

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

AUGUST 1, 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 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

Absent

Division 3

Chris White, Member

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member - Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Member - Manny Amorelli, Alternate (via ZOOM, address listed on agenda)

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

Tom Birmingham, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director (via ZOOM)

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Raymond Tarka, Director of Finance
Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director
Jaime McNeill, Engineering Manager
Seth Harris, Water Operations Superintendent
Chauncey Lee, O&M Manager
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District (via ZOOM)
Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District (via ZOOM)
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water (via ZOOM)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

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 July 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Chair Tom Birmingham pronounced the July 11, 2022 meeting minutes approved without correction.

5. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Adopt Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract, Execution of Construction Agreement for

O'Neill Pumping Generating Plant Power Transformer Rehabilitations, and Expenditure of up to \$3.56 Million from the FY22 and FY23 EO&M Budgets; CEQA Exemption.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave described the item, and then introduced Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil.

McNeil reported that a 2019 condition assessment and value engineering study determined that the transformers are near the end of their useful life and are recommended for rehabilitation. McNeil reported that a hot oil reconditioning was completed in FY21 to ensure the transformers remained eligible for rehabilitation, and it was successful in prolonging the life of the transformers and provided time to properly design, solicit for, and complete the rehabilitation. McNeil reported that it is unknown how much time the transformer life was extended as a result of the hot oil reconditioning.

McNeil reported that on March 28, 2022 the Authority formally solicited proposals to provide all labor, equipment and services for the rehabilitation of four (4) single phase power transformers at the O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant. McNeil reported that the proposed resolution would authorize award of contract to NASS and authorize execution of a construction services agreement with NASS on substantially the terms discussed with the Board, as well as such actions as may be required or authorized to effectuate that agreement. McNeil reported that authorizing execution of this Construction Agreement is for the rehabilitation of an existing facility and will not result in a direct change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change to the environment and will therefore be exempt from the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(a)(b) and(d).

Water Operations Superintendent Seth Harris provided a brief overview of the operations plan, which was also reviewed by the Bureau.

Throughout their presentations, staff answered questions posted by Committee and Board members.

Ex Officio Member William Bourdeau made the motion to recommend the Board of Directors adopt Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract, Execution of Construction Agreement for O'Neill Pumping Generating Plant Power Transformer Rehabilitations, and Expenditure of up to \$3.56 Million from the FY22 and FY23 EO&M Budgets; CEQA Exemption. The motion was seconded by Ex Officio Member Cannon Michael. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES:	Michael, Bourdeau, Hansen, White, Gin, Birmingham
NOES:	None

ABSTENTIONS: None

6. **Executive Director's Report.**

A. **Cost Allocation Discussion Update** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that he has been working with the Finance & Administration Committee (FAC) on the Activity Cost Allocation process. Barajas reported that he presented a scenario with some refinements last month, and anticipates presenting a second scenario later today to the FAC. Barajas reported that he plans on providing an update, and presenting the same options to the Water Resources Committee next month.

B. **DMC Subsidence Correction Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the planning efforts on this project continue to move forward. Barajas reported that beginning August 10, there will be a Design, Estimating and Construction (DEC) review taking place.

C. **American River Contractors** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that a tour of key CVP South of Delta facilities will be provided to representatives of American River contractors tomorrow, August 2.

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 on July 18, the SWRCB issued a Notice of Preparation and CEQA Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Regulation to implement Lower San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives. Petersen reported that the CEQA scoping meeting will be on Wednesday, August 10, starting at 10 am and the public can attend in person at the CalEPA building in Sacramento or remotely via Zoom. Petersen reported that for oral remarks, August 5 is the deadline to register remotely, alternatively written comments can be filed until noon on August 19, 2022. Petersen reported that Authority staff will coordinate with member agencies on potential comments.

Petersen reported that on July 22, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), released a notice that it is seeking public review and comments on revised draft initial biological goals for fall-run Chinook salmon in the lower San Joaquin River and its three salmon-bearing tributaries, as amended on December 12, 2018. Petersen reported that SWRCB staff plans to hold a technical workshop to receive input and recommendations on possible revisions and improvements to the revised draft initial biological goals from members, or potential members, of the STM

Working Group and the public. Petersen reported that the remote workshop is scheduled to be held on August 4, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, and will include in person and remote participation options. Petersen reported that Authority staff is currently reviewing the documents and will coordinate with member agencies on comments. Written comments are due by noon on Thursday, August 11.

Petersen reported that on July 27, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Draft Environment Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project. Petersen reported that the Draft EIR was prepared by DWR as the lead agency to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act by evaluating a range of alternatives to the proposed project and disclosing potential environmental effects of the proposed project and alternatives, and associated mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts. Petersen reported that no decisions will be made on whether to approve the project until the conclusion of the environmental review process, after consideration of public comments submitted on the Draft EIR and issuances of a Final EIR. Petersen reported that DWR will hold virtual public hearings in September. Petersen reported that Authority staff will be reviewing the draft environmental document and will coordinate with member agencies on potential comments.

8. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts.

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported on current storage in Shasta Reservoir, Reclamation's updated projection of carry over storage, and the reservoir release schedule for August. Folsom storage conditions were described which included a recent reduction in releases due to improving Delta water quality.

Current export operations were reported. Boardman also explained that Reclamation is confident that a 3-unit operation will be sustainable into September thanks to manageable Delta water quality and less stringent salinity requirements by mid-August as described in D-1641.

The current accounting balance for the Coordinated Operations Agreement was reported, which included a brief explanation of the pay back of CVP water released in 2021 from New Melones to help the SWP meet its share of Delta requirements.

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**

No 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 10:37 a.m.