

Approved 6/5/2017

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES
REGULAR WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
JOINT REGULAR WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING AND
SPECIAL BOARD WORKSHOP
May 1, 2017

The Water Resources Committee and Joint Water Resources Committee Meeting and Special Board Workshop of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California with Member Bill Diedrich presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Absent

Division 1

Earl Perez, Member - Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member - William Bourdeau, Alternate

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate (Arrived after Agenda Item 3)

Division 4

Cindy Kao, Member (Via Teleconference not counted for quorum or towards any vote) - Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate (via Teleconference)

Division 5

Steve Stadler, Alternate for Tom Birmingham

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director - Earl Perez, Alternate

Division 2

Dan Pope, Alternate for Don Peracchi

Sarah Woolf, Director - William Bourdeau, Alternate

William Diedrich, Director - Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate for Director James O'Banion (Arrived after Agenda Item 3)

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate for Director John Tobias

Approved 6/5/2017

Division 5

Jose Gutierrez, Alternate for Tom Birmingham
Steve Stadler, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Jason Peltier, Executive Director
Tom Boardman, Water Resources Engineer
Ara Azhderian, Water Policy Administrator
Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director
Jon Rubin, General Counsel

Others Present

Laura Valoppi, State & Federal Contractors Water Agency
Dana Jacobson, Santa Clara Valley Water District

Call to Order

Member Bill Diedrich called the meeting to order and a roll call was held.

1. **The Water Resources Committee Will Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**

There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda.

2. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. **Committee to Consider Approval of the April 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The April 3, 2017 meeting minutes of the Water Resources Committee were previously distributed for review. There were no corrections or additions to the meeting minutes. A motion was made by member Earl Perez and seconded by alternate Steve Stadler that the Water Resources Committee approve the April 3, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously. The Water Resources Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Perez, Diedrich, Cattaneo, Stadler

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

4. **Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation that the Board of Directors Adopt Positions on Assembly Bills 1667, 1668, and 1669 (Friedman-AD43) and 968 and 1654 (Rubio-AD48)**

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported that the Brown Administration, state legislature, and numerous stakeholder groups have been engaged in discussions regarding the Administration's Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life initiative. Attempts to implement the initiative are occurring along multiple paths, from the Administration's budget trailer bill language to competing legislative proposals. Azhderian explained that among the legislative proposals, AB 1667, 1668, and 1669 authored by Assemblymember Friedman were the most objectionable, while AB 968 and 1654 authored by Assemblymember Rubio were the most acceptable. After considerable discussion, the Committee chose to recommend the Board adopt positions on the various conservation bills individually. A motion was made by alternate Steve Stadler and seconded by member Earl Perez to recommend the Board adopt an oppose position on AB 1667. The motion passed unanimously. The Water Resources Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Perez, Diedrich, White, Cattaneo, Stadler
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

The Committee chose to not recommend any specific Board position on AB 1668 and 1669.

A motion was made by member Earl Perez and seconded by alternate Chris White to recommend the Board adopt support positions on AB 968 and 1654. The motion passed unanimously. The Water Resources Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Perez, Diedrich, White, Cattaneo, Stadler
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

5. **Water Operations Update**

Water Resources Engineer Tom Boardman reported that the C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant has been pumping at capacity for the past two weeks with about 1,300 cfs meeting CVP direct demands and the remainder of pumping to help the SWP refill its share of San Luis. With the Harvey O. Banks pumping plant nearly back in full operation, Jones is scheduled to reduce pumping to 1,800 cfs on May 3; enough to continue meeting anticipated CVP demands and keep CVP San Luis full.

Vernalis flows continue to vary between 23,000 cfs and 25,000 cfs with no significant reduction expected through at least May. As such, Boardman anticipates CVP export capacity to be sufficient to keep CVP San Luis full through at least May and possibly into mid-June. Boardman also reported that flood flows into the Mendota Pool are projected to meet Exchange Contractors demands into June.

Boardman reported that Reclamation has yet to release its official accounting of total approved rescheduled water. Absent the accounting, the total amount rescheduled is assumed to be about 420 TAF, with about 300 TAF remaining in CVP San Luis. Total foregone pumping to date is estimated at 175 TAF. Boardman estimates the amount of spilled rescheduled water may be 50-160 TAF. The actual spilled quantity will depend on demands and when a sustained CVP San Luis draw down occurs. A review of two San Luis storage projection charts showed the federal low point is not expected to fall below 500 TAF. Boardman reported that, in 2011, CVP San Luis began a sustained in early May with a federal low point of 650 TAF by early September.

