

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

August 2, 2021

The Water Resources Committee and Joint Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Special Board Workshop of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at 842 6th Street, Los Banos, California, and via teleconference in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order (N-08-21), with Committee Chair Tom Birmingham presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

William Bourdeau (via Teleconference/In-person)

Division 1

Zach Maring, Member - Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member

Division 3

Chris White, Member (via Teleconference)

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member (via Teleconference)

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Member

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Division 2

William Bourdeau, Director

Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3

Chris White, Director - Jarrett Martin, Alternate (via Teleconference)

Division 4

None

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director

Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel

Joyce Machado, Director of Finance

John Brodie, Water Resources Program Manager

Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District

Kristin Olsen, California Strategies

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair Tom Birmingham called the meeting to order and roll was called.

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

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that there was a minor correction to the Agenda, in that the reference to the Governor's Executive Order should be to N-08-21.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the July 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Chair Tom Birmingham pronounced the July 12, 2021 meeting minutes approved without correction.

5. Executive Director's Report.

A. **Update on Water Transfers** – (1) Yuba Transfer - Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that pumping started July 16, 2021. (2) NOD Transfer Program – Arroyave

reported that there are no changes from last month and that the release and pumping of that water is still scheduled for October. Chair Tom Birmingham reported that there is potential to begin before October to benefit the fish. (3) SEWD - Arroyave reported that the Environmental Assessment was released by the Bureau on July 28th, and comments are due by August 5. (4) OID - Arroyave reported the draft Environmental Assessment should be complete today, and would be released for a 7-day review. Arroyave reminded the Committee that the SWRCB also has to approve this transfer, and is set to make a decision on August 17. Arroyave reported that each recipient needs a Warren Act contract in order to receive this water.

B. **DMC Subsidence Mitigation Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Authority is working closely with Reclamation on the drafting of a cooperative agreement, and hopes to bring it to the Board for action in September.

C. **August 23, 2021 Board Workshop** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reminded that a Joint Workshop is scheduled August 23 regarding the San Luis Transmission Project.

D. **COVID Update** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there was a COVID-19 outbreak at one of the Authority’s facilities, and the required processes are being followed.

6. **Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief summary of his report included in the packet. Petersen reported that the staff of the State Water Resources Control Board is proposing an emergency regulation that, if adopted and approved, may affect the ability of water right holders in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed to divert water. Petersen reported that on July 8, 2021, the Authority, Friant Water Authority, Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, and the State Water Contractors sent a letter to State Water Board Chairman Joaquin Esquivel expressing a need for action to protect stored water and to reduce unauthorized diversions of water in the Delta, in order to protect authorized beneficial uses of water. Petersen reported that on July 29, 2021, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority sent a second letter to State Water Board Chairman Joaquin Esquivel expressing support for protecting stored water and offered some minor amendments to improve the draft Emergency Regulations. Petersen reported that on July 30, the State Water Board issued a notice of proposed emergency rulemaking to comply with requirements of Government Code Section 11346.1, subdivision (a)(2), that a 5-day notice must be issued prior to the submission of a proposed emergency action to the Office of Administrative Law. Petersen reported that if approved, the emergency regulation would become effective upon submittal to the Secretary of State

as early as mid to late August 2021, and would remain in effect for up to one year but could be repealed if hydrologic conditions improve, or readopted if drought conditions continue through next year.

Petersen reported that there have been some significant actions by the Water Blueprint over the last month. Petersen reported that the Blueprint Executive Committee has made a recommendation to the Plenary group to hire Providence Group to perform the association management functions previously provided by Vista Consulting. Petersen reported that a contract is in process of being executed to develop a strategic plan and to perform a critical path regulatory analysis to advance that plan. Petersen reported that Authority staff will ensure that westside of the San Joaquin Valley representatives are engaged during the development of the Strategic Plan and as part of the study group.

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

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported that Shasta storage is trending towards a carryover storage of 1.1 MAF rather than 1.25 MAF target that the State Board and Reclamation had agreed upon in late May. Boardman described how Reclamation may choose to back up transfer water during August and September to increase carry over storage. Delta conditions were discussed which included a brief explanation of water quality, delta outflow, and export pumping status.

Boardman explained that Reclamation's reported CVP share of San Luis storage is 50 TAF higher than actual because DWR exchanged 50 TAF with the CVP on July 15. As such, actual CVP storage was reported to -38 TAF. Boardman explained San Luis storage projection charts and the factors that could affect the projected low storage levels reached by late September.

Responding to a question from Director Hansen, Boardman explained how Yuba transfer water might be backed up into Shasta. Chairman Birmingham added to the response by stating that the idea of backing up transfer water came from Reclamation in an effort to increase Shasta carry over storage.

8. Agenda Item 12: Committee Member Reports.

None.

9. Agenda Item 13: Closed Session

No closed session.

10. **Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2**
None.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.