Approved 5/1/2017

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
MINUTES
REGULAR WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
JOINT REGULAR WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING AND SPECIAL BOARD WORKSHOP
April 3, 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

Cannon Michael, Ex-Officio (arrived after Item 3)

Division 1

Earl Perez, Member ~ Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member ~ William Bourdeau, Alternate

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate

Division 4

Cindy Kao, Member ~ Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate (via teleconference)

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Member & Chair ~ Steve Stadler, Alternate

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Bobby Pierce, Director

Anthea Hansen, Director ~ Earl Perez, Alternate

Division 2

William Bourdeau, Alternate for Director Sarah Woolf

William Diedrich, Director ~ Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

Cannon Michael, Director (arrived after Item 3)

Chris White, Alternate for Director James O'Banion

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate for Director John Tobias

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Director - Jose Gutierrez, Alternate

Steve Stadler, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Tom Boardman, Water Resources Engineer

Ara Azhderian, Water Policy Administrator

Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director

Jon Rubin, General Counsel

Others Present

None

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.**

Member Thomas Birmingham asked whether agenda item 6 should be removed from the agenda because it now falls outside of the jurisdiction of the Water Resources Committee. General Counsel Jon Rubin expressed his opinion that he believed it did. As a result, Birmingham indicated that the Committee would not discuss or consider Item 6.

2. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. **Committee to Consider Approval of the March 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The March 6, 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 Bill Diedrich and seconded by member Earl Perez that the Water Resources Committee approve the March 6, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion passed. The Water Resources Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Perez, Diedrich, White, Kao, Birmingham

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation that the Board of Directors Authorize the Water Authority to Fund CalTrout Salmon Genetics Proposal.

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported that CalTrout has asked the Authority to partner with CalTrout and U.C. Davis to implement a pilot study to explore the use of genetic tracking as a management tool for Central Valley Chinook Salmon. Azhderian explained that the pilot study had been reviewed by a number of Member Agencies' staff and consulting biologists, all of whom have deemed it scientifically sound. Authority staff recommended the Water Authority commit up to half of the pilot study costs: $37,500. Azhderian indicated that CalTrout has been soliciting other funding partners and the Water Authority's contribution could be less. Azhderian also reported that the funding would come from monies already budgeted under LegOps 1 Fisheries Action Plan.

A motion was made by member Bill Diedrich and seconded by member Earl Perez that the Water Resources Committee recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the Water Authority to fund CalTRout Salmon Genetics Proposal up to $37,500. The motion passed. The Water Resources Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Michael, Perez, Diedrich, White, Kao, Birmingham

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

5. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation that the Board of Directors Authorize the Water Authority to Oppose Assembly Bills No. 791, 792, 793.

Water Policy Administrator Ara Azhderian reported that three bills introduced by Assembly Member Jim Frazier could delay constructing California WaterFix by several years. A.B. No. 791 would require the Department of Water Resources to prepare information on the costs and benefits of the new water delivery system improvements. A.B. No. 792 would require the Delta Stewardship Council to affirmatively issue a certification of consistency with the Delta Plan before construction could begin, and the Council could not issue the certification until after the State Water Resources Control Board adopts an update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. A.B. No. 793 would declare it to be state policy that the "natural state" of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is recognized and defined as an integral component of California's water infrastructure. Azhderian identified and the Water Resources Committee discussed some of the negative implications of the referenced Assembly Bills.

A motion was made by Ex-Officio member Cannon Michael and seconded by member Earl Perez that the Water Resources Committee recommend that the Board of Directors authorize the Water Authority to oppose A.B. Nos. 791, 792, 793. The Water Resources Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Michael, Perez, Diedrich, White, Birmingham

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: Kao

6. **Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation that the Board of Directors Adopt the Board of Directors Handbook.**

This item was removed from the agenda.

7. **Operations Update**

Water Resources Engineer Tom Boardman reported that C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant has been pumping at capacity for the past several weeks with about 2,400 cfs of wheeling for the SWP while repairs are made at Clifton Court Forebay. Boardman expected flows at Vernalis to decline to about 23,000 cfs by April 7 and may drop below the threshold flow rate of 21,750 cfs; a rate that would begin to limit exports to 25% of the Vernalis flow per the Salmon BiOp (Inflow/Export ratio). However, given the expected storm later in the week and the magnitude of snow melt in the San Joaquin basin this spring, Boardman expected Vernalis flows to remain high enough that the I/E ratio would not constrain exports during much of April and May. Boardman reported that flood flows into the Mendota Pool are projected to meet Exchange Contractors demands into June. As such, Boardman anticipated that Reclamation may increase the Ag and M&I water service allocation to 100% in its April announcement.

Boardman reported that about 420 TAF of rescheduled water remains in CVP San Luis and that about 45 TAF of foregone pumping has been tallied. A review of three San Luis storage projection charts showed that about 170 TAF may be converted to Project supply by the end May. Further, the 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 drawdown in early May with a federal low point of 650 TAF by early September.

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

General Counsel Jon Rubin reported that comments were submitted on March 17, 2017 to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding 2016 Bay-Delta Plan Phase 1 Amendment and Substitute Environmental Document. A copy of the comments were included in the Water Resources Committee packet.

Rubin also reported that ACWA is soliciting members' support for their Policy Statement on Bay-Delta Flow Requirements. Rubin indicated the Authority supports ACWA's policy statement and emphasized two key principles that must guide the State Water Board's effort to update the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan: 1) focus on providing flow when it serves biological functions, and 2) the functional flows must be considered in the context of a comprehensive plan that addresses the multiple factors impairing the highly altered Bay-Delta. Rubin stated that those principles are consistent with the comments the Authority filed on the Phase 1 documents.

9. **California Legislative Update: Assembly Bill No. 1427**

Water Policy Ara Azhderian reported that A.B. No. 1427 was introduced by Assembly Member Eggman. Azhderian explained that the bill aims to expand the definition of what constitutes beneficial use with respect to using surface water for groundwater purposes, and eliminating a 5 year forfeiture period that applies to certain water rights. There was brief discussion about the impact of the bill.

10. **Closed Session**

There was no closed session.

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

There were no reports pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2.

12. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.