

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

June 1, 2020

The Special Telephonic Water Resources Committee and Joint Special Telephonic Water Resources Committee Meeting and Special Telephonic Board Workshop of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference/ZOOM in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, with Ex-Officio Committee Member Cannon Michael presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Cannon Michael

William Bourdeau

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate for Bill Koster

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member

Division 3

Chris White, Member

Division 4

Garth Hall, Member - Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate

Division 5

Steve Stadler, Alternate for Tom Birmingham

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Division 2

William Bourdeau, Director

Bill Diedrich, Director - Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

Chris White, Director - Jarrett Martin, Alternate
Cannon Michael, Director

Division 4

Garth Hall, Alternate
Jeff Cattaneo, Director

Division 5

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, Special Projects Administrator
Joyce Machado, Director of Finance
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Chris Park, CDM Smith
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District
Russ Freeman, Westlands Water District
John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District

1. Call to Order

Ex-Officio Committee Member Cannon Michael called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

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

No corrections.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the May 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Alternate Steve Stadler made a motion to approve the May 11, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Chris White and passed unanimously. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Michael, Bourdeau, Hansen, Diedrich, White, Hall, Stadler

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

5. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Authorize Expenditure of \$50,000 from the FY21 Leg Ops Technical Budget for Initiation of Delta Channel Maintenance Planning Effort.

Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno reported that the Water Resources Committee and the Board of Directors were briefed on the Joint Problem Statement at the August, 2019 meetings, at which they provided support for this effort and authorized staff to collaborate in developing this program. Mizuno reported that staff from the Department of Water Resources, Reclamation, State Water Resources Control Board, Office of the Delta Watermaster, South Delta Water Agency, Westlands Water District, and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority have been meeting regularly to coordinate efforts and it was recognized that in order to move this program forward initial seed money is necessary to begin the planning effort.

Mizuno reported that the proposed program has been presented to various State and Federal Resource Agencies, public water agencies, and non-governmental organizations to garner support. Mizuno reported that to begin the planning process to develop such a program, seed money must be obtained to prepare a project level charter, scope of work, and grant application, and the goal is to collectively obtain a minimum of \$250,000. Mizuno reported that the potential funding sources being pursued include the Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Conservancy, State Water Resources Control Board, Reclamation (CVPIA), State Water Contractors, CVP contractors, and Delta water agencies. Mizuno reported that the State Water Contractors have authorized \$50,000.

Mizuno reported that there are sufficient funds in the FY21 Leg Ops Technical Budget for this expenditure, which includes \$500,000 for the science program; of which \$25,000 has been committed to date.

Member Garth Hall made a motion that the Water Resources Committee recommend the

Board of Directors authorize Expenditure of \$50,000 from the FY21 Leg Ops Technical Budget for initiation of Delta Channel maintenance planning effort. The motion was seconded by Ex-Officio Committee Member William Bourdeau and passed unanimously. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Michael, Bourdeau, Hansen, Diedrich, White, Hall, Stadler

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

6. Presentation Regarding B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project.

Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced Chris Park with CDM, who provided a detailed presentation on the status of the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project. Park reported on the status of the feasibility report, the Draft EIR/SEIS, draft project report for SR 152, water supply modeling results, ESA consultation, and an update on cultural resources surveys and consultation.

7. Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that implementation of the new biological opinions continues, with the most recent example being the inaugural meeting of the Delta Coordination Group, an interagency group with three main charges: (1) resolve date conflicts between summer-fall protective actions for delta smelt between the BiOps and the State's Incidental Take Statement, (2) select an appropriate structured decision making model for those actions, and (3) develop a long-term science and adaptive management strategy.

Petersen also provided an update regarding the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan, to which five amendments have been made to date. Petersen reported that an amendment to Chapter 4 (Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem) of the Delta Plan (Ecosystem Amendment) is currently under consideration by the Council. Petersen reported that on May 11, 2020, the Delta Stewardship Council issued a Notice of Preparation for the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment and initiating environmental review in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The scoping period is open until 5:00 pm on Friday, July 10, 2020, and the Water Authority anticipates providing comments to the Council. Staff will coordinate comments with member agency staff.

Petersen reported that the Delta Conveyance Project scoping period concluded on Friday, April 17, after a 93-day comment period during which the public and agencies, including the Water Authority, had an opportunity to provide input on the scope and content of the CEQA review,

including the potential environmental impacts of a proposed single tunnel conveyance project and range of alternatives that will be analyzed in the EIR.

8. Update on State and Federal Affairs.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the House is now back in session with new proxy voting rules in place, a first in history. Petersen reported that House Republicans are suing Speaker Nancy Pelosi over the new rules in an attempt to block the voting mechanism, while House Democrats argue that proxy voting is the only safe way to have hundreds of lawmakers cast votes during the pandemic, particularly with the appropriations legislation likely to see floor action.

Petersen reported that the House and Senate will be holding a number of oversight hearings related to COVID-19 and implementation of the CARES Act.

Petersen reported that additionally, the House Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee is planning to hold a hearing in late June regarding various water and wildlife related legislation. Staff is working with Committee and delegation staff to highlight issues of concern for the Authority and its members.

Petersen reported that California is projecting a \$54 billion budget deficit through June 2021 and said the unemployment rate is projected to reach 18% this year. Petersen reported that some state agencies are preparing for 30-40% reductions in their budgets and some reductions in staffing. Petersen reported that this will have obvious implications for the State's ability to fund new expenses related to Authority priorities, including water infrastructure.

9. Executive Director's Report.

Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Jones Pumping Plant repayment contract has been negotiated with Reclamation, and went through a comment period that ended on Friday. Barajas reported that a number of non-governmental organizations submitted comment letter to Reclamation. The Authority is in the process of reviewing comments and will be coordinating with Reclamation.

Barajas reported that Reclamation is expected to schedule follow-up meetings on the CVPIA true-up process.

10. Agenda Item 10: Chief Operating Officer's Report.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that Jones Pumping Plant Unit 2 will be reassembled in the next few days, and Reclamation has confirmed they will be out for a performance review June 15, and then crews will move on to Unit 5.

Arroyave reported that staff will start the transition to the new NetSuite package in the next couple of weeks.

Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno reported on the following items: 1) Exchange Contractors have confirmed that the 89,000 af is available this year, and 69,000 af will go to Authority participants, 2) Yuba water will be available July-September, 3) North of Delta transfers are waiting for final approval of all proposals, and are working to allow pumping prior to proposals being finalized, 4) Los Vaqueros Expansion Project – the Authority executed Amendment 1 to the Cost Share Agreement for Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project Planning, which will extend the term through December 2020. Mizuno reported that Amendment 2 (to be executed at a later date) would call for additional funding, and would extend through December 2021.

II. Agenda Item II: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported the Jones pumping would be increasing to 2-3 units in early June after being limited to one unit during all of May because of DI641 standards and a federal court decision. The details of a Shasta critical year were also discussed which included DWR's final updated B120 expected by June 4.

Two San Luis projection charts were discussed, and Boardman explained why Reclamation's storage projections excluded rescheduled water. Boardman concluded his report by responding to questions regarding the likely possibility that CVP San Luis storage would be at least 200 TAF at the low point because of Reclamation's determination to not include rescheduled water in its San Luis operation forecasts.

12. Agenda Item 12: Committee Member Reports.

Member Garth Hall reported that Rick Callender was appointed as Valley Water's new CEO.

13. Agenda Item 13: Closed Session

Ex-Officio Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:25 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:45 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

14. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2

None.

15. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.