

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

JULY 11, 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. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Ex Officio Member William Bourdeau presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Cannon Michael
William Bourdeau

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate for Zach Maring (Arrived after item 5)

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member (via phone, joined after item 5)

Division 3

Chris White, Member

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member - Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate

Division 5

Manny Amorelli, Alternate (via phone, joined after item 5)

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director
Lea Emmons, Alternate for Rick Gilmore

Division 2

William Bourdeau, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3

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

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Director

Division 5

Manny Amorelli, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Raymond Tarka, Director of Finance
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Vince Gin, Valley Water
Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ex Officio Member William Bourdeau 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 May 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Ex Officio Member William Bourdeau pronounced the May 9, 2022 meeting minutes approved without correction.

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

- a. H.R. 8127 (Schrier), Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Amendments of 2022. – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the legislation, introduced by Representative Schrier, and co-sponsored by Congressman Costa and Congressman Garamendi, makes a number of changes to the WIFIA program that the Authority had previously explored as a potential financing mechanism for the Jones Pumping Plant Unit Rewinds that could be

of benefit, should it be enacted. Petersen reported that staff is recommending a support and amend position, with suggested amendments to seek clarifying language that would enable project funding applicants to have a negotiable loan term between the projects useful life and 55 years, rather than only those two, for projects with a useful life of over 30 years.

Ex Officio Member Cannon Michael made the motion to recommend the Board of Directors adopt staff recommendation for Positions on Legislation. The motion was seconded by Director Chris White. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES:	Michael, Bourdeau, White, Gin
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

6. **Executive Director’s Report.**

A. **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that Reclamation is still working diligently on the addendum in hopes of having it approved, and to OMB by the end of October. Arroyave reported that the current schedule shows the Record of Decision being executed at the end of December 2022. Arroyave reported that updates and ongoing progress will be shared regularly with participating members.

B. **DMC Subsidence Correction Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that CDM Smith has completed their biological field surveys. Barajas reported that technical coordination continues between Authority staff and Reclamation on planning efforts relating to the DMC Subsidence Correction project. Barajas reported that during the month of August, there will be a Design Engineering and Constructability (DEC) review taking place.

Reinitiation of Consultation – Executive Director Federico Barajas reminded the Committee that staff had reported early in the process that a letter was sent to Reclamation requesting a formal recognition of the Authority as a cooperating agency through the NEPA process. Barajas reported that the Authority has received a formal response from Reclamation, along with a MOU and he signed it last week. Barajas reported that it requires Reclamation’s signature, and he expects it in the next few days.

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 that last month, Reclamation released Knowledge Based Papers for review and comment, with the intention of describing the current state of scientific knowledge in key management areas within the upcoming ESA consultation and NEPA process on Long-Term Operations. Petersen reported that Reclamation requested review of these documents for additive information and literature to improve the Knowledge Based Papers. Petersen reported that Authority staff submitted two comment letters, with additive literature recommendations for each of the papers, using technical support from consultants through the Authority's Science Program.

Petersen reported that on July 12, the State Board announced additional curtailments that impact Water Authority member agencies. Petersen reported that the curtailments are expected to continue through the summer and early fall until significant precipitation occurs. Petersen reported that water supply forecasts will continue to be evaluated regularly to determine if, when, and to what extent the further re-imposition or suspension of curtailments may be appropriate. Petersen suggested that the Committee check the Delta Watershed Curtailment Status List for the current curtailment status of each water right and claim in the Delta watershed. Petersen reported that the Authority staff prepared and submitted comments on the Delta Watershed Emergency Regulation and associated Water Unavailability Methodology, highlighting two points, 1) It is appropriate for the State Board to protect CVP water by ensuring that diversion of stored water, transfer water, and CVP water does not occur unlawfully, and 2) The appropriateness of enforcing water rights to ensure that the burden of dry conditions does not fall disproportionately on CVP water users.

8. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts.

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported on Shasta storage conditions which included scheduled releases and project carry over storage. Folsom operations were discussed and that higher CVP exports will be possible with increased summer releases from the reservoir.

Current Delta conditions were explained along with projected summer export rates. Friant releases to the Mendota Pool were reported to be ending in early July with increased CVP exports.

Current and near-term San Luis storage was reported which included an estimate of the amount 2022 Project available in storage.

9. Committee Member Reports.

None.

10. Agenda Item 11: Closed Session

Ex Officio Member William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 10:26 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:00 a.m., Executive Director Federico Barajas 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 11:02 a.m.