

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

April 9, 2012

Vice Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Vice Chair Brown, Directors Barbre, Blake, Camacho, De Jesus, Grunfeld, Little, Millard, Montalvo, Morris, Peterson, Record, Sanchez, Steiner, and Wright.

Members absent: Chair Evans; and Directors Lowenthal, Montalvo, and Sanchez.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Brick, Edwards, Griset, Heidel, Lewinger, and Wilson.

Staff present: Arita, Breaux, Boyd, L. Carillo, Coffey, J. Green, G. Johnson, Kightlinger, W. Lieu, Man, Mead, Morel, Motamedi, Parsons, Riss, B. Rogers, Scully, Shraibati, Tellers, and B. Yamasaki.

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

No members responded.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MARCH 12, 2012.

Approved

Motion: Director Blake

Seconded: Director Wright

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-1 Subject: Appropriate \$240,000; and authorize preliminary design to replace valves on the Second Lower Feeder and Palos Verdes Feeder (Approp. 15441)

Presented by: No presentation was requested.

Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination and
 a. Appropriate \$240,000; and
 b. Authorize preliminary design to replace the Bixby Valve on the Second Lower Feeder and the Collis Valve on the Palos Verdes Feeder

Motion Carried Moved: Director Morris Seconded: Director De Jesus

7-2 Subject: Appropriate \$120,000; and authorize (1) preliminary design to relocate a portion of the Orange County Feeder; and (2) an agreement with the city of Fullerton (Approp. 15441)

Presented by: No presentation was requested.

Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination and
 Adopt the CEQA determination and
 a. Appropriate \$120,000;
 b. Authorize preliminary design to relocate a portion of the Orange County Feeder; and
 c. Authorize an agreement with the city of Fullerton to perform the relocation.

Motion Carried Moved: Director Morris Seconded: Director De Jesus

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Uranium Mill Tailings Remediation near Moab, Utah
Presented by: Water System Operations Group Manager Jim Green

Water System Operations Group Manager Jim Green introduced Mr. Donald Metzler, Project Director for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project, United States Department of Energy, who provided an update via video conference. Mr. Metzler informed the Committee of the status and progress being made at the Moab, Utah site. Mr. Metzler thanked Metropolitan staff for their professionalism and technical support. He also indicated that more information can be obtained at the project website. The website address is: <http://www.gjem.energy.gov/moab/>. This website is interactive and up-to-date.

Director Record commended the report and asked Mr. Metzler if the funding for the remediation of the uranium mill tailings will continue, and if he had any suggestions on how to maintain the current funding. Chief Operating Officer Debra Man responded that Metropolitan staff will prepare a letter of support of the remediation efforts.

Director Peterson expressed his thanks for this report and also for the native landscaping along the river. He asked why the project was not started on the river side; he expressed concern of running out of money before the project is finished. Mr. Metzler responded that the project was not started on the river side because it would have created instability on the slope with the potential of mill tailings contacting the river.

Director Grunfeld asked if there was a concern for airborne contaminants and ground subsidence which could be caused by an earthquake. Mr. Metzler responded that both issues have been studied and addressed, and neither is of concern. He indicated that continuous air quality monitoring is performed to ensure public health.

- b. Subject: Capital Investment Plan Quarterly Report for the period ending
December 2011
Presented by: Engineering Services Group Unit Manager Tobin Tellers

Mr. Tellers provided an update on the ten largest capital projects within the Capital Investment Plan for the fiscal year 2011/2012.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Subject: Water System Operations Manager's report

Presented by: Water System Operations Group Manager Jim Green

Mr. Green provided an update on current operations. He stated that the State Water Project and Colorado River water blends at the treatment plants remain at 35-45 percent and the blends are expected to remain at this level for most of the year unless water supply conditions change. After a recent shutdown, the Colorado River Aqueduct was returned to service on March 24 and is currently at a 7-pump flow. The Rialto pipeline was taken out of service on April 3 and 4 to repair a small leak in the city of Claremont.

b. Subject: Engineering Services Manager's report

Presented by: Engineering Services Group Manager Gordon Johnson

Mr. Johnson gave a brief report on recent activities. He showed photos of a two-week shutdown on the Colorado River Aqueduct, which was completed on March 20, 2012. Director Peterson asked if the electrical switches being replaced are the original, and if the old transformers are being replaced. Mr. Johnson responded the switches are original, and regarding the transformers, there would be a future report on a planned pilot program to replace the old transformers with current technology.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on May 7, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Glenn Brown
Vice Chair