

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

FEBRAURY 6, 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 Chair William Bourdeau presiding.

Water Resources Committee Members Present

Ex-Officio

Cannon Michael
William Bourdeau

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Alternate

Division 2

Bill Diedrich, Member

Division 3

Chris White, Member (arrived during item 6)

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member - Steve Wittry, Alternate

Division 5

Absent

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director

Division 2

Justin Diener, Alternate
William Bourdeau, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3

Chris White, Alternate (arrived during item 6)
Jarrett Martin, Director
Cannon Michael, Director

Division 4

Steve Wittry, Director
Joyce Machado, Alternate

Division 5

Absent

Authority Representatives Present

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

Others Present

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District (via ZOOM)
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
Scott Hamilton
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District (via ZOOM)
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District
Lea Emmons, City of Tracy (via ZOOM)
Manny Amorelli, James Irrigation District (via ZOOM)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

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.

No additions or corrections.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Water Resources Committee to Consider Approval of the January 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Chair William Bourdeau deemed the January 9, 2023 meeting minutes approved with minor corrections on pages 3 and 4.

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

- a. H.R. 186 (McClintock), Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act –Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that H.R. 186 would establish Reclamation as the lead agency for permit processing for water storage projects on federal lands

owned by the Departments of Interior or Agriculture.

- b. **A.B. 30 (Ward), Atmospheric Rivers Research Mitigation, and Climate Forecasting Program** – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that this bill would improve atmospheric river research and the improved forecasting enabled by that research has the potential to improve reservoir operations and flood protection.
- c. **A.B. 62 (Mathis), Statewide Water Storage Expansion**- Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the bill, if enacted, would establish a statewide goal to increase water storage capacity by 3.7 million acre-feet by 2030 and 4 million acre-feet by 2040.

Member Bill Diedrich made the motion to recommend the Board of Directors adopt staff recommendation for positions on legislation. The motion was seconded by Member Vince Gin. The Committee action is reported as follows:

AYES: Michael, Bourdeau, Hansen, Diedrich, Gin
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

6. **Executive Director’s Report.**

- a. **DMC Subsidence Coordination Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Water Authority and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are planning to issue an EA/IS for the Project next week. Barajas reported that the feasibility process is still underway.
- b. **Strategic Plan Process** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there is a placeholder in the FY 2024 Budget to update the Authority’s Strategic Plan. Barajas reported the he is initiating dialog with the consultant that the Authority worked with to develop existing Strategic plan, and is hoping to have the first workshop late March or early April.
- c. **Environmental Friendly Water Diversion Pilot Project Update** – Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced Scott Hamilton. Hamilton provided a brief presentation regarding his work with South Valley Water Resources Authority and the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint regarding an **Environmental Friendly Water Diversion Pilot Project in the Delta**. Hamilton had an opportunity to dialogue and answer committee member questions on the pilot project proposal.

- d. **Special Board Workshop** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there is a Special Board Workshop scheduled Thursday after the Board meeting at Grassland Water District.
- e. **Ag Leadership Program** – Executive Director Federico Barajas congratulated Water Policy Director Scott Petersen for his graduation from the California Agricultural Leadership Program.

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

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief summary of the report included in the packet. Petersen provided an update on the Reinitiation of Consultation process. Petersen reported that Reclamation released an Initial Alternatives Report, 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 that will be shared publicly.

Petersen provided an update on the State Water Resources Control Board's Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan update. Petersen reported that a draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement is out for comment, and comments are due February 8, 2023.

Petersen reported that the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint will host a workshop regarding SGMA February 15, 2023.

Petersen provide a brief update on the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (CAP). 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 Plenary Group approved the development of working groups to advance the Phase 2 Priorities and the CAP Steering Committee is meeting to discuss next steps on how to advance the program, including potential budgets and work product.

8. **Update on Water Operations and Forecasts.**

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported on Shasta storage and noted the current inflow rate and status of accumulated snowpack. Folsom storage conditions were also reported including snowpack conditions.

Delta conditions were discussed including current export pumping rates. Boardman

explained that, due to dry conditions, export reductions are expected because of controlling OMR limits and outflow requirements. Boardman briefly explained how the high outflow requirement for February is determined per D-1641.

Current and near-term San Luis storage levels were discussed followed by refill projections under dry and median conditions. A brief discussion of possible allocations also occurred.

Responding to questions from various Directors and Authority staff, Boardman discussed the possibility of triggering a Shasta Critical year, use of Folsom to meet outflow requirements and help maintain exports, and near-term export operations.

9. Committee Member Reports.

None.

10. Agenda Item 10-12: Closed Session

Committee Chair William Bourdeau adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:17 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:38 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that there no reportable actions were 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 11:39 a.m.