

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**WATER PLANNING AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**April 12, 2021**

Chair Atwater called the teleconference meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Members present: Chair Atwater, Vice Chair Kurtz, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Goldberg, Hogan, Lefevre, Luna, Morris, G. Peterson, Pressman, and Record.

Members absent: Director M. Petersen.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Butkiewicz, Erdman, Galleano, Hawkins, Jung, McCoy, Murray, Ortega, Quinn, Smith, and Tamaribuchi.

Committee staff present: Coffey, Hasencamp, Kightlinger, Munguia, Schlotterbeck, and Upadhyay

**1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))**

Chair Atwater announced how public comments for this meeting would be heard. He explained that Public Hearing comments would precede public comments for regular business of this committee. He also explained that this committee would vote only on the portion that relates to the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee meeting minutes of the Joint Water Planning and Stewardship Committee and the Conservation and Local Resources Committee held March 8, 2021.

Chair Atwater provided brief background information and he introduced Mr. Edgar Fandialan, Principal Engineer, Water Resource Management.

**1a Public Hearing Regarding: (1) Metropolitan's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, (2) Metropolitan's Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and (3) Metropolitan's Appendix 11 Addendum to the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan**

Mr. Fandialan provided a brief overview of today's Public Hearing and gave a presentation on the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP).

Mr. David Sumi, Resource Specialist, provided a presentation on Metropolitan's Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

Ms. Jennifer Nevills, Principal Resource Specialist, presented on Appendix 11 Addendum to the 2015 UWMP and Metropolitan's reporting of reduced Delta reliance.

Public Hearing Speakers included:

1. Mr. Doug Obegi, National Resource Defence Council (NRDC). Mr. Obegi spoke in disagreement with Metropolitan's findings of the UWMP. He noted that NRDC is submitting their written comments today in a letter dated April 12, 2021, that was received on April 12, 2021.

Brad Coffey, Manager, Water Resource Management, acknowledged that Metropolitan was in receipt of two letters from San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). A letter from Mr. Mark Hattam, General Counsel, SDCWA, dated April 11, 2021, was received on April 11, 2021, at 3:36 p.m.; and a second letter from Ms. Sandra Kerl, General Manager, SDCWA, dated April 11, 2021, was received on April 11, 2021, at 7:52 p.m. Mr. Coffey added that staff will be responding to the letters.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. G. Peterson
3. Goldberg
4. Lefevre

Chair Atwater announced that the Public Hearing was now closed and moved on to the Consent Calendar.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

**1. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEM – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Joint Water Planning and Stewardship Committee and the Conservation and Local Resources Committee held March 8, 2021

Director Hogan requested a correction to the March 8, 2021, meeting minutes related to item 7-4. He noted that the record should reflect that he *voted in favor, subject to San Diego County Water Authority's letter being included as part of that meeting's record.*

Chair Atwater acknowledged Director Hogan's request to amend the March 8, 2021, meeting minutes.

Chair Atwater re-ordered the agenda to hear Item 6a before Item 7-3.

## 6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Oral Update on Water Surplus Drought Management

Presented by: Tiffany Tran, Assistant Resource Specialist II, Resource Planning Team

Ms. Tran provided updates to the State Water Project and Colorado River Supplies, 2021 supply and demand balances, dry year Water Supply and Drought Management actions, and staff's framework regarding water supply conditions.

## 3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM – ACTION

7-3 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to: (1) secure one-year water transfers with various water districts north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for up to 65,000 acre-feet of additional supplies; (2) secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts to facilitate these transfers; (3) pay up to \$44 million from the State Water Project Budget for such transfers; and grant final decision-making authority to the General Manager subject to the terms set forth in this letter; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: James D. Bodnar, Program Manager, Water Resource Management

Motion:

1. Authorize the General Manager to:
  - (a) Secure one-year water transfers with various water districts north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for up to 65,000 AF of additional supplies;
  - (b) Secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to facilitate these transfers consistent with Articles 55 and 56 of Metropolitan's State Water Project Supply Contract; and
  - (c) Pay up to \$44 million from the State Water Project Budget for such transfers; and
2. Grant the General Manager final decision-making authority to determine whether or not to move forward with these transfers following completion of any environmental reviews required under CEQA, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the board letter.

Mr. Bodnar gave a presentation on one-year water transfers with north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta water districts for up to 65,000 acre-feet of additional supplies and to secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts as needed to facilitate these transfers, including Sacramento Valley water districts and the Yuba County Water Agency.

General Manager Kightlinger provided commentary on water transfer negotiations.

Director Morris moved; seconded by Director Peterson the Consent Calendar items 2A and 7-3.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. G. Peterson
3. Lefevre
4. Ortega

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Goldberg, Hogan, Kurtz, Lefevre, Luna, Morris, G. Peterson, Pressman, and Record.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors M. Petersen.

The motion for items 2A and 7-3 passed by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 1 absent.

#### **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

#### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

a. Subject: Colorado River Matters

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp provided an update on snowpack and runoff conditions on the Colorado River. He also discussed a potential water shortage declaration, and uncertainty on the Colorado River.

b. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report

Presented by: Brad Coffey, Manager Water Resource Management

Mr. Coffey gave an update on conservation activity and expenditures.

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting will be held on May 10, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Richard Atwater  
Chair