

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

July 2, 2018

The Regular Water Resources Committee and Joint Regular 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 Chair Tom Birmingham presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Cannon Michael

Division 1

Earl Perez, Member - Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Absent

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate

Division 4

Absent

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Chair/Member - Steve Stadler, Alternate

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director - Earl Perez, Alternate

Division 2

Lon Martin, Alternate for Bill Diedrich

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate for Director James O'Banion

Division 4

Sara Singleton, Alternate for Joseph Tonascia

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Director
Steve Stadler, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Tom Boardman, Water Resources Engineer
Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director

Rebecca Akroyd, Deputy General Counsel

Others Present

Russ Freeman, Westlands Water District

1. Call to Order

Chair Tom Birmingham called the meeting to order and a roll call was held.

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

Interim Executive Director Frances Mizuno made a correction to Agenda Item 6 striking “f and Expenditure of \$25,000 from the Technical Services Contingency Budget”.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Committee to Consider Approval of the May 14, 2018, and the June 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The May 14, 2018 and June 4, 2018 meeting minutes of the Water Resources Committee were previously distributed for review. Chair Birmingham pronounced the May 14, 2018 and June 4, 2018 meeting minutes approved.

5. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to the Board of Directors on Adopting Position on H.R. 3916, Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act

Interim Executive Director Frances Mizuno reported that the staff recommended that the Board adopt a support position on H.R. 3916. Mizuno explained that the FISH Act would transfer all of the NMFS ESA responsibilities to the Fish & Wildlife Service. Mizuno concluded stating that the benefit of the Act will allow one wildlife management agency to comprehensively evaluate impacts on species interacting in a shared ecosystem and determine a holistic management approach.

Ex-Officio Member Cannon Michael made a motion that the Committee recommend the Board of Directors Adopt a Position on H.R. 3916. The motion was seconded by Alternate Chris White and passed unanimously. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Michael, Perez, White, Birmingham
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

6. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to the Board of Directors Authorizing Execution of the Agreement for Joint Funding for Engineering Services Between

Westlands Water District and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Related to Coordinated Operation Agreement Review Process and Expenditure of \$25,000 from the Technical Service Contingency Budget

Before discussion began Member/Chair Tom Birmingham recused himself from the discussion and left the room.

Interim Executive Director Frances Mizuno reported that Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources are currently in the process of reviewing the COA, and that Reclamation had previously entered into agreements with MBK Engineers for modeling work related to the COA to assist in the review process. Those previous contracts expired and Reclamation's contracting process prevented them from expeditiously entering into a new agreement to allow MBK to continue to support the process during a critical time-sensitive period. Mizuno explained that the COA review is critically important to the Authority members to ensure the COA is operated as it was originally intended. WWD agreed to contract directly with MBK Engineers for up to \$100,000 to allow MBK to continue to provide the necessary support to Reclamation. Mizuno reported that the cost of this support effort should not be solely borne by WWD, and that the Authority's contribution of \$25,000 will offset funding by WWD. Other CVP Contractors have agreed to jointly fund \$40,000 of the \$100,000.

After a lengthy discussion the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board of Directors authorize execution of the agreement for joint funding for \$60,000 instead of \$25,000 from the Technical Service Contingency Budget.

Member Earl Perez made a motion that the Committee recommend the Board of Directors authorize execution of the Agreement for Joint Funding for Engineering Services between Westlands Water District and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Related to Coordinated Operation Agreement Review for the amount of \$60,000. The motion was seconded by Alternate Chris White and passed unanimously. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Michael, Perez, White, Stadler
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

Upon completion of item 6, Member/Chair Birmingham returned to the meeting.

7. Update on Strategic Planning/Executive Director Recruitment Effort

Interim Executive Director Frances Mizuno reported that the Strategic Plan Development workshop went well, and that Martin Rauch is putting together a summary of that day. Mizuno also reported that Rauch is also putting together a recommendation on the next steps, and it will be presented to the Board at the July 12, 2018 meeting. Mizuno also reported that Roberts Consulting Services was hired for the recruitment of the Executive Director, and are working on the Brochure. Mizuno concluding stating that as soon as the draft brochure is completed she will distribute it to all Board members for review.

