

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

September 13, 2021

Chair Atwater called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.

Members present: Chair Atwater, Vice Chair Kurtz, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Goldberg, Hogan, Lefevre, Luna, Morris, Petersen (entered after roll call), Peterson, Pressman, and Record.

Member absent: None.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Blois, Butkiewicz, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Jung, McCoy, Murray, Ramos, Smith, and Tamaribuchi.

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))

1. Name not provided, Burbank resident, provided comments regarding stormwater capture.
2. Lonnie Smith Christopher, Assistant Director, Gateway City Council of Governments, provided comments in support of Agenda item 7-4, the 2021 California Resiliency Challenge.
3. Adrian Covert, Sr. Vice President Public Policy, Bay Area Council, provided comments in support of Agenda item 7-4, the 2021 California Resiliency Challenge.
4. Katie Wagner, Sierra Club California, provided comments opposing Agenda item 9-3.

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting of the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee held August 16, 2021

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

- 7-4 Subject: Express support for the 2021 California Resilience Challenge; and approve a financial sponsorship of \$200,000 to continue as a Resilience Leader and Steering Committee member; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Warren A. Teitz, Manager, Resource Development Team

Motion: Authorize the General Manager to sponsor the California Resiliency Challenge with a \$200,000 contribution and renew Metropolitan's seat on the Steering Committee.

Mr. Teitz gave a presentation on the California Resiliency Challenge that builds resilience against increasing climate change threats through state-wide collaboration. Metropolitan's support of the Challenge and sponsorship would co-fund a second round of projects targeting underrepresented communities.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Luna
2. Hogan

After completion of the presentations, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director De Jesus to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-4.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstentions: None

The motion for items 2A and 7-4 passed by a vote of 16 ayes, 0 noes, 0 absent, and 0 abstentions.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-2 Information on a potential seasonal land fallowing pilot program with the Quechan Indian Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land for 2022-2023

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

Ms. Razavian provided a presentation on a potential seasonal fallowing pilot program with the Quechan Indian Tribe that would reduce water consumption in the Quechan Indian tribal land and augment Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies. The Metropolitan/Quechan Indian Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program would incentivize farmers to fallow land irrigated with Colorado River water for the spring and summer months during 2022 to 2023.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre
2. Kurtz

9-3 Considerations for purchasing land which uses higher-priority Colorado River water supplies

Presented by: Jack Safely, Manager, Imported Supply Unit

Mr. Safely provided a presentation that focused on the history and considerations for purchasing and leasing land holdings in the Palo Verde region.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Dick
2. Lafevre
3. Peterson
4. Petersen
5. Gray
6. Butkiewicz
7. Record

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management

Presented by: Tiffany Tran, Asst Resource Specialist II , Water Resource Management

Ms. Tran provided a presentation and reported on 2021 Supply and Demand balance, Metropolitan's new drought actions for the near and long-term, and an update on Department of Water Resources.

Deven Upadhyay, Assistant General Manager and COO, added comments about an upcoming report relating to system changes and opportunities under Metropolitan's capital program to help with the situation in Metropolitan's State Water Project-served areas.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Record
2. Peterson

b. Subject: Overview of Allocation Plan

Presented by: None

This item was deferred due to time limitation.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Subject: Colorado River Matters

Presented by: None

This item was deferred due to time limitation.

b. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Presented by: None

This item was deferred due to time limitation.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dir. Kurtz requested discussion on a policy for purchasing land at appraised ranges.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be held on October 11, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Richard Atwater
Chair