt.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Hogan

Director Lefevre made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-5, and 7-6.

The vote was:

Ayes:                  Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, De Jesus, Dick, Goldman, Hogan, Kurtz, Lefevre, Luna, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Pressman, and Record.

Noes:                  None

Abstentions:        None

Absent:                Director Cordero

The motion passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

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

None

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

None

## **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Mr. Upadhyay provided brief background information and introductory comments and introduced Bill Hasencamp.

b. Subject: Report on upcoming Colorado River negotiations

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp gave an oral report of upcoming negotiations on the Colorado River, current Colorado River conditions, the scope of the negotiations, near-term drought response actions, new Colorado River guidelines, and the negotiation process and oversight.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre
2. Hogan

c. Subject: Overview of Preferential Rights

Presented by: John Schlotterbeck, Sr. Deputy General Counsel

Mr. Schlotterbeck provided a detailed presentation on Preferential Rights that reviewed statutory language, purpose and intent, legislative history, historical issues, discussions and proposals, court decisions, current status, and relationship to other laws and Metropolitan's Allocation Plans

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Hogan
2. Goldberg
3. Murray

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

a. Subject: Colorado River Matters

Presented by: None

Deferred in the interest of time.

b. Subject: Bay-Delta Management Report

Presented by: Steve Arakawa

Mr. Arakawa gave a brief update on Bay Delta activity that included conveyance, Department of Water Resources, and Delta operations.

c. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Presented by: None

Deferred in the interest of time.

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

Director Hogan requested a future workshop on Preferential Rights.

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting will be held on September 13, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Richard Atwater  
Chair