

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

September 13, 2021

The Water Resources Committee and Joint Water Resources Committee Regular Telephonic 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

Cannon Michael (via Teleconference)

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate for Zach Maring

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member (via Teleconference)

Division 3

Chris White, Member - Ric Ortega, Alternate (both via Teleconference)

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member - Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Member

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3

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

Cannon Michael, Director (via Teleconference)

Ric Ortega, Director (via Teleconference)

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Director

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
Frances Mizuno, Special Projects Administrator
Joyce Machado, Director of Finance
Jerry Robbins, Special Programs Manager
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District
Kristin Olsen, California Strategies
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
Chris Park, CDM Smith

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.

No additions or corrections.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the August 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Chair Tom Birmingham pronounced the August 2, 2021 meeting minutes approved without correction.

5. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Select Proposed Operational Configuration for the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave provided a brief overview of the staff memo included in the packet. Arroyave reported that staff is seeking recommendations, feedback, and comments on two primary questions; 1) Whether Reclamation’s proposal for the additional 130,000 acre-feet storage capacity being assigned 50% CVP-only and 50% investor-owned is an acceptable ratio for the project, and 2) Whether the Water Authority should select one of the three specific operational configurations, or an alternative configuration. Chris Park reviewed the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project PowerPoint presentation. The presentation provided information on the following subjects; 1) Reservoir Operational Configuration Benefits, 2) Operational Configuration Selection, 3) Next Steps, and 4) Questions Submitted to Reclamation.

After a lengthy discussion the Committee did not take any action, but deferred a recommendation until more information could be obtained from Reclamation.

6. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation.

- a. H.R. 3023 (Costa) - Restore WIFIA Eligibility Act
- b. H.R. 4284 (Ruiz) – Clean Drinking Water Equity Act
- c. H.R. 4915 (McClintock) – Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act
- d. S. 2334 (Cortez Masto) – Large Scale Water Recycling Project and Drought Resiliency Investment Act

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that included in the packet is a memo outlining the four pieces of legislation, and that staff is recommending the Board adopt “Support” positions on three of the pieces of legislation (H.R. 3023, H.R. 4284, H.R. 4915), and “Support & Amend” position on one piece of legislation (S. 2334).

Chair Tom Birmingham made the motion to accept staff recommendation for positions on Legislation. The motion was seconded by Alternate Anthea Hansen and passed unanimously. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES:	Michael, Hansen, Diedrich, White, Gin, Birmingham
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

7. Executive Director's Report.

A. **Update on Water Transfers** – Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno reported on the following water transfers; 1) Yuba Transfer – Mizuno reported that as of the middle of August the total estimate of Yuba water to the Authority is about 45,988 af. Of that amount about 18,200 af was pumped July-August, and the remainder will be pumped in September-October, 2) NOD Transfer Program – Mizuno reported that the transfer water started being conveyed at Jones Pumping Plant September 1. Mizuno reported that the rate and how much is anticipated to be pumped is still being confirmed by Reclamation's CVO; once there is a confirmation an allocation will be sent out to those participants regarding how much water will be available, 3) SEWD - Mizuno reported that the transfer was approved in early August for 7,500 af, with a 10% carriage loss, 6,750 af was available. Mizuno reported that all the water was pumped at Jones Pumping Plant as of September 10, and was allocated to those participating members that reside in San Joaquin and Stanislaus County, and (4) OID – Mizuno reported that this transfer unfortunately was not approved.

B. **DMC Subsidence Mitigation Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the cooperative agreement with Reclamation is close to being final, and it will be brought to the Finance & Administration Committee this afternoon, and to the Board on Thursday for approval.

8. 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 State Water Resources Control Board will be holding a meeting on September 21st and 22nd, and the agenda does include an informational update on drought response activities and operations. Petersen reported that it's anticipated that DWR Director Nemeth and USBR Regional Director Conant will be providing important updates on fall operations, so staff is highlighting this for those Committee members who are interested.

Petersen reported Reclamation undertakes regular updates to the Reclamation Manual, the document that outlines policies that govern activities undertaken by Reclamation. Petersen reported that Reclamation has released for public comment a draft Policy PEC P-16, which reaffirms that Reclamation activities shall be consistent with the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, and comments are due today.

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

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman explained how the targeted carryover storage for Shasta gradually declined over the summer months as conditions trended drier than expected. It was reported that Shasta storage slightly more than Reclamation's latest operations forecast. Folsom storage was reported to also be slightly above Reclamation's projected carry over storage.

Boardman briefly explained that Delta inflow was increasing enough to add a 3rd unit at Jones by the middle of the week which could increase projected CVP exports by 20 TAF if the additional pumping can be maintained through September.

Boardman explained that Reclamation's reported CVP share of San Luis storage is 100 TAF higher than actual because of storage exchanges between the SWP and CVP during July and August. As such, actual CVP storage was reported to be -79 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 that about 70% of the current pumping is supporting the wheeling of transfer water.

10. Agenda Item 12: Committee Member Reports.

None.

11. Agenda Item 13: Closed Session

No closed session.

12. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2

None.

13. Adjournment

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