

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**May 8, 2012**

Vice Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Vice Chair Peterson, Directors Abdo, Ballin, Barbre, Brick, Camacho, Friedman, Griset, Heidel, Lewinger, Lowenthal, Morris, and Record.

Members absent: Chair Ackerman, Directors Fleming, Gray, Montalvo, and K. Murray.

Other Board Members present: Directors Blake, Dick, Evans, Foley, Grandsen, Millard, J. Murray, Steiner, Wilson, and Wunderlich.

Staff present: Acuña, Arakawa, Bennion, Blair, Breaux, Burman, J. Carrillo, Cole, R. De Leon, Escuadro-Dailey, Green, Hiltcher (via video), Kightlinger, Lee, Man, Muir, Patterson, Philp, M. Stewart, Stites, Waade, E. Wong, T. 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 COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 10, 2012**

Approved

Moved: Morris

Seconded: Record

**3. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT**

None

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

**5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

- 8-9** Subject: Express support for AB 2443 (Williams, D-Santa Barbara) –  
Vessels: Registration Fee: Quagga and Zebra Mussels
- Presented by: Ric De Leon, Unit Manager V
- Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination and express support for AB 2443.
- Motion Carried: Moved: Record                      Seconded: Morris

**6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 9-2** Subject: Report on AB 2393 (Hueso, D-Chula Vista) – Water Recycling
- Presented by: Raymond Jay, Senior Resources Specialist
- This item was moved to be an action item.
- New Motion: Express support for AB 2398.
- Motion Carried: Moved: Heidel                      Seconded: Morris
- Abstain: Lewinger

**7. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: Report on activities from Washington, D.C.
- Presented by: Brad Hiltcher, Executive Legislative Representative
- Mr. Hiltcher reported on a number of federal updates and matters that included:

**Transportation Bill Update**

- Congress returned from a work week in their home districts and continued working on the Transportation Bill. There is a 90-day extension on the bill.

### **Farm Bill**

- The Senate Committee on Agriculture approved the Farm Bill reauthorization that will go to the Senate floor. All seven Colorado River Basin States, including California, rely on USDA funding for upstream watershed protection and on-farm conservation programs that reduce salinity and erosion into the Colorado River.

### **Appropriations**

The Energy and Water Development appropriations bill was passed. Key provisions of the legislation included:

- Department of Energy was funded \$27 billion;
- Army Corps of Engineers was funded \$5 billion;
- Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation was funded \$1 billion;
- Central Valley Project Restoration Fund was funded \$40 million;
- The Bay-Delta Restoration was funded \$36 million; and
- Report language provides for a six-month Interior Department study on ways to facilitate additional water supply deliveries to the Central Valley Project. The bill also instructs the Department of the Interior to create greater flexibility in expediting the transfers of water within the Central Valley Project system.

### **House Bill Introduced to Prohibit Implementation of Clean Water Act Guidance**

- Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) of the House Committee on Agriculture and Representative John Mica (R-FL), Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committees, jointly introduced H.R. 4965, legislation that would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing or implementing the Clean Water Act guidance.

### **Administration**

- The Bureau of Reclamation has identified \$32.2 million in WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, Title XVI Projects and Feasibility Studies to stretch water supplies and conserve energy throughout the western United States.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a new report: "*Principles for an Energy Water Future*" on the nexus between water and energy. A copy of this report is available on EPA's website.

**House Committee on Natural Resources Committee**

- Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) conducted a hearing in response to Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu's recent memorandum directing Power Marketing Administrations to integrate renewable energy portfolios into their operations among other provisions.

b. Subject: Report on activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Kathy Cole, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Cole reported on activities in Sacramento including:

Metropolitan's Legislative Priorities:

- AB 2595 (Hall, D-Los Angeles) – Directs the Ocean Protection Council to establish a task force of regulatory agencies, environmental organizations and potential project applicants to examine current seawater desalination permitting process and to make recommendations on how to improve that process.

Delta-Related Legislation:

- AB 2421 (Berryhill, R-Stockton) – Requires an independent cost-benefit analysis of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).
- AB 2422 (Berryhill, R-Stockton) – Requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to complete an expedited evaluation and feasibility study on the Western Delta Intake Concept.
- SB 1495 (Wolk, D-Davis) – Provides exemptions from “covered actions” under the Delta Reform Act of 2009. Senator Wolk agreed to amend her bill, prior to Assembly policy committee, to define “routine dredging activities.”

Other Legislation:

- SB 1386 (Lowenthal, D-Long Beach) – Amends the Municipal Water District Act to bar Central Basin Municipal Water District from managing, controlling or administering importation of water for storage or storing of groundwater.
- AB 1771 (Valadao, R-Hanford) – Allows any sized hydroelectric facility to be eligible as a renewable energy resource. This measure failed passage in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

State Budget:

- Governor Brown will release his new May Revise on Monday, May 14, to reflect updated revenue and expenditure projections for FY 2012/13.
- On Wednesday, May 9, the Senate and Assembly budget subcommittees will take action on pending staffing requests from the Department of Water Resources on implementation of the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Plan (DHCCP) and the Operations Criteria and Plan (OCAP) biological opinions, as well as the transfer of Colorado River Board to the Resources Agency.

Little Hoover Commission:

- The Governor has released his recent reorganization proposal, which includes moving the Delta Stewardship Council to an office within the Resources Agency. The Little Hoover Commission will make recommendations on the plan to the Governor and the Legislature.

c. Subject: Update on SB 1535 (Padilla, D-Pacoima) – California  
Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006

Presented by: Kathy Cole, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Cole provided an update on SB 1535:

- Senator Alex Padilla agreed to introduce SB 1535 to address Metropolitan's specific concerns under the cap-and-trade regulation. The bill is scheduled for a hearing on Monday, May 14, in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.
- SB 1535 is an urgency measure and, if it were to become law, would take effect immediately.
- The bill only applies to Metropolitan.

**8. MANAGEMENT REPORT**

None

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Barbre requested that SB 1251 (Evans, D-Santa Rosa) be brought to the committee in June.

Vice Chair Peterson reminded the committee to attend the Solar Cup event that will take place at Lake Skinner May 18–20.

Next meeting will be held on June 12, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Glen Peterson  
Vice Chair