

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BAY-DELTA

March 27, 2012

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

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

Members absent: Directors Camacho, Griset, Fleming, Morris, and K. Murray.

Other Board Members present: Board Chairman Foley, Directors Ackerman, Barbre, Brown, Dick, Edwards, Evans, Heidel, Lewinger, Little, Millard, and Wilson.

Staff present: Arakawa, Bennion, Breaux, Burman, Cable, J. Green, Hom, Ivey, Kightlinger, Man, Neudeck, Patterson, Philp, Riss, Scully, Sheehan, Skillman, Upadhyay, R. Winn, E. Wong, 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 FEBRUARY 28, 2012

Approved

Moved: Steiner

Seconded: De Jesus

3. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was provided by the Committee Chair.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Update on Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Mr. Randall Neudeck, Special Projects Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives, provided an update on the current documents released under the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). He listed the ecosystem restoration and preservation targets in the Bay-Delta; pointed out the elements and benefits of the proposed new conveyance, highlighted the effects analysis and its importance; and discussed information about several species of fish in the Bay-Delta that are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the affects that the BDCP would have on them.

Staff addressed questions from the committee regarding the ecosystem preservation and restoration targets totals, future ESA listings, long-term assurances, baseline assumptions, and the required size of the new facility. A request was made for an item to be brought back to the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee or to this committee regarding an analysis of the amount of water needed from the State Water Project, and the associated sizing and cost of the proposed new conveyance facility.

b. Update on State Water Resources Control Board Process

Ms. Becky Sheehan, Senior Deputy General Counsel, updated the Committee on the status of the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board) Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) for the Bay-Delta. She reported that the State Board issued a California Environmental Quality Act scoping notice in January 2012, noting that written comments are due on April 25, 2012. Verbal presentations may be made on May 16, 2012 at the State Board meeting, and Metropolitan plans to participate in both. Ms. Sheehan mentioned that State Board staff expects to have technical reports on the WQCP released at the end of this hearing process.

c. Bay-Delta Initiatives Financial Report

Mr. Neudeck stated that this update will be presented quarterly at the request of the General Manager and the General Auditor. He noted the objectives of the finance and program controls, explained the organizational structure, and provided the findings of an internal audit report. Mr. Neudeck described the elements of the financial report for near-term and long-term programs, listing budgeted items and the actual expenditures under both categories.

The committee verified with staff that the financial numbers in this report are Metropolitan's numbers only, and staff addressed a question regarding the financing of the BDCP and how the cost would be managed if agencies do not sign the Supplemental Funding Agreement. Staff responded that if the two remaining agencies do not sign, the state would distribute the cost among the agencies that have signed.

d. Bay-Delta Manager's Report

Mr. Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager, Strategic Water Initiatives, reported on the Delta Stewardship Council, noting that they are still reviewing comments from the fifth draft of the Delta Plan and that the sixth draft Delta Plan may be released in late April or May 2012. He

also reported on the State Board's ongoing south Delta and lower San Joaquin River water quality proceedings, and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency notice of proposed rulemaking for the Bay-Delta.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. in memory of Raymond Arakawa, the father of Steve Arakawa, Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives.

Glen Peterson
Chair