

**SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES
REGULAR WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
JOINT REGULAR WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING AND
SPECIAL BOARD WORKSHOP
September 11, 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 Chair Tom Birmingham presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Absent

Division 1

Earl Perez, Member - Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Absent

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate for Cindy Kao

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Chair/Member - Steve Stadler, Alternate

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director - Earl Perez, Alternate

Division 2

Don Peracchi, Director (joined during Item 16)

Sarah Woolf, Director (via teleconference, not counted towards a quorum or any vote)

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate for Director James O'Banion

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate for John Tobias

Sara Singleton, Alternate for Director Joseph Tonascia

Division 5

Bill Pucheu (joined during Item 11)

Tom Birmingham, Director - Jose Gutierrez, Alternate (via teleconference, not counted towards a quorum or any vote)

Steve Stadler, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Jason Peltier, Executive Director

Tom Boardman, Water Resources Engineer

Ara Azhderian, Water Policy Administrator

Jon Rubin, General Counsel

Others Present

Russ Freeman, Westlands Water District

Ben Fenters, San Luis Water District

Glenn Allen, Fresno County

Christina Guzman, Fresno County

Johnny Amaral, Westlands Water District

Call to Order

Chair Tom Birmingham 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 August 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The August 7, 2017 meeting minutes of the Water Resources Committee were previously distributed for review. There were no corrections or additions to the meeting minutes. There being no corrections or additions from Committee members, Chair Birmingham pronounced the August 7, 2017 meeting minutes approved as circulated.

4. **Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommending the Board of Directors Approve a New Position – Deputy General Counsel**

Executive Director Jason Peltier provided initial comments in support of the approval of the new position. General Counsel Jon Rubin then summarized the information previously presented to the

Committee and the additional information provided in the memorandum presented to the Committee for the August meeting. After discussion and upon a motion made by Alternate Jeff Cattaneo and seconded by Member Earl Perez, the Committee recommended that the Board of Directors consider the approval of a new position – deputy general counsel, although the Committee made no recommendation to the Board.

AYES: Perez, Cattaneo, Birmingham

NOES: White

ABSTENTIONS: None

5. Update on Science Support: 1) Science Intern, and 2) Recruitment of Science Manager

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported that the Authority had been utilizing a consultant to provide science support since 2013 and that the individual that had been doing that work recently left the consulting firm for new opportunities. Azhderian said that after talking with some member agencies about the science support, it was decided to ask the consulting firm to refill the position. Interviews were conducted and a recent Stanford graduate in aquatic biology, Griffin Hill, was hired. Hill will begin working in Sacramento on September 12, 2017, for a four month period.

Azhderian also reported that potential candidates for the Science Manager position were interviewed earlier this year and an offer was made but not accepted. Since then, Authority staff have revised the scope of work to expand the relevant work experience, emphasize the advisory and communication roles, and renamed the position Principal Scientist. The revised job description was included in the packet, and Authority staff intend to resolicit in the near future with hope of filing the position by the end of the year.

6. Update on San Luis Reservoir Corrective Action Study

Water Resources Engineer Tom Boardman gave a brief update on the B.F. Sisk Dam Corrective Action Study (CAS). The power point briefing was made using slides that were obtained from a USBR presentation made to contractors in August 2017. The presentation briefly covered the possible non-structural and structural options that are being considered in response to a potential seismic event near the dam. The presentation also included the CAS schedule and estimated project costs.

7. Update on SB623 Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (Monning)

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian explained that, because of the late amendments inserted into the bill relative to the controversial drinking water tax, nitrate fee, and dairy fee not being heard in appropriate policy committees, the Assembly Appropriations Committee sent it back to the Assembly Rules Committee for future referral to Assembly policy committees for proper public hearings next year.

8. Update on Ag & Urban Conservation Bills SB 606 (Skinner/Hertzberg) and AB 1668

(Friedman)

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported that a series of negotiations between the authors and stakeholders have resulted in amendments to the urban water agency requirements. The agricultural component remains as previously agreed upon. The ACWA's State Legislative Committee meets on September 11th to consider the bills as amended and ACWA's position on these bills as amended.

9. Update on Temperance Flat

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported that the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJWVIA) submitted its application for Prop 1 WSIP on August 14, 2017. With final refinements of the application nearing completion, the SJWVIA Temperance Flat (TFP) Project proponents will begin turning attention toward developing information necessary to solicit investment in the next phase of the project. Azhderian also reported that the SJWVIA will be aiming to conduct "investors" workshops in the fall to explain the TFP costs, benefits, and opportunities and solicit additional financial support. Committee Member Chris White gave a brief overview of the project.

10. Update on Strategic Planning Process

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported that, after the discussion on the draft RFP at the August Board meeting, the scope of work has been revised. Authority staff is working on finalizing this document for issuance.

11. Update on California WaterFix Project

Executive Director Jason Peltier gave a brief report regarding three different aspects of California WaterFix: 1) venues where activities are going on now, 2) the decision making process, and 3) planning for a Special Board Workshop to discuss current information and documents.

12. 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

No report given

13. Update on Central Valley Salmon Habitat Partnership

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported that the Central Valley Salmon Habitat Partnership held a signing ceremony on the State Capital steps to launch their new initiative to develop, fund, and restore salmon habitat in the Central Valley on August 29, 2017. Azhderian noted that though the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency is the formal representative in the Partnership for south of Delta state and federal contractors, Authority staff and the California Farm Water Coalition helped organize and support the event and will continue to engage with the Partnerships efforts in the future.

14. **Update on Prop 1 Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program**

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported that the Authority issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on August 28, 2017 for consultant services to develop and implement a Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program in the Prop 1 San Joaquin Funding Area. Responses to the RFP are due on September 15, 2017 with the aim of having an applicant selected by September 29, 2017.

15. **Water Operations Update**

No report given.

16. **Update on Fall X2 Operations and Associated Monitoring**

Executive Director Jason Peltier reported that the State Contractors have developed a proposal to deal with the Biological Opinion requirement that X2 be moved downstream in a wet year. Water costs are still unknown.

17. **Closed Session**

There was no closed session.

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

No report given.

19. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:55 a.m.