

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, July 13, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in Salon Rooms A and B, at the Ontario Airport Marriot Hotel, 2200 East Holt Boulevard, Ontario, California, on July 13, 2005.

Board Members and Alternates Present

John V. Foley, Vice Chairman
James H. Bond
Dana "Bart" Fisher, Jr.
John W. McFadden

Christopher Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish and Game
Mark Stuart, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternate Absent

Lloyd W. Allen, Chairman
James B. McDaniel

Leonard E. Robinson

Others Present

Martin Barackman
William I. DuBoise
Thomas M. Erb
Dave Fogerson
William J. Hasencamp
Dale Hunter
Russell Kitahara
George Loveland
Bob Lucas
Jay W. Malinowski
Yvonne Meeks
Canh Nguyen
Dan Parks

David R. Pettijohn
John L. Scott
Jon Tremayne
Joseph A. Vanderhorst
William H. Swan
Bill D. Wright

William S. Abbey
J.C. Jay Chen
Christopher S. Harris
Mark Van Vlack
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Acting for Chairman Allen, Vice Chairman Foley, in the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Vice Chairman Foley asked if there was anyone in the audience that wanted to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, Vice Chairman, Foley moved to the next agenda item.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Foley asked that the May 4th meeting minutes be approved.

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Bond, seconded by Mr. McFadden, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the May 4th meeting minutes.

Vice Chairman Foley asked for a motion to approve the June 15th meeting minutes

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Bond. Mr. Wright noted that there was an incorrect time of 5:00 p.m. for starting the July 13th Board meeting. With that correction the meeting minutes were unanimously approved, the Board also approved the June 15th meeting minutes.

Fiscal Year 2005-06 Colorado River Board Budget

Mr. Zimmerman reported that on July 11th Governor Schwarzenegger signed the State Budget. He noted that there were still several trailer bills moving through the legislature, but was unaware of any that affects the Board. With the Governor signing the State Budget, expenditures consistent with the Budget are now authorized.

Mr. Zimmerman referred to hand-out page showing the five-year agreement on the funding formula for support of the Board's activities. The percentages in support of the Board from the six agencies for the next two years are: 16 ¼ for Coachella Valley Water District, 28 ¾ for Imperial Irrigation District, 32 for Metropolitan Water District, 5 for Palo Verde Irrigation District, 8 for San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), and 10 for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). In year three, the percentages from LADWP and SDCWA are to be reversed; where 8 percent is received from LADWP, and 10 percent is received from SDCWA.

Resolution Honoring Jesse P. Silva and his Service to Imperial Irrigation District

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Mr. Jesse P. Silva had retired after nearly thirty years of service to the Imperial Irrigation District. Included in the handout material is a resolution in recognition of Mr. Silva's career. Mr. Zimmerman requested a motion to adopt the resolution:

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Bond, and unanimously carried, the resolution to honor Mr. Silva's career was adopted.

Retirement of Philip B. Mutz

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Mr. Philip B. Mutz of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission has retired. The Governor of the State of New Mexico appointed Mr. John D. Antonio as a representative on the Upper Colorado River Commission. Mr. Mutz served the people of the State of New Mexico for over thirty years, and been actively involved in the Colorado River Basin states discussions during his career. Mr. Zimmerman noted that included in the Board materials is a resolution recognizing Mr. Mutz's contributions. Mr. Zimmerman asked for a motion adopting the resolution.

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Bond, seconded by Mr. Fisher, and unanimously carried, the resolution to honor Mr. Mutz's retirement was adopted.

AGENCY MANAGERS MEETING

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Agency Managers had not met since the last Board meeting.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that as of July 7th, the storage in Lake Powell since the month of May increased by nearly 2 million acre-feet (maf). The current storage is about 12.5 maf, or 51 percent of capacity, and the elevation is about 3,608 feet. The storage in Lake Mead is 15.4 maf, or 60 percent of capacity, and the elevation is about 1,140 feet. The total System storage is at 35.997 maf, or 61 percent of capacity. Mr. Harris noted that the total System storage last year was 31.4 maf, or 53 percent of capacity.

