

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

APRIL 3, 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 (arrived during item 5)

Division 3

Chris White, Member

Division 4

Vincent Gin, Member - Steve Wittry, Alternate

Division 5

Manny Amorelli, Member

Board of Directors Present

Division 1

Anthea Hansen, Director
Lea Emmons, Alternate

Division 2

Justin Diener, Alternate
William Bourdeau, Director
Bill Diedrich, Director (arrived during item 5)

Division 3

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

Division 4

Steve Wittry, Director

Joyce Machado, Alternate

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
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
Chase Hurley, Pacheco Water District
Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District

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 March 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

On a motion of Member Anthea Hansen, seconded by Ex Officio Cannon Michael, the Committee approved the March 6, 2023 meeting minutes. The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

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

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported and provided staff recommended positions for consideration on the following legislation:

- a. SB 366 (Caballero), The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets
- b. AB 422 (Alanis), Natural Resources Agency: statewide water storage: tracking
- c. AB 557 (Hart), Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences
- d. AB 735 (Berman), Workforce development: utility careers
- e. AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan), State Water Resources Control Board: interim relief
- f. AB 676 (Bennett), Water: general state policy
- g. AB 1337 (Wicks), State Water Resources Control Board: water shortage enforcement
- h. SB 389 (Allen), State Water Resources Control Board: determination of water right

Member Vincent Gin made the motion to recommend the Board of Directors adopt staff recommendation for positions on legislation (SB 366 - Support, AB 422, 735, 557 - Favor). The motion was seconded by Member Chris White. The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Member Bill Diedrich made the motion to recommend the Board of Directors adopt staff recommendation for positions on legislation (AB 460, 676, 1337, SB 389 - Oppose). The motion was seconded by Member Chris White. The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

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

Executive Director Federico Barajas informed the Water Resources Committee that there will be a ratesetting and minimum participation discussion and presentation at today's Finance &

Administration Committee meeting, and an action item regarding water rate adjustment. Barajas answered a question regarding final water allocation, and reported that the final water allocation by Reclamation should be out by May.

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

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen provided a brief summary of the report included in the packet.

- a. **Reinitiation of Consultation** - Petersen reported that the schedule and milestones for the Reinitiation of Consultation continue to change. Petersen reported that concurrent with the development of the EIS and BA, Reclamation is conducting Exploratory Modeling to assist in the development of the Proposed Action and Biological Assessment.
- b. **Longfin Smelt Listing** - 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 and requested a public hearing on the listing status. Petersen reported that in response to this letter, on February 25, the Service reopened the public comment period through March 29, 2023, and hosted a virtual hearing where Authority staff provided comments consistent with the Authority's comment letter.
- c. **San Joaquin River Restoration Program** - Petersen reported that the 2023 Restoration Program Science and Engineering Meeting will be held on May 1-2. Petersen reported that the meeting is open to the public and topics will include: Key Projects, Basin Hydrology and Restoration Flows, Fish Passage and Screening, Salmon Genetics, Subsidence, Fisheries Monitoring, and more.
- d. **San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program** - Petersen reported that on April 4, 2023 there is a tour scheduled of various projects on the west side of the valley.

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

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported on Shasta storage and noted the amount of precipitation the watershed received during the previous week. The storage report also included the amount of remaining storage space before flood releases occur along with the amount of snowpack in the watershed. Folsom storage was mentioned along with the amount of

accumulated snowpack.

Current export pumping rates were reported which are reflective of San Luis Reservoir being nearly full.

Flood flow operations into the Mendota Pool were also briefly described.

Boardman responded to a question asked by Member Diedrich regarding the projected date when CVP San Luis Reservoir would begin a sustained drawdown

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that he is working with the Bureau on real-time updates.

9. Committee Member Reports.

Committee Chair William Bourdeau reported that he had the opportunity to testify before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries. His testimony included issues of improving water resilience and the role of above and below ground water storage and conveyance in improving outcomes for Authority member agencies.

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 10:40 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 10:54 a.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that 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 10:55 a.m.