6. **Water Transfers, Water Release Programs, Exchanges Update**

Assistant Executive Director Frances Mizuno reported that under the long-term transfer agreement with the Exchange Contractors, 80 TAF of water is available in 2017. Due to agricultural service contractors being allocated 100% CVP supply for the first time in over a decade, the need for the transfer water in 2017 has diminished. Accordingly, the Exchange Contractors are willing to reduce the obligated to ag service contractors with the aim of delivering the difference to the refuges. Mizuno also reported that the Authority helped facilitate a pilot exchange between Contra Costa Water District and Westlands Water District wherein CCWD will capture water this year for storage and delivery to Westlands in 2018-19. Lastly, the Authority is working to supplement the long-term transfers Environmental Impact Statement and Report to accommodate new interest from potential transferees. Mizuno anticipates the update to be completed and ready for Board consideration at the June meeting.

7. **State Water Resources Control Board, Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update**

General Counsel Jon Rubin stated there was nothing new to report regarding SWRCB activities.

8. **State Legislative Update**

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported Adam Gray's AB 313, on which the Board had previously adopted a support position, had been amended to pare down the original language to focus solely on the establishment of an Office of Water Rights in the Office of Administrative Hearings to address concerns regarding the State Water Resources Control Board acting as prosecutor and judge. Azhderian also reported on three other bills, AB 791, 792, and 793 on which the Board had previously taken an oppose position, only AB 791, which aims to require the Department of Water Resources conduct a district specific cost to benefit analysis for California Water Fix, moved out of its sub-committee hearing and continues on the legislative process.

9. **California Water Fix Update**

Executive Director Jason Peltier reported that the deadline for issuance of the biological opinions

Approved 6/5/2017

had slipped again and that a new schedule was expected soon. He stated the delay is expected to be brief. Peltier also reported that progress was being made addressing other unresolved issues, such as cost allocation, and that the expectation is growing that a decision regarding whether or not to support the next phase of the project would be coming soon. Peltier explained that once clear, reliable, detailed information is available regarding the future of the project, it would be presented to the Committees and Board for consideration. General Counsel Jon Rubin reported the State Water Resources Control Board's consideration of a change petition continues and that Phase II of the process is expect to start in the fall.

10. Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan Update

Executive Director Jason Peltier reported the Council is in the process of updating the Delta Plan with a particular focus on new storage, conveyance, and the operation of both. Peltier explained his concern with the current version of the update is the failure to acknowledge and address the harms caused by regulation, other stressors, and/or how to deal with near-term, through Delta conveyance limitations. General Counsel Jon Rubin stated that on a positive note, the current draft of the plan clearly states the Council's support for new storage and conveyance. Rubin also noted that Authority staff was considering providing comments on the issues of concern Peltier noted as well as the draft's proposed performance measures. Presiding WRC Chair Bill Diedrich indicated his appreciation for the Council's effort and in particular the good work of the Council's Chair Randy Fiorini.

11. State & Federal Contractors Water Agency Science Program Update

The new Science Manager Laura Valoppi spoke about her background, her interest in the position of SFCWA Science Manager, her vision of the future of the science program, and the challenges she sees ahead. She explained her background with the United States Geological Survey and Fish & Wildlife Service and that her interest in working for SFCWA is the opportunity to bring the application of science to help answer management questions. Ms. Valoppi presented 2 handouts, the SFCWA strategic objectives and draft SFCWA science program questions intended to help guide and identify the specific management questions of interest to SFCWA members and others. She stated that half of the SFCWA science budget would be dedicate to fish and flows management questions and half on SFCWA's traditional science endeavors, such as water quality and habitat restoration. In terms of challenges, Ms. Valoppi indicated that establishing trust, working collaboration and partnerships with fish agencies and others is paramount. Ms. Valoppi responded to numerous questions from the Committee.

12. Closed Session

The Committee went into Closed Session at approximately 11:45 pm.

13. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2

Upon return to open session at approximately 12:00 p.m., General Counsel Jon Rubin reported that

Approved 6/5/2017

the Committee met in closed session to discuss items listed on the agenda for closed session and there were no other reportable actions.

14. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.