8. **Update on Reinitiation of Consultation on Biological Opinions Issued by National Marine Fisheries Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service for Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project**

Interim General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported on Reclamation's environmental analysis of initial actions (formally known as Track 1). Akroyd reported the goals for near-term, initial actions are to improve water supply in a way that does not cause additional adverse effects to listed species. Near-term actions include changes to Fall X2, I:E Ratio, and OMR Flexibility. The final analysis of near-term actions is expected by the end of 2018. The long-term goals are to improve water supply, power, and re-operate for listed species due to low populations, new information as a result of drought, and new information due to collaborative science. Long-term actions include new storage, sustainable regulatory requirements, and temperature management.

9. **California WaterFix Project Update**

Interim General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that on June 12, 2018 the Department of Water Resources submitted its administrative draft supplemental environmental document on WaterFix to the Water Board. A public draft of the supplemental EIR is expected soon and at that point there will be a comment period. Akroyd also reported that rebuttal testimony for Part II of the State Water Board's Change Petition proceeding was submitted on July 10, 2018, and that Part II rebuttal will begin on August 2, 2018.

10. **Update on Activities Related to Temperance Flat Reservoir**

Interim General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that the project proponents have a desire to establish a mechanism for collaboration on preconstruction activities related to the Project, including the development of a new implementing governance entity agency such as a JPA. This mechanism is to enter into a MOA. The proposed parties that may execute the MOA are the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Friant Water Authority, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor Authority, Westlands Water District, and Fresno Irrigation District.

Interim Executive Director reported that the MOA activities included are: 1) Work on establishment of the Project JPA, 2) Serve as the lead non-federal group representing the Project until the Project JPA or other implementing entity if formed, 3) Coordinate on Project-related matters with federal, state, and local agencies whose approvals will be needed in order to carry out the Project or that have jurisdiction over matters related or necessary to the Project, 4) Coordinate, fund, and manage such other Project-related preconstruction activities as may be deemed necessary. Mizuno concluded explaining that the MOA has a term of one-year and has no financial obligation without each Parties' Board approval on specific activity recommended by the MOA Coordination Group, and each party will have a representative on the Coordination group.

11. **Updates on Activities of San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJWIA) Including FY18_19 Budgeting.**

Interim Executive Director Frances Mizuno reported that the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority will meet on June 8, 2018, and approved a three-month budget to be paid only by counties. Mizuno also reported that a letter is being sent to the SJWIA regarding how he inferred at that meeting that the water authorities were intending to withdraw, and that it appears that he may have misinterpreted actions of the water authorities votes on the proposed FY2018-19 budget.

Ex-officio Cannon Michael reported that there was confusion that the Authority was withdrawing from SJWIA, but that was not the intention and that has been communicated to the SJWIA.

12. **State and Federal Affairs Advocacy Update**

Interim Executive Director Frances Mizuno reported that she has asked Dennis Cardoza to put together a summary document on a monthly basis, and on a quarterly basis to participate by phone.

Mizuno also reported that legislation was introduced to transfer federal ownership of the Contra Costa Canal System to Contra Costa Water District.

13. **Update on Water Operations**

Water Resource Engineer Tom Boardman reported Jones pumping had recently increased to 4 units due to increased upstream releases and less demanding delta standards that went into effect July 1. Reclamation expects to reach full pumping early this month and maintain 5 units into the fall.

Shasta and Folsom storage is tracking very close to Reclamation's latest operations schedule, but CVP San Luis storage is nearly 150 TAF higher than projected due to lower than expected demands

Boardman reviewed charts showing projected San Luis storage and stated that the low point in the CVP share will be at least 300 TAF under 90% and 50% exceedance conditions.

Boardman also mentioned that DWR has been receiving complaints of low water levels by the South Delta Water Agency. Persistent low water level problems in the southern delta will be an issue that Project operators may be dealing with this summer in order to capture Yuba County Water Agency transfer water via Joint Point of Diversion pumping at Banks.

14. **Closed Session**

Chair Tom Birmingham adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:15 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:55 a.m., Interim General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

15. **Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2**

No report given.

16. **Adjournment**

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