

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

**WATER PLANNING AND
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

October 11, 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, Lefevre, Luna, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, Pressman, and Record.

Member absent: Director Hogan.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Blois, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Jung, McCoy, 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))**

No members responded.

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee held September 13, 2021

Director Pressman disclosed for the record that he receives a monthly per diem from Beverly Hills for representing them on Metropolitan’s Board of Directors, but it does not preclude him from discussions or voting on item.

Chair Atwater announced that Metropolitan received a letter from Beverly Hills regarding item 7-8, and that letter would be included in the meeting record.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-8 Subject: Adopt framework for amending Local Resources Program Agreements; Review and consider the City of Beverly Hills' approved Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and take related CEQA actions; and authorize the General Manager to reinstate and amend the existing Local Resources Program agreement for the Beverly Hills Desalter Project

Presented by: Carlos De Leon, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Motion: Review and consider the City of Beverly Hills' approved Final Mitigated Negative Declarations and Addendum and take related CEQA actions; authorize the General Manager to reinstate and amend the existing Groundwater Recovery Program Joint Participation Agreement for Recovery and Utilization of Degraded Groundwater for the Beverly Hills Desalter Project with the City of Beverly Hills for up to 2,600 AFY of advanced treated brackish groundwater under the terms included in this letter and approve the proposed framework and one-time pause and extension of agreement terms.

Mr. De Leon gave a detailed presentation explaining the framework for amending Local Resources Program (LRP) Agreements, and amending the Existing LRP Agreement for the Beverly Hills Desalter Project for which they are appealing its termination.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Morris
2. Record
3. Dick
4. Pressman

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

After completion of the presentations, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Record to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-8.

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Director Hogan

The motion for items 2A and 7-8 passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, and 1 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

Chair Atwater announced Metropolitan received letter from Municipal Water District of Orange County regarding itm 6a, and that it would be included in the meeting record.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management

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

Ms. Tran gave an oral report that included updates on water year 2020/21, supply/demand balance and 2022 outlook. She described how staff plans for additional State Water Project (SWP) allocation restrictions that would further emergency declarations and potential mandatory water restrictions from SWP.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Blois

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

b. Subject: Overview of Allocation Plan

Presented by: Brandon J. Goshi, Manager, Resource Planning & Development Section

Mr. Goshi gave a presentation on Metropolitan's Water Supply Allocation Plan (WSAP). He reviewed how it works and fits into Metropolitan's Storage Portfolio, and he explained the background and purpose for the WSAP during times of shortages. He also explained the development process and next steps.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Subject: Colorado River Matters

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp gave an update on Western Colorado River Basin snowfall, a Board-approved settlement agreement with Imperial Irrigation District, Colorado River/ Delta pulse flow that benefits the environment by specifically targetting the most important and critical wetland areas, and Bureau of Reclamations projection models for the Colorado River.

b. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Presented by: None

This item was deferred due to time limitations.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be held on November 8, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Richard Atwater
Chair



October 10, 2021

Chair Gloria Gray
General Manager Adel Hagekhalil
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Subject: Board Priority & Metropolitan State Water Project Exclusive Areas

Dear Chair Gray & General Manager Hagekhalil:

On behalf of the Municipal Water District of Orange County¹ (MWD OC), we thank you both for organizing and holding last week's comprehensive Board Retreat. The productive discussions strengthened relationships and synergy among Board members and Metropolitan staff. Its facilitated discussions on Board communication and strategic priorities were valuable as we plan for both near-term and long-term objectives.

Through the exercise of identifying strategic priorities, a number of high level complex issues were identified. Among the most striking was the critical need to address the reliability gap in areas of the Metropolitan system that only have access to State Water Project (SWP) supplies. This reliability gap has only intensified with the record low SWP "Table A" allocation and continued stresses from climate change. In fact, the recent Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) gap analysis confirms that this is a critically vulnerable issue that needs to be addressed to ensure our regional reliability. Therefore, based on this IRP finding and an anticipated zero percent initial SWP "Table A" Allocation for 2022, investments in the SWP exclusive areas must be the foremost priority for Metropolitan.

We are encouraged that Metropolitan staff is developing a set of near-term and long-term extraordinary drought actions to mitigate this gap in our system. The presentations at this month's Engineering and Operations Committee as well as the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee provide a number of opportunities that improve system resilience and flexibility. To provide further assistance, complementary near-term actions should be encouraged specific to the concerns of the SWP-exclusive areas such as enhancement of public awareness, assistance to promote conservation within these exclusive areas, securing additional supplies along the SWP system and renegotiating existing storage agreements that increase withdrawal capacity. Long-term benefits will also be yielded from continued investments for reliability of the Delta, including and development of further storage south of the Delta, and the operational flexibility resulting from integrated projects such as the Regional Recycled Water Program. Metropolitan's strategic planning must ensure these impacted areas receive the same level of reliability as the entire Metropolitan service area. This is core to the purpose and mission that Metropolitan was created upon.

We hope the Board fully supports the implementation of an action plan immediately, and this issue becomes the foremost priority in the post-IRP implementation, as no part of the service area should be left behind. Further, investments providing reliability benefits for these exclusive areas will also help the region with salinity control, local groundwater storage, affordability, and operational flexibility.

We look forward to working together on this critical issue because we are all one.

Sincerely,



Sat Tamaribuchi
Board President

cc: Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors

Deven Upadhyay, Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer
Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager/Chief Administrative Officer
Katano Kasaine, Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer
Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager/Chief External Affairs Officer

¹Municipal Water District of Orange County is a member of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, providing imported water to over 3.2 million Orange County residents through 28 retail water agencies. MWDOC is a wholesale water supplier and resource planning agency whose efforts focus on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply development, water use efficiency, public information, legislative advocacy, water education and emergency preparedness.



Shana Epstein
Director of Public Works

October 7, 2021

Re: Support for Consideration of Reinstatement and Amendment of the Existing LRP

Dear Water Planning and Stewardship Committee:

The City would like to express its appreciation and support to Metropolitan Water District for consideration to authorize the General Manager to reinstate and amend the existing Local Resources Program (LRP) agreement for the City of Beverly Hills Desalter Project.

Due to unforeseen water quality changes discovered in 2015, the City's water treatment plant had to be shut down for an extended period of time. As a result of increased levels of iron, manganese, iron sulfide, and sanding in the groundwater, the City of Beverly Hills embarked on a program to perform water quality testing, pilot testing, design, and construction of a pre-treatment system addition to the existing WTP. The pre-treatment system comprises of the addition of enhanced sand removal with sand separators and Oxidant Media Filtration prior to the existing reverse osmosis treatment system. Construction of the pretreatment system began in August 2020 and is currently under construction. The City also dedicated additional resources in the pursuit of augmenting local water supply from additional water basins.

The City of Beverly Hills is requesting the LRP agreement to be extended and reinstated with an amendment to the original agreement adding an additional 3 years to the term of the agreement.

Sincerely,

Shana E Epstein

Shana E. Epstein
Director of Public Works