



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members/Alternates and Board Members/Alternates

FROM: Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: December 6, 2021

RE: Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors regarding Adoption of Staff-Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Objectives

Background

In December 2020, the Authority Board adopted Legislative and Policy Objectives to guide its state and federal legislative advocacy and outreach program in Fiscal Year 2022 (March 2021 – February 2022). This memorandum proposes objectives to guide Fiscal Year 2023.

Staff anticipates that there will be significant policy activity in the next calendar year, specifically around 2022 water operations, revisions to the 2019 Biological Opinions, the listing status of longfin smelt, activity on the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Job Creation Act, and state legislative activity on common interest areas. The midterm elections will undoubtedly influence the policy arena during the coming year.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Objectives

Proposed Core Objective – To restore Central Valley Project water supplies to levels that meet reasonable demands within member agency boundaries and improve the reliability of those water supplies through the development and advocacy of sound water resource management and environmental policy.

Proposed Objective #2 – Restore Central Valley Project Water Supply for Member Agencies

Summary of Needs

South-of-Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) water supply reliability from the CVP has decreased over time due to a broad number of factors.

Authority's Approach

Seek administrative, legislative, legal, and regulatory solutions to restore CVP water supplies to meet demands within member agency boundaries and improve the reliability of contracted water supplies to south-of-Delta CVP contractors.

Proposed Objective #3 – Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies

Summary of Needs

Aging infrastructure, combined with increased demands on CVP facilities and other environmental factors, and subsidence, have resulted in decreased water delivery reliability to south-of-Delta CVP contractors.

Authority's Approach

Support water infrastructure authorization and appropriations legislation and engage in administrative and legal processes that will enable Authority to operate facilities at optimal levels in the most cost effective, efficient manner. Specifically pursue state and federal legislation that would authorize funding to advance key projects, including:

- Restoration of Conveyance Capacity of Delta-Mendota Canal
- Expansion of San Luis Reservoir
- San Luis Transmission Project

Proposed Objective #4 - Improve Outreach and Education

Summary of Needs

The Authority and its member agencies make positive and responsible investments in environmental stewardship and increasing the scientific body of knowledge that are unknown to legislators, regulatory agencies and the public.

Authority's Approach

Tell targeted local, state, and federal policymakers, and the public generally, the story of Authority and member agencies' positive and responsible investments in environmental stewardship and advancement of scientific knowledge. Adopt and implement annual Communications Plan to advance Goal 6 of the Authority Strategic Plan: Effective Communication and Engagement with Key Parties. Key priorities this year will include establishing relationships with new federal and state policymakers, further developing relationships with existing federal and state policymakers, and coalition building between the Authority, its member agencies, and local, state and national organizations with common interests.

Issue for Decision

Whether to recommend to the Board of Directors to adopt the staff recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Objectives.