

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

JANUARY 9, 2023

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Joint Water Resources Committee Regular Meeting and Special Board Workshop convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Ex Officio Member Cannon Michael presiding for the first part of the meeting until William Bourdeau was introduced as the new committee chair, and took over the meeting during agenda item 1.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Cannon Michael
William Bourdeau

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Absent

Division 3

Chris White, Member

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member (via ZOOM)

Division 5

Manny Amorelli, Alternate (via ZOOM)

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director
Lea Emmons, Alternate

Division 2

Justin Diener, Alternate
William Bourdeau, Director

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate
Cannon Michael, Director

Division 4

Absent

Division 5

Manny Amorelli, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director

Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel

Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel (via ZOOM)

Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director (via ZOOM)

Cindy Meyer, Special Programs Manager (via ZOOM)

Darlene Neves, Supervisor of Operational Accounting

Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Dan Nunes, SCADA Engineer

Others Present

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District (via ZOOM)

Dana Jacobson, Valley Water

Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District

Jarrett Martin, Central California Irrigation District (via ZOOM)

Bill Diedrich, (via ZOOM)

Kristi Robinson, Water Wise (via ZOOM)

Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District (via ZOOM)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ex Officio Member Cannon Michael announced that William Bourdeau will be taking over as Chair of the Water Resources Committee. Chair 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.

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd identified a correction to the box at the top of the agenda removing the word “telephonic.”

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the December 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Chair William Bourdeau deemed the December 5, 2022 meeting minutes approved with minor corrections on pages 3 and 4.

5. **Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board to Approve Fiscal Year 2024 Activity Budget.**

Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced the item. Barajas reviewed the Fiscal Year 2024 Activity Budget material included in the packet, which included some refinements since the last meeting. Barajas provided an overview of the changes in the General Membership, and Leg Ops. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd provide a brief overview of the proposed Legal budget. Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided additional detail regarding changes to the Science and Legislative Advocacy budgets.

Alternate Member Anthea Hansen made the motion to recommend the Board of Directors Approve Fiscal Year 2024 Activity Budget. The motion was seconded by Member Chris White. Ex Officio Member Cannon Michael thanked staff for all their effort. The Committee action is reported as follows:

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

6. **Discussion Regarding Cost Allocation of Various Activity/Fund Budgets.**

Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that based on direction from the Board of Directors, staff will use current allocation process for FY24 assessments and would delay this process and address it during the strategic planning process.

7. **Executive Director’s Report.**

A. **Transfers Coordination** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there is staff level coordination going on regarding the transfers program.

B. **O&M Budget** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported the OM&R Budget will be presented to the Finance & Administration Committee today with changes that resulted from the Budget Workshop.

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

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief summary of his report included in the packet. Petersen provided an update on Reinitiation of Consultation reporting that Reclamation

released an Initial Alternatives Report (IAR), which Authority staff is reviewing and coordinating with member agencies for potential engagement with Reclamation regarding the alternatives presented in the report. Petersen reported that Reclamation is not anticipating accepting formal comments on the IAR, but instead will be accepting comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement, which is anticipated to be released in January.

Petersen reported that Longfin smelt are currently listed as a threatened species under California's Endangered Species Act, which prohibits unpermitted possession, purchase, sale or take of listed species. Petersen reported that the state's definition of take does not include harm, which under the federal ESA can include destruction of habitat. Petersen reported that the Authority joined a letter with the State Water Contractors pointing out deficiencies in the science used to support the proposed listing of the longfin smelt distinct population segment as endangered.

Petersen reported that on Tuesday, December 20, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Delta Conveyance Project for public review. Petersen reported that the comment period for the review extends until February 14, 2023.

Petersen reported that the CAP Plenary Group met on November 22 and approved a revised Term Sheet, which will allow for the CAP to advance to Phase II. Petersen reported that the CAP Steering Committee is meeting to discuss next steps on how to advance the program, including potential budgets and work product.

9. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts.

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported on Shasta storage, recent inflow rates, and current snowpack conditions. Folsom storage was discussed which included operations to reduce storage for flood control. Recent inflow rates were noted along with a status report on snowpack conditions.

Delta conditions were discussed including current export pumping rates. Boardman explained how high San Joaquin flows into the Delta were helping to reduce the amount of export reductions due to the triggering of a 2019 BiOp action.

Current and near-term San Luis storage levels were reported followed by refill projections under dry and median conditions.

10. Committee Member Reports.

None.

11. Agenda Item 12-14: Closed Session

Committee Chair William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 10:47 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:03 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

12. Agenda Item 15: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2

None.

13. Agenda Item 16: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:04 a.m.