

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix
Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Steve Arakawa

Mr. Arakawa provided an update on the current California WaterFix planning schedule for completion. He highlighted estimated time frames for key efforts and activities, including Endangered Species Act incidental take of listed species authorizations, finalization of the Environmental Impact Report/Statement, and other key processes.

Staff addressed the committee's questions regarding cost allocation discussions, the possibility of the State Water Resources Control Board adding additional water quality standards, radio station KNX's report regarding access to Delta properties for California WaterFix geotechnical analyses, and implementation of the California WaterFix.

Director De Jesus entered the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

- b. Subject: Review of State of California Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy
Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Senior Resource Specialist
 Shawn Acuña, Ph.D.

Mr. Arakawa introduced Shawn Acuña and explained the purpose of the presentation.

Dr. Acuña provided information on the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy that the California Department of Water Resources has initiated in order to explore near-term actions that can be implemented to protect this endangered fish species.

Staff addressed questions regarding the ecosystem producing low amounts of food for the Delta smelt, observable benefits of actions that have been taken, and issues related to additional water flow and turbidity.

- c. Subject: Overview of Bay-Delta Science Activities
Presented by: Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager Steve Arakawa

Mr. Arakawa provided a summary of past Board briefings on Bay-Delta Science. He also discussed the purpose of Metropolitan's Bay-Delta Science efforts, existing Bay-Delta Initiatives modeling and science expertise, science expenditures, key regulatory issues, and staff collaboration with the Delta science community.

Staff responded to the committee questions and comments regarding Metropolitan's share of the external science costs, evaluation of project risk regarding unlisted fish species, water savings from science improvements, and steps taken to ensure best available science is used.

- d. Subject: Quarterly Update on Expenditures for the Bay Delta
Conservation Plan

Presented by: Controller Hal Soper III

Mr. Soper reported on the cumulative amount spent, highlighted the largest components of the spending, and summarized the expenses for the last four quarters.

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

Mr. Patterson commented on several subjects, including the state's Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy, the State Water Resources Control Board Hearings on California WaterFix, submittal of the final biological assessment for California WaterFix, the Delta Wetlands islands purchase, cost allocation for the California WaterFix, and Central Valley Project storage operations.

Staff addressed questions about purchase of the Delta Wetlands islands, court decision on the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan, and the California WaterFix cost allocation.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on September 27, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Glen Peterson
Chair