

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BAY-DELTA

December 13, 2011

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Gray, Directors Brick and Steiner.

Members absent: Directors Camacho, De Jesus, Fleming, Hawkins, and K. Murray.

Other Board Members present: Board Chairman Foley, Directors Griset, Heidel, Lewinger, and Record.

Staff present: Arakawa, Bennion, Breaux, Burman, Fullerton, Hom, Kightlinger, Man, Muir, Neudeck, Patterson, Philp, Riss, Roberts, R. Ryan, Scully, R. Winn, Wolfe, 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 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BAY-DELTA HELD SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

The committee did not have a quorum and no motion was made.

3. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Committee Chair Peterson reported on a meeting that was held the previous week. Committee Chair and Directors Griset and Record met with supervisors and county agriculture commissioners from five Delta counties for what was a very fruitful outreach meeting. He named some of the attendees, noted how important it was to hear their message about agriculture, and mentioned plans to invite them to Southern California to tour our facilities.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Overview of Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report

Ms. Brenda Burman, Special Projects Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives, provided background on the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Plan that have been drafted. She provided information about six public hearings to be held statewide and discussed who would be affected by the Delta Plan and the associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR). She summarized the key concerns that Metropolitan and other agencies have about the draft Delta Plan, noted the draft EIR alternatives, explained how the EIR will be reviewed, and described the next steps.

There was a question from the Committee about State Water Resources Control Board flow requirements regarding current and future diversions, and staff responded regarding how the draft Delta Plan addresses that issue. The Delta Plan "covered action" workshop that occurred the previous week was also reported on as requested by Committee Vice Chair Gray.

b. New Science Developments — The Ammonium-Phosphate Connection

Mr. Dave Fullerton, Principal Resource Specialist, Bay-Delta Initiatives, reported on a recently published scientific paper regarding the effects of nutrient imbalances on the food web in the Delta. The paper was coauthored by Dr. Pat Glibert, University of Maryland (main author) and four other authors, including Mr. Fullerton. He provided an overview of conclusions by pointing out Bay-Delta ecosystem changes from 1980 to 2011, and details about ecosystem theories which include water projects, 150 years of development/stressors, and nutrient shifts. Mr. Fullerton also noted the next steps that are being pursued.

The Committee asked about staff's expectation of all of the different interest groups agreeing on the right science in the future. Staff responded that field work and additional modeling are being done, and mentioned the need to get these concepts reviewed by other scientists and to the broader community. There was also a suggestion by the Committee Chair that this presentation be made to other water agencies.

Staff noted that some copies of the paper were available at this meeting for the Committee.

c. Cost comparison between local water management projects and improvements from Bay Delta Conservation Plan implementation

Mr. Arakawa, Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives, stated that this presentation is being made in response to a question that was raised at the last Committee meeting. He explained Metropolitan's Integrated Resource Plan supply strategy to improve water reliability and water quality in our service area. He provided a cost estimate for Delta improvements. He provided a breakdown which included a cost per acre-foot for conveyance, existing average State Water Project (SWP) supply cost, and estimated cost per household for Delta Conveyance improvements for Metropolitan's service area. Mr. Arakawa also compared the cost per capita with some other major supply improvement projects within the state.

Mr. Arakawa answered questions regarding SWP supply costs. There was also discussion about the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) getting incorporated into the Delta Plan.

d. Bay Delta Conservation Plan – status update

Mr. Arakawa, Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives, reported on how the BDCP work that is being completed in a manner that is consistent with the schedule that has been outlined. Second, he noted that state and federal agencies are working together to provide monthly public meetings to help the public and other interest groups understand more about the BDCP, and that documents are being posted on the BDCP website. Mr. Arakawa also described the BDCP Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) review process.

e. Bay-Delta Manager's Report

Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager, Strategic Water Initiatives, reported that the state and federal agencies plan to end the commenting period on the MOA today. Draft products of the Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS) are posted on the BDCP website. He noted that the administrative draft EIR/EIS is due to be released the first quarter of 2012.

The Committee requested that the dates for the Delta Plan public hearings on the draft EIR/EIS that were mentioned in Item 4a be provided. They also discussed the desire for the BDCP be a core component of the Delta Plan and not a subsequent add on.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Glen Peterson
Chair