

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

January 10, 2022

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. via teleconference in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and Resolution No. 2021-498 adopted by the Board of Directors on December 14, 2021, with Committee Chair Tom Birmingham presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Cannon Michael

William Bourdeau

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate for Zach Maring

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member - Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

Chris White, Member - Ric Ortega, Alternate

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member - Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Member - Manny Amorelli, Alternate

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Rick Gilmore, Director - Lea Emmons, Alternate

Division 2

William Bourdeau, Director

Ara Azhderian, Alternate

Bill Diedrich, Director - Lon Martin, Alternate

Division 3

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

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Director
Sara Singleton, Alternate

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Director
Manny Amorelli, 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
Frances Mizuno, Special Projects Administrator
Lauren Neves, Accountant III
Cathy Bento, Accountant II
Darlene Neves, Operational Accounting Supervisor
Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District

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 December 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Committee Chair Tom Birmingham pronounced the December 6, 2021 meeting minutes approved without correction.

5. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Approve Fiscal Year 2023 Activity Budget

Executive Director Federico Barajas provided an overview of this item. Barajas highlighted changes requested at the December 14, 2022 Budget Workshop focusing on the General Membership and Leg Ops funds. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reviewed the changes to the legal components of the proposed budget, and reviewed the budget for the Deputy General Counsel position. Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reviewed changes to the science and technical components of the proposed budget. Barajas reviewed the FY23 to FY22 Comparison sheet included in the packet. Staff answered questions posed by Committee members.

Committee Chair Tom Birmingham made the motion to recommend the Board of Directors approve Fiscal Year 2023 Activity Budget. The motion was seconded by Ex Officio Member William Bourdeau. Following additional committee discussion in which Committee Chair Birmingham identified a need for additional discussion regarding the methodology for collection of dues, the motion passed unanimously. The Committee action is reported as follows:

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

6. Executive Director’s Report.

A. **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that staff continues to work with Reclamation on the project. Barajas reported that the draft addendum to the feasibility report is under internal review by Reclamation. Barajas reported that there was a technical team meeting held last month regarding next steps of this project. Barajas reported that staff is putting together key notes and items from that meeting to initiate an Activity Agreement. Barajas reported that staff is anticipating holding another technical team meeting towards the end of this month that would include Reclamation allowing them to help better frame important issues. Committee members suggested that B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and

Reservoir Expansion Project become a standing item on the Water Resource Committee agenda, and suggested that staff look into retaining a consultant to act as a project manager. Barajas reported that the Authority would develop an RFP, and the Activity Agreement for the planning process, and bring them both to the Water Resources Committee, and the Board next month.

B. **DMC Subsidence Correction Project** – Barajas reported that staff continues to work closely with DWR to provide information requested regarding the access to state funding. Barajas reported that a decision is anticipated from DWR by early February.

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

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief summary of his report included in the packet. Petersen reported U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to submit a revised 12-month finding assessing the status of the San Francisco Bay/Delta Distinct Population (DPS) Segment Longfin smelt to the Federal Register no later than September 30, 2022. Petersen reported that the previous 12-month finding indicated that the DPS was warranted for listing under the Endangered Species Act, but moving ahead with processing a proposed rulemaking was precluded by other listing priorities at the time. Petersen reported that the draft SSA was released for Peer and Partner review November 29, 2021. Petersen noted that this document is not the 12-month finding, nor a proposed rulemaking with respect to a listing determination. Petersen reported that if such a proposed rulemaking ensues, there will be a separate publication and public comment period in the Federal Register and via regulations.gov next calendar year. Petersen reported that the Authority and other member agencies are reviewing the SSA and comments are due on January 14, 2022.

Petersen reported that Reclamation completed its stakeholder outreach workshops on the provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, on Friday. The last workshop covered Section 40904, the Aging Infrastructure Account, and a few other topics. Petersen reported that the application process described in the major revisions to Reclamation Manual Directive and Standards PEC 05-03 is near final following the current public comment period. Petersen reported that Reclamation is expecting to issue a final document in the coming weeks.

Petersen reported that on May 17, 2021, DWR and Reclamation jointly filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (2021 TUCP) to temporarily modify terms and conditions in their water right license and permits for the State Water Project and Central Valley Project that require compliance with certain water quality objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. Petersen reported that on June 1, 2021, the

State Water Board's Executive Director issued a TUCP Order conditionally approving the requested changes. Petersen reported that the State Water Board received petitions for reconsideration and objections to the 2021 TUCP Order, which are addressed in a draft Order released for comment by the State Water Board. Petersen reported that the draft Order denies in part and grants in part the petitions for reconsideration. Petersen reported that the draft Order determines that approvals of the 2021 TUCP Order and the Sacramento River TMP were appropriate, based on the information available at the time, and therefore the petitions for reconsideration are primarily denied. Petersen reported that the draft order imposes additional conditions on DWR and Reclamation's water rights.

Petersen reported that on November 23rd the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Plan (SJVV CAP) Plenary Group met and reviewed the Phase 1 Action Plan framework. Petersen reported that the CAP Work Group Co-Chairs and members prepared the framework over the past 2 months. Petersen reported that the Framework provides the solution set elements recommended by the five CAP Work Groups to accomplish the desired outcomes to resolve those problem areas. Petersen reported that the Planning Group unanimously approved the Framework at its November 16, 2021, meeting and recommended approval by the Plenary Group, which approved the Framework. Petersen reported that based on the specifics in the framework and numerous comments received during the past month, the Management Team has developed a draft final CAP Phase 1 Action Plan document which has been distributed to Plenary Group members for a review period. Petersen reported that this document was circulated to Authority Board Members, Water Resources Committee Members, and General Managers last week for comment. Petersen reported that the CAP Management team is requesting that organizations indicate a position for the Phase 1 Action Plan by January 14.

8. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported that the inflows to Shasta Reservoir had recently improved following lower than expected inflow during the initial storms that arrived in December. Although storage is increasing, the rate of increase will need to improve to meet the projected storage of 1.9 MAF by the end of January currently forecasted under 50% exceedance conditions. Flood releases from Folsom are continuing with the accumulated snowpack at 140% of average.

Storage levels in CVP San Luis Reservoir are currently below the expected level under median hydrology. Boardman concluded with an explanation of possible allocations under dry and

median conditions hydrology.

9. **Committee Member Reports.**

No reports.

10. **Agenda Item 11: Closed Session**

Committee Chair Tom Birmingham 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 11:46 a.m., Chair Tom Birmingham reported that there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

11. **Agenda Item 13: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2**

None.

12. **Agenda Item 14: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:47 a.m.