

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BAY-DELTA**

**February 28, 2012**

Vice Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Chair Peterson (via teleconference), Vice Chair Gray, Directors Brick, Griset, Hawkins, Morris, Steiner, and Wright.

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

Other Board Members present: Board Chairman Foley, Directors Blake, Brown, Edwards, Evans, Grandsen, Little, Millard, and Wilson.

Staff present: Arakawa, Bennion, Breaux, Burman, L. Carrillo, J. Green, Hom, Ivey, Kightlinger, Man, Y. Martinez, Neudeck, Patterson, Philp, Riss, R. Ryan, Schlotterbeck, Scully, Sheehan, Skillman, Sotoodeh, Upadhyay, 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 SEPTEMBER 27, DECEMBER 13, 2011 AND JANUARY 24, 2012**

Approved

Moved: Steiner

Seconded: Morris

**3. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT**

No report was provided by the Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

#### **4. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

##### **a. Update on Bay Delta Conservation Plan**

Mr. Steve Arakawa, Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives, announced that an Administrative Draft of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and associated Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS) is expected to be released by Wednesday, February 29, 2012. It provides an opportunity for stakeholders, interest groups, and the public to view and understand elements of the BDCP and the environmental impact analysis. He discussed the status of the effects analysis conducted for the BDCP and reviewed the schedule for upcoming public meetings. He also directed the Committee's attention to the BDCP Executive Summary brochure that was provided as part of the Committee handout packet which describes the BDCP alternatives that are being analyzed in the EIR/EIS.

##### **b. Report on State Water Resources Control Board Process for Reviewing Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan**

Mr. Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager, Strategic Water Initiatives, introduced Ms. Becky Sheehan, Senior Deputy General Counsel.

Ms. Sheehan provided background on the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) noting that it has a dual role of administering California water rights and protecting water quality. She updated the Committee on the status of the State Water Board's update of the Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the Bay-Delta. She provided background information, discussed Metropolitan staff comments, described coordinated efforts with other agencies, and reviewed the State Water Board's process timeline.

The Committee asked if there is a mechanism that allows the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) Delta Plan to be modified consistent with some of the other planning efforts in the Bay-Delta as they are completed. Staff indicated that the Council has a requirement to update their plan at least every five years, and that it can be updated more frequently as necessary. In that regard, after the BDCP and the State Water Board WQCP for the Bay-Delta are completed, the Delta Plan would be expected to be updated in order to incorporate those outcomes.

##### **c. Biennial 2012/13 and 2013/14 Bay-Delta Initiatives Budget**

Mr. Arakawa drew the Committee's attention to an organizational chart that describes the Bay-Delta Initiatives staffing and its place within the Office of the General Manager. He explained its basic mission and core business as described within the board-approved General Manager's Business Plan. Mr. Arakawa listed some key objectives, described the budget comparison between the current fiscal year and the proposed budget for the next two fiscal years, and summarized targeted outcomes.

The Committee raised a question of whether the revenues generated by the Delta surcharge component of the Metropolitan rates have been used to cover the cost for Metropolitan's staffing, professional services, and science research. Staff responded by indicating that the

Delta surcharge component of the rates covered the cost of securing additional water supplies necessary to offset State Water Project supplies lost through the implementation of the biological opinions.

**d. Bay-Delta Manager's Report**

Mr. Patterson reported on the following: (1) the date, time, and agenda information for the next BDCP public meeting mentioned in item 4c; (2) Senator Pavley's committee has two hearings scheduled regarding the BDCP, the Delta Plan, and other plans regarding the Delta; and (3) the status of the BDCP funding agreements and estimated costs. He also directed the Committee's attention to the seven-page BDCP handout that was provided as part of the Committee handout package, noting that it was developed by the California Natural Resources Agency.

The Committee discussed the proposed water bond and the conveyance portion of the BDCP.

The Committee Vice Chair provided the dates of the next Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) meetings and mentioned the sixth staff draft of the Delta Plan will be reviewed in March by the DSC.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Gloria Gray  
Vice Chair