Mr. Harris reported that the basin wide precipitation from October 1st through July 7th is 107 percent of normal. The snowpack water equivalent is 7 percent of normal. The unregulated flow into Lake Powell for April through the end of July is projected to be 9.1 maf, or 115 percent of normal, whereas the water year inflow is forecast to be 13.4 maf, or 111 percent of normal.

Mr. Harris added that the estimated consumptive use within the Lower Basin states predicted by Reclamation for 2005 is 279,000 acre-feet for Nevada, 2.526 maf for Arizona, and 4.228 maf for California. Total consumptive use for the Lower Basin states predicted by Reclamation is 7.033 maf for 2005.

State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Mark Stuart, Southern District Chief of the California Department of Water

Resources, reported that the Sacramento River Index is 57.1, or 114 percent of average. Reservoir storage in Lake Oroville is 3.47 maf, or 97 percent of capacity, and is 700,000 acre-feet more than last year. State Water Project deliveries are projected to be 90 percent of entitlements.

Vice Chairman Foley of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), reported that as of July 1st, the combined storage in Diamond Valley Lake, Lake Mathews, and Lake Skinner was about 945,000 acre-feet, or 90 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley had about 764,000 acre-feet, or 93 percent of capacity; Lake Mathews had about 155,000 acre-feet, or about 85 percent of capacity; Lake Skinner had 35,000, or 80 percent of capacity.

Mr. Thomas Erb, Water Resources Director of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, reported that though the snow has melted, runoff from the Eastern Sierra is sufficient to keep the LADWP aqueduct at full capacity.

Arizona v. California

Mr. William Abbey, Deputy Attorney General of the Attorney General's Office, reported that the Special Master's recommendations and proposed Supplemental Decree still rests with the United States Supreme Court awaiting final approval.

Colorado River Operations

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the U.S. Senate had appropriated \$8.2 million for the Colorado River frontwork and levee system. These funds would be used for two projects that are of vital interest for California. Both projects would reduce the amount of unused Colorado River water. The project design and environmental compliance for both the Water Management Reservoir at Drop 2 along the All-American Canal as well as dredging behind the Laguna Dam would be funded through these appropriations. The House appropriated \$3.2 million for this activity. Consequently, there will be negotiations on the actual monies that are appropriated in the conference committee. The funds will be administered by Reclamation.

Mr. Zimmerman continued that Reclamation held public meetings on the All-American Canal management reservoir on July 12th. There was some discussion regarding the focus of the meeting the previous night. Of note was the logistics of conveying the water to the management reservoir and the concern in Congress that the project would not provide recreational activities.

Mr. Zimmerman encouraged those present to request the House to follow the Senate Appropriations Committee's lead in funding of the frontwork and levee work along the Colorado River.

Reclamation's Approval of PVID Estimated Annual Diversions

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Reclamation has approved PVID diversions and consumptive use for 2005. Included in the Board folder is a copy of the letter of

approval. Attached to the letter is a summary of consumptive use for 2005 by California diverters of Colorado River water. This information is available on Reclamation's website, updated daily, at www.usbr.gov/lc/region.

Federal Register Notice Regarding Colorado River Reservoir Operations and the Development of Management Strategies for Lakes Powell and Mead

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Reclamation has released a *Federal Register* notice announcing a public process to develop management strategies for Lakes Powell and Mead operations under low flow and reservoir conditions. Written comments are to be accepted by August 31st. Two public meetings are to be held. One in the Upper Basin in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 28th, and another in the Lower Basin in Henderson, Nevada, on July 26th.

Miscellaneous News Articles

Mr. Zimmerman reported that several articles have been included in the Board folder, dealing with population growth in Las Vegas and the increase in pollution problems. There was some discussion regarding the discharge of waste water into Las Vegas Wash versus a 20-mile pipeline directly into Lake Mead. More information is expected to be obtained for the Board at future meetings. There was also an article discussing recent low water conditions in Lake Powell.

Basin States Discussion

Mr. Zimmerman mentