

Director Gray requested that the Minutes of the January 27, 2015 meeting be amended to reflect that she did vote “aye” on Item 2, although her vote was not electronically recorded.

Director Griset entered the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Delta Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Special Projects Manager Randall Neudeck

Mr. Neudeck provided a detailed update on Metropolitan’s role in Delta emergency preparedness and response strategies, recent seismic research, levee improvements, emergency stockpile enhancements, and overall accomplishments during the last eight years.

Staff addressed questions from the committee regarding earthquake faults and associated risks.

- b. Subject: Update on efforts to manage turbidity for Delta smelt
Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Principal Resource Specialist Dave Fullerton
 Bay-Delta Initiatives Principal Engineer Paul Hutton

Mr. Fullerton provided information on the relationship between adult Delta smelt behavior and environmental conditions, and water costs and pumping constraints associated with the state and federal water project biological opinions.

Dr. Hutton discussed Metropolitan’s collaborative efforts working with various state and federal agencies to develop real-time modeling and forecasting tools to manage turbidity and reduce the take of Delta smelt at the project export pumps.

Mr. Fullerton provided examples of how these real-time forecasting tools are being used to enhance water supplies and reduce fish take at the export pumps.

Staff addressed several questions from the committee including water loss due to regulations during the drought, whether turbidity has changed since the Delta has been modified, impacts of regulations on the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, and the application of this science to other Delta species.

- c. Subject: Update on expenditures for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan
Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Steve Arakawa

Mr. Arakawa provided information at the request of the Board on Metropolitan's expenditures for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). He discussed Metropolitan's district-wide coordinated financial reporting system for Bay-Delta activities. He summarized the breakdown of Metropolitan's staff and consultant expenditures to date, and described Metropolitan's share of funding provided to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for planning costs related to the BDCP.

General Auditor Gerald Riss provided a report on the regular internal audits of Metropolitan's professional services agreements and financial controls related to Bay-Delta activities.

General Manager Jeff Kightlinger provided background information on Metropolitan's BDCP efforts.

Staff addressed questions from the committee regarding estimated planning costs, regular financial reporting, clarification on who is providing funding to the state, and the timeline for the Record of Decision.

- d. Subject: Bay-Delta Manager's Report
Presented by: Assistant General Manager Roger Patterson

Mr. Patterson reported on the Temporary Urgency Change Petition regarding permits of the DWR (State Water Project) and the US Bureau of Reclamation (Central Valley Project). He discussed the order by State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) Executive Director Tom Howard approving elements of the petition to adjust flow and water quality requirements that govern inflows and outflows in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and operation of the Delta Cross Channel Gates for the next two months. Mr. Patterson also reported that a State Board workshop on this topic was held on February 18, 2015.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The committee requested that staff provide more information on BDCP for outreach and communication purposes, and return with information on alternatives to BDCP if it is not implemented.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Gloria Gray
Director