

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

SEPTEMBER 12, 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

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate for Zach Maring

Division 2

Absent

Division 3

Chris White, Member - Ric Ortega, Alternate

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Alternate for Vincent Gin

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Member - Manny Amorelli, Alternate (ZOOM)

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Division 2

None

Division 3

Chris White, Director
Cannon Michael, Director
Ric Ortega, Director

Division 4

Jeff Cattaneo, Director

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director (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
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others Present

Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District
Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District (ZOOM)
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
William Bourdeau, Westlands Water District (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 August 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Chair Tom Birmingham pronounced the August 1, 2022 meeting minutes approved without correction.

5. Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Authorize Execution of Agreement with Friant Water Authority for Joint Funding of Consultant Services Relating to Phase 3b of the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Project.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen briefly reviewed the documents that were included in the packet. Petersen reported that the Board directed staff to pursue additional federal contractor partners to assist in funding studies associated with the Authority's Science Program, and in particular, joint state-federal contractor funded work performed through the Collaborative Action Management Team (CAMT) and Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program

(CSAMP). Petersen reported that as staff worked with the state contractors to develop a coordinated cost share proposal for the advancement of the Phase 3b of the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Project, staff also approached Friant Water Authority and Contra Costa Water District to become cost share partners for the federal contractor share of the project. Petersen reported that the total project cost is \$424,722, with the federal contractor share being \$212,361, of which Contra Costa has executed a cost share agreement with the State Water Contractors for \$30,000, resulting in a remaining share of \$182,361. Petersen reported that staff discussions with Friant have resulted in the proposed cost share agreement with Friant for the project, which would have Friant match the Exchange Contractor rate of contribution of 18.89% to the Leg-Ops fund, resulting in a contribution by Friant to the Water Authority in the amount of \$34,448, which will reduce the Authority member agency costs by the same amount.

Alternate Member Jeff Cattaneo made the motion to recommend the Board of Directors authorize execution of agreement with Friant Water Authority for joint funding of consultant services relating to Phase 3b of the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Project. The motion was seconded by Ex Officio Member Cannon Michael. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES:	Michael, Hansen, White, Cattaneo, Birmingham
NOES:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

6. Discussion Regarding Science Program Cost Sharing.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that consistent with the recommendation that was just provided there have been some discussions with Friant Water Authority related to participation in the Authority Science Program. Petersen reported that Authority staff is looking for direction regarding programmatic, project-by-project, or study-by-study approach. After a brief discussion, the Committee members agreed that more information is needed before a position on direction can be made.

7. Discussion Regarding Cost Allocation of Various Activity/Fund Budgets.

Executive Director Federico Barajas presented the General Membership & Leg Ops Activity Agreement funds preliminary list of Activity Agreement budget options that were presented to the Finance & Administration Committee last month in order to bring the Water Resources Committee up to date. Barajas reviewed current dues, Hybrid 2A adjusted allocation, and Tier percentage for both General Membership and Leg Ops. Barajas requested comments by September 26.

8. **Executive Director's Report.**

A. **30th Anniversary** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that next month is the Authority's 30-year anniversary. Barajas reported that a social lunch will occur following the October 6 Board meeting, and there will be a Special Board Workshop October 12. Barajas reported detailed information will be provided soon.

B. **DMC Subsidence Correction Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Reclamation completed their Design, Estimating and Construction (DEC) review for this project. Reclamation is currently undergoing the drafting of their findings.

C. **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Authority staff continues to work with Activity Agreement members and Reclamation to complete the Addendum and work on principles of agreement.

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

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief summary of his report included in the packet. Petersen provided a brief update on the Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations alternatives. Petersen reported that the public draft EIS will provide an opportunity for comments.

Petersen reported that the State Water Resources Control Board 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 Authority staff will coordinate with member agencies on potential comments.

Petersen reported that the Delta Stewardship Council is proposing a regulatory amendment to implement the Council's Delta Levees Investment Strategy. Petersen reported that this amendment would assign a priority of very-high, high, or other to each island or tract located within the legal boundaries of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh. Petersen reported that the Council will accept public comments beginning on August 26, 2022, and concluding on October 13, 2022. Petersen reported that Authority staff is currently reviewing this and will coordinate with member agencies on any potential comments.

Petersen reported that the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley is seeking an executive director, and the application and job listings are being circulated to solicit applicants.

10. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts.

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported on storage conditions at Shasta with an explanation of how the reservoir is trending towards its end-of-water year storage. Folsom storage was discussed briefly which included a comparison to 2021 storage levels.

Current export operations were reported. Boardman also mentioned that the expected CVP export rate should be around 2-3 units through September and into October.

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

11. Committee Member Reports.

None.

12. Agenda Item 11: Closed Session

No closed session.

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

None.

14. Agenda Item 14: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:51 a.m.