

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

January 6, 2020

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

Anthea Hansen, Alternate for Earl Perez

Division 2

William Bourdeau, Alternate for Bill Diedrich

Division 3

Chris White, Member

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate for Cindy Kao

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Member - Steve Stadler, Alternate

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Division 2

William Bourdeau, Director

Division 3

Chris White, Director

Cannon Michael, Director

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Director

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Director

Steve Stadler, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel

Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director (via teleconference)

Joyce Machado, Director of Finance

Darlene Neves, Accountant II

Lauren Neves, Accountant III

Others Present

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water

Jarrett Martin, Central California Irrigation District

Lon Martin, San Luis Water District

John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District

1. Call to Order

Chair Tom Birmingham called the meeting to order.

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

No corrections or additions.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the December 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Chair Tom Birmingham pronounced the December 9, 2019 meeting minutes approved.

5. Review Proposed FY21 Activity Budget.

Executive Director Federico Barajas reviewed first draft of proposed FY21 Activity Agreements Budget highlighting key components.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief overview of the Science Program. Petersen reported that Authority staff is recommending 4 areas to focus on: 1) Technical and scientific support for the Authority to engage in regulatory processes, 2) Steelhead monitoring and protection, 3) Delta Smelt structured decision making, and 4) Development of a Voluntary Agreement Science Plan.

6. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the final EIS for the biological opinion reconsultation was released on December 19, 2019, and there is a 30-day public comment period. Petersen reported that is anticipated that the issuance of the final Record of Decision (ROD) will be in late January or early February of 2020.

Petersen reported that DWR's draft EIR related to State Water Project Operations will be available for public comment through today, January 6, 2020. Petersen reported that Authority staff will be submitting a letter highlighting two main concerns with the DEIR – a lack of description for project alternatives and a lack of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the impacts of the alternatives on the CVP.

Petersen gave a brief update on the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley indicating that the socioeconomic impact report is scheduled to be released in the next couple of weeks.

Petersen reported that Water Resilience Portfolio was released by the State on Friday for public comment, and comments are due to the State by February 7, 2020.

7. Update on California Storage Projects.

Executive Director Federico Barajas gave a brief update on the B.F. Sisk Raise Project, reporting that modeling is underway. Barajas reported that there will be a meeting with MBK to look at actual outputs from the modeling scenarios. Barajas reported that a meeting is scheduled with DWR to discuss the project and the different operational scenarios.

Assistant Executive Director Frances Mizuno reported that current activity related to the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project is with the various workshops regarding the terms of the JPA. Mizuno reported that the goal is to have the JPA package ready by July 2020 to allow the Boards of the Local Agency Participants to consider joining the JPA, and to have the of formation

of the JPA by the end of the year.

8. Update on Science Program.

No update.

9. Update on State and Federal Affairs.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that a number of draft Reclamation Directives and Standards have been released for comment, including: Implementation of Historic Preservation Responsibilities for Operation, Maintenance and Replacement of Project Works.

Petersen reported that there will be a hearing on January 9, 2020 in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on the Water Resources Development Act, it's anticipated that the House will limit their bill to Army Corp of Engineers only, and the Senate is likely to include Reclamation policy that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee reaches agreement on.

Petersen reported that Authority staff are organizing a tour with State Water Resources Control Board members Sean McGuire and Laurel Firestone, with a focus on Authority infrastructure, broader CVP issues, irrigated lands program and SGMA, and it has been scheduled for January 16, 2020.

10. Update on Infrastructure Projects.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that there will be a San Luis Transmission Project Workshop in February regarding changes to cost. Assistant Executive Director Frances Mizuno reported that the project will proceed with Duke Energy only, because American Transmission Company has decided not to pursue the San Luis Transmission Project.

11. Update on Water Transfer/Exchanges/Release Program.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff has started the coordination process to prepare for possible water transfers needed in 2020.

12. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts.

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported the first export constraint under the salmon BiOp went into effect on January 1, which is limiting total exports to about 6,000 cfs.

Although Jones is currently pumping at capacity, an export reduction is expected soon if San Joaquin flows do not significantly increase. Banks is currently pumping at 2,000 cfs and is not expected to change much given the mediocre weather forecast.

All CVP reservoirs with the exception of San Luis Reservoir are at near their seasonal maximum levels due to flood control, so needed precipitation from future storms should come as either rain in the San Joaquin basin and/or as snow fall above the rim reservoirs.

Boardman stated that CVP San Luis storage has refilled to 433 TAF and that San Luis Reservoir is not expected to refill without favorable hydrology.

Boardman concluded his report with a brief review of two charts showing refill projections under dry and normal hydrology.

13. Executive Director's Report.

Executive Director Federico Barajas reminded committee members that Thursday's Board meeting and Workshop will be held at Mission De Oro in Santa Nella at 9:30am.

Barajas reported that the Reclamation's re-scheduling guidelines were distributed last week, and comments are due to Assistant Executive Director Frances Mizuno by COB today.

14. Committee Member Reports.

No reports.

15. Closed Session

Chair Tom Birmingham adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:05 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:30 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

16. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2

None.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.