

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

September 9, 2013

Chair De Jesus called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Chairman De Jesus and Vice Chairman Fleming, Directors Ackerman, Brown, Dick, Edwards, Gray, Griset, Morris, Peterson, Quiñonez, Record, Steiner, and Touhey.

Members absent: Directors Lewinger, Lowenthal, and K. Murray.

Other Board members present: Directors Barbre, Evans, Friedman, Grunfeld, Kurtz, Little, J. Murray, Pringle, and Sanchez.

Staff present: Arakawa, H. Beatty, Bennion, Bodnar, Breaux, G. Chan, Clairday, Coffey, Collins, Donhoff, Ghaly, Green, Harding, Kightlinger, McPhee, Macias, Man, Munguia, Nobriga, Parkins, Riss, Schlotterbeck, Scully, Skillman, Stites, Takeguchi, Upadhyay, Velasco, Webb-Cole, Westford, Wolfe, E. Wong, B. Yamasaki, and Zinke.

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

This agenda item was heard following agenda item 8-2.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE HELD AUGUST 19, 2013

Motion Carried Moved: Director Griset

Seconded: Director Morris

Votes: Unanimous

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

- 8-2** Subject: Authorize staff to enter into funding agreement for Foundational Actions Funding Program proposals
- Presented by: Robert L. Harding, Manager, System Analysis Unit
- Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action is categorically exempt and direct staff to enter into funding agreements for the recommended 16 proposals totaling \$3.3 million.
- Motion Carried: Moved: Director Record Seconded: Director Morris

Votes: 13 = Yes

Director Steiner did not vote, as she was not present at the time voting took place.

Mr. Harding's presentation discussed the 2013 Foundational Actions Funding Program and the proposals that are intended to further research and pilot studies in the four general resource categories of recycled water seawater desalination, stormwater, and groundwater. Mr. Harding also described the criteria used in the proposal review and selection.

Staff responded to comments regarding the potential of program expansion for new sources for water.

Chairman De Jesus announced that a member of the public, Ms. Debra Weinstein, Director of Policy, Tree People, would address the committee at this time due to her late arrival.

Ms. Weinstein spoke in support of the proposed rain barrel incentive program which is included in item 8-3.

- 8-3** Subject: Authorization to implement New Conservation Program Initiatives
- Presented by: Alice Webb-Cole, Sr. Resource Specialist, Regional Supply Unit
- Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA and authorize implementation of
- a. New conservation program initiatives effective October 1, 2013; and
 - b. New policy on providing Conservation Credits Program funding to projects conserving recycled water.
- Motion Carried: Moved: Director Morris Seconded: Director Dick
Director Steiner voted no

Votes: 13 = Yes; 1 = No

Ms. Webb-Cole gave a presentation on the New Conservation Program Initiatives that include new programs and devices that would qualify for incentives, new policy for commercial and multi-family high efficiency toilets, and administrative authority to enhance program flexibility.

Staff responded to comments regarding additional water savings opportunities in fitness centers, and other facilities such as the El Toro Marine Corp., and San Diego County Water Authority's customer eligibility in the proposed regional programs.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Report on Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Grace L. Chan, Manager, Resource Planning and Development Section, gave a report on process for the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan update including Metropolitan's participation in the update process.

Staff responded to comments surrounding mechanisms for reviewing effectiveness of actual programs and Metropolitan's role on the leadership committee.

b. Report on Cyclic Agreements

James D. Bodnar, Sr. Engineer, Imported Supply Unit, presented an information report on the status of Metropolitan's two cyclic storage agreement accounts. He provided background information, discussed proposed amendments to the agreements, and he explained the benefits of the agreements.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Subject: Bay Delta Matters

Presented by Steve N. Arakawa, Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Mr. Arakawa reported on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan status and Special Committee on Bay Delta activity.

b. Subject: Colorado River Matters

Presented by: Meena Westford, Special Projects Manager, External Affairs

Ms. Westford discussed United States Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Study and subsequent actions since the completion of the study. Ms. Westford discussed the background, conclusion, and next steps of the study.

Staff responded to comments regarding study analysis of salinity impacts in the Colorado River and opposition by Texas on Minute item 319.

c. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Presented by: Deven N. Upadhyay, Manager, Water Resource Management

Mr. Upadhyay noted that staff will be restarting the Water Surplus and Drought Management reporting in October – including a 2014 outlook of water supplies. State Water Contractors have started their transfer workgroups for 2014. He added that 2014 would likely start with a low water allocation.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on October 7, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

David De Jesus
Chair