

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

November 7, 2011

Chairman De Jesus called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Chairman De Jesus and Vice Chairman Wright, Directors Brick, Brown, Dick, Edwards, Gray, Griset, Lewinger, Morris, Peterson, Record, and Steiner.

Members absent: Directors Ackerman, Fleming, Lowenthal, K. Murray, and Quinonez.

Other Board Members present: Board Chairman Foley, Directors Ballin, Barbre, Blake, Camacho, Evans, Friedman, Heidel, Grandsen, Grunfeld, Little, and J. Murray.

Staff present: Bennion, Blair, Breaux, Burman, Cole, Donhoff, Edwards, Goshi, Green, Hasencamp, Hirsch, Kightlinger, Kunysz, Man, Mokhtari, Morel, Muir, Patterson, Philp, Polyzos, Riss, Roberts, Scully, Sencion, Stites, Sumi, Upadhyay, Velasco, von Haam, Waade, E. Wong, B. Yamasaki, and Zinke.

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 MEETING OF THE WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE HELD OCTOBER 10, 2011

Approved

Moved: Wright Seconded: Steiner

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-1 Subject: Report on Local Resources Development Strategy Task Force

Presented by: Tim Blair, Program Manager, Water Use Efficiency

Mr. Blair reported on the progress of the Local Resources Development Strategy (LRDS) Task Force. He explained each of the various approaches that have been identified in the process.

Staff responded to comments concerning member agencies' response to the cost recovery approach, Metropolitan's Board authority to proceed with Local Resources Program agreements, and maintaining flexibility within our programs. Additional comments included the Board's involvement in evaluating programs and adopting policy principles before discussing various options in this type of program.

Director Lewinger requested that any proposal include an analysis of any legal implications on the options, including Proposition 26, and whether any amendment to the Metropolitan Act would be necessary to support the proposal.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Water Transfer Transactions

Mr. Upadhyay provided brief background history and introduced Steve Hirsch, Program Manager, Water Transfer and Exchange Issues.

He reported on the water transfers and exchanges occurring between 2008-2010 by water agencies throughout the State of California in response to the recent drought.

Chairman Foley commended staff for their efforts in the development of the detailed report related to water transfers. Director Brick also underscored the Chairman's comments.

b. Status of In-Region Groundwater

Kathleen Kunysz, Program Manager, Groundwater Storage Issues, provided an update on Metropolitan's service area groundwater storage water levels. Staff and member agencies collaborated on an analysis of the status of groundwater basins. A report of the various basins in Metropolitan's service area was provided.

c. Oral report on interim agricultural water

Brent Yamasaki, Unit Manager, Water System Operations Group, provided an update on the Interim Agriculture Water Program that included an update on recent actions to reduce program deliveries, phasing out programs, and agricultural water use efficiency incentives.

Director Record noted his appreciation of staff's report and work towards finding a mutually beneficial program for Metropolitan and the agriculture community.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Bay-Delta Matters

Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager/ Strategic Water Initiatives, reported on the Delta Stewardship Council's release of the draft Environmental Impact Report, a memorandum of agreement for the procedures to completing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and a recent tour of the Yolo Bypass.

b. Colorado River Matters

Bill Hasencamp, Program Manager, Colorado River Matters, provided a brief update on Lake Mead water level increases and Colorado River forecasts.

c. Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Mr. Upadhyay reviewed that the action item on the replenishment is an amended action and staff would provide a clean version of the policy principles.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on December 12, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

David De Jesus
Chair