

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BAY-DELTA

September 24, 2013

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Gray, Directors Ackerman, Griset, Morris, and Record.

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

Other Board Members present: Directors, Barbre, Brown, Dick, Edwards, Kurtz, Lewinger, J. Murray, Touhey, and Wunderlich.

Staff present: Arakawa, Bennion, Burman, Cable, Clairday, K. Cole, J. Green, Ivey, Kightlinger, T. Lee, Man, Patterson, Pellegrini, Philp, Riss, Schlotterbeck, Scully, O. Tucker, Upadhyay, Wang, Wheeler, R. Winn, and E. Wong.

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 MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BAY-DELTA HELD AUGUST 27, 2013

No motion was made, because the committee did not have a quorum.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Steve Arakawa

Mr. Arakawa highlighted the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) release date schedule, and referred to the committee handout, a letter from the Secretary for California Natural Resources to the Bureau of Reclamation. He also provided an update on committee agenda items for the coming months.

Staff addressed a question from the committee regarding Dr. Christopher Thornberg's (of Beacon Economics) upcoming October 2013 presentation to the committee.

- b. Subject: Status of near-term Bay-Delta activities

Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Special Projects Managers Brenda Burman and Randall Neudeck

Ms. Burman provided information about the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP). CSAMP is a collaborative effort among state/federal regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, and Delta export contractors to address the science needs that inform the Delta smelt and salmonid biological opinions. She discussed the background of CSAMP, its mission, policy group, working team members, and a timeline for completing its goals.

Mr. Neudeck presented an update on near-term habitat restoration by noting its purpose, how it relates to the existing biological opinions and the BDCP. He provided descriptions of various restoration projects and their locations within the Delta estuary. Mr. Neudeck also provided a status update on emergency response planning in the Delta, including information on existing levee conditions, updated seismic risk analyses, and the proposed emergency fresh water pathway.

Staff addressed comments from the committee related to constraints on aquatic life due to pollution, Delta economic analyses, restoration of export diversions after an earthquake, impacts/delays of a potential government shut down, cost-benefit analysis on reclaiming Delta islands after a levee failure, the draft island seepage study, and the deposit/accretion of soils on the Tule Red property.

c. Subject: Bay-Delta Manager's Report

Presented by: Assistant General Manager Roger Patterson

Mr. Patterson's report included the work that is being done on Delta near-term projects, the state and federal governments' upcoming announcement of a schedule for hearings regarding the BDCP, proposed realignment of the conveyance tunnels under Staten Island, and BDCP modeling of climate change.

Staff addressed questions from the committee about cost allocation and the Sacramento Bee article quoting Mr. Patterson on desalination.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A closed session cost allocation item.

Association of California Water Agencies Statewide Water Action Plan item, to be brought back to this committee or to the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Glen Peterson
Chair