THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BAY-DELTA

May 24, 2016

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

Members present: Chair Peterson, Directors Ackerman, Beard, De Jesus, McKenney, Morris, and Steiner.

Members absent: Vice Chair Lefevre, Directors Camacho, Gray, and Paskett.

Other Board Members present: Board Chairman Record, Directors Blois, Dake, Dear, Dick, Faessel, Galleano, Hogan, Ramos, Tu, and Wunderlich.

Staff present: Arakawa, Beatty, G. Breaux, A. Collins, Donhoff, Donovan, J. Green, Goshi, Hasencamp, Hom, Horton, Kightlinger, T. Lee, Lopez, Mares, Neudeck, R. Patterson, Philp, Pitman, Riss, Roman, R. Ryan, Schlotterbeck, Shraibati, Simonek, Sims, Soper III, Wheeler, Winn, E. Wong, and Zinke.

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 MARCH 22, 2016

Motion:	Carried		
Moved:	Director Morris	Seconded:	Director Steiner
Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Beard, De Jesus, McKenney, Morris, Peterson, and Steiner		
Absent:	Directors Camacho, Gray, Lefevre, and Paskett.		

The motion passed by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 no, and 4 absent.

Committee Chair Peterson announced that the Vice Chair Lefevre would not be in attendance today.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Board Retreat Follow-up

Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Steve Arakawa

Mr. Arakawa focused on key points that were presented on the second day of the April 26-27, 2016 Board Retreat regarding the Bay-Delta and the California WaterFix. He mentioned items related to timing and requirements for decision-making, benefits, cost control, the role of adaptive management, and the science program.

Staff responded to the committee's questions regarding the timeframe for the completion of the process discussed and the importance of comparing other resources to the California WaterFix.

b. Subject: Review of Bay-Delta Related Science and Peer Review Processes

Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Steve Arakawa
Bay-Delta Initiatives Senior Resource Specialist Alison Collins

Mr. Arakawa noted that this item was in response to a request from the committee about information on how peer review science works and how peer review is involved in the efforts of Metropolitan and other water contractors. He then introduced Alison Collins.

Ms. Collins defined peer review, explained two types of peer review, how peer review seeks development of the best available science, why it is important in the Bay-Delta, and listed the names of other agencies involved in the Bay-Delta science process.

Mr. Arakawa provided a summary conclusion, noting that science informs regulatory decisions and management actions and that Metropolitan will continue to use peer review to ensure that better science is developed and recognized.

Staff addressed questions from the committee regarding Metropolitan's funding level for research, what happens when the peers that are reviewing the science paper do not agree, and the best source for a lay person to get information on these science programs.

c. Subject: Quarterly update on expenditures for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Presented by: Controller Hal Soper III

Mr. Soper provided updated information showing the cumulative expenditures within Metropolitan from July 2005 to March 2016. He listed components that make up the total and the quarterly expenses.

Staff addressed questions regarding whether this presentation discusses internal costs only and on updates on the Record of Decision/Notice of Determination.

d. Subject: Bay-Delta Manager's Report

Presented by: Assistant General Manager Roger Patterson

Mr. Patterson announced the due date for written testimony to be filed and the hearing date for the State Water Resources Control Board's California WaterFix proceedings for adding new points of diversion. He also commented on the flow management agreement regarding the Stanislaus River and the decision on the Delta Stewardship Council litigation (which will be discussed in the Legal and Claims Committee).

Staff addressed questions and comments on cost allocation and the court decision regarding the Delta Stewardship Council litigation.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on June 28, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Glen Peterson
Chair