

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BAY-DELTA

June 28, 2011

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 11:29 a.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Gray, Directors Brick, Camacho, De Jesus, Hawkins, and Steiner.

Members absent: Directors Fleming and K. Murray.

Other Board Members present: Board Chairman Foley, Directors Ackerman, Ballin, Barbre, Bowersox, Brown, Edwards, Evans, Friedman, Griset, Grunfeld, Heidel, Lewinger, Little, Morris, Record, Wright, and Wunderlich.

Staff present: Arakawa, Bennion, Burman, Fullerton, J. Green, Hom, G. Johnson, Kightlinger, T. Lee, Man, Neal, Neudeck, Patterson, Philp, Riss, R. Ryan, Scully, Upadhyay, Waade, and R. Winn.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

None

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BAY-DELTA HELD MAY 24, 2011

Approved

Moved: Hawkins

Seconded: Camacho

3. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was provided by the Chair.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Delta Stewardship Council – Update on Draft Plan and Schedule

Mr. Stephen Arakawa, Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives, provided an update on the activities of the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) and the preparation of the Draft Delta Plan including the associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR). He summarized the Delta Plan components and key agencies with Delta-related authorities. Mr. Arakawa reviewed the staff concerns regarding Metropolitan interests within the fourth Draft Delta Plan and discussed the schedule for release of the final Delta Plan and EIR.

Mr. Arakawa addressed Committee questions and concerns, including what is covered under the EIR, when it will be completed, and alternative proposals from other stakeholder interests. The discussion also included information about the Council's focus group meetings.

b. Bay Delta Conservation Plan – New Developments

Mr. Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager, provided background on and introduced the newest staff member with Bay-Delta Initiatives, Special Projects Manager Brenda Burman.

He discussed the realignment of consulting services related to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the associated EIR/Environmental Impact Statement. He described the public outreach process, provided insight about the finance plan for the new conveyance system, and summarized the timeline for completion.

There was discussion by the Committee about the proposed water bond on the 2012 election ballot. Staff explained the details about the current structure of the proposed bond.

c. New Science Developments – Background of Proposed Fall Salinity Requirement and Technical Developments

Mr. Dave Fullerton, Principal Resource Specialist, Bay-Delta Initiatives, described the proposed Fall X2 salinity requirements, its definition as a salinity measurement at a given point upstream of the Golden Gate Bridge, its potential regulatory implications on State Water Project and Central Valley Project water supply operations because of Delta outflow requirements, and its relationship to fisheries. He discussed technical challenges confronting the original X2 hypothesis, and noted that alternative scientific theories are in the process of being published in scientific journals.

General Manager Jeff Kightlinger further discussed Metropolitan's views regarding the proposed Fall X2 salinity requirements and its proposed implementation by federal regulatory agencies.

- d.** Bay-Delta Manager's Report
No report was provided.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Glen Peterson
Chair