

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

March 7, 2016

Chair De Jesus called the meeting to order at 11:13 a.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Committee Members present: Chairman De Jesus, Vice Chairman Atwater, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Camacho, Dick, Lewinger, Morris, Paskett, Peterson, Quiñonez, Steiner, Touhey, and Wunderlich.

Committee Member absent: Director Gray.

Other Directors present: Board Chairman Record, Directors Beard, Blois, Dake, Dear, Faessel, Friedman, Galleano, Lefevre, McKenny, Murray, Ramos, and Tu.

Staff present: Alonzo, Arakawa, Beatty, Blair, Breaux, L. Carrillo, Cole, Donhoff, Donovan, Ghaly, Goshi, J. Green, Harding, Hasencamp, Hughes, Kightlinger, Man, W. McDonnell, Munguia, Nevills, Nobriga, Parsons, Patterson, Philp, Pitman, Polyzos, Safely, Schaffer, Schlotterbeck, Sims, Steely, Stites, Upadhyay, Vanderhorst, Velasco, Westford, Yamasaki, and Zinke.

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

Committee Chair De Jesus acknowledged a member of the public at the meeting and deferred the speaker's comments to agenda item 9-1.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2016**

Motion: Carried

Moved: Director Touhey Seconded: Director Morris

Ayes: Directors Atwater, Abdo, Ackerman, Camacho, De Jesus, Dick, Lewinger, Morris, Paskett, Peterson, Quinonez, Touhey, and Wunderlich.

Not voting: Director Steiner

Noes: None

Absent: Director Gray

The motion passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 1 not voting, and 1 absent.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-3 Subject: Approve revised final terms for the Bard Water District land management and seasonal fallowing pilot program.

Presented by: None

Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously determined to be categorically exempt and not subject to CEQA, and that no further environmental analysis or documentation is required, and authorize the revised final terms for the pilot program agreement with Bard Water District and the land management and seasonal fallowing agreements with farmers of farmland in the Bard Unit.

Moved: Director Morris Seconded: Director Touhey

Ayes: Directors Atwater, Abdo, Ackerman, Camacho, De Jesus, Dick, Lewinger, Morris, Paskett, Peterson, Quinonez, Steiner, Touhey, and Wunderlich.

Noes: None

Absent: Director Gray

The motion passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, and 1 absent.

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair DeJesus announced that a member of the public would be addressing the committee, and he introduced Mr. Craig Elmore, River Valley Ranches, Brawley, CA.

9-1 Subject: Options for leasing Metropolitan-owned lands in the Palo Verde valley.

Presented by: Tim Blair, Manager, Implementation Projects & Studies Unit

Mr. Craig Elmore, River Valley Ranches, addressed the committee regarding agricultural water use in the Palo Verde Irrigation District.

Mr. Blair's presentation provided an overview on options for leasing Metropolitan-owned lands in the Palo Verde Irrigation District and potential management objectives.

General Manager Kightlinger provided a brief explanation for staff's presentation of Metropolitan land leases at this committee versus Real Property and Asset Management Committee.

Staff responded to comments related to land lease terms for water quantification, estimated sub-surface water return flow, timing for current tenants lease renewals, and number of current land leases under Metropolitan's management.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Conservation update

Presented by: Bill McDonnell, Manager, Water Efficiency Team

Mr. McDonnell provided a Conservation Program update where he reviewed the Conservation Budget that included updated information on paid incentives, turf removal, and non-rebate activities. He also discussed a recently published report of a study on the Australian drought experience that Metropolitan cosponsored with San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Water Research Foundation, and announced the launch of the Innovative Conservation Program (ICP) last week.

Deven Upadhyay, Manager, Water Resource Management provided additional comments related to the ICP and he encouraged directors to contact interested persons or entities to submit proposals for evaluation for funding.

Staff responded to comments related to long-term water savings impacts in the Australian drought study, quantifying turf removal water savings, additional water savings for additional turf removal, and tax issues regarding rebates.

- b. Subject: Oral report on Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan

Presented by: Demetri J. Polyzos, Sr. Engineer, Imported Supply Unit

Mr. Polyzos' presentation included updated reports on hydrologic conditions, State Water Project Allocation, 2016 Water Supply Demand Balances, and Demand Tracking.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Subject: Bay-Delta Matters

Presented by: Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager, Strategic Water Initiatives

Mr. Patterson provided a brief update on the evaluation of public comments of the Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Study for the California WaterFix. Proceedings for new point of diversion to the State Water Resource Control Board will start May 5, 2016.

b. Subject: Colorado River Matters

Presented by: None

No report given.

c. Subject: Water Resource Manager's Report

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

Mr. Upadhyay announced that several hard copies of the Australian drought study mentioned in the Conservation Update were available to directors and the report is also posted on bewaterwise.com.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be held on April 11, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

David De Jesus
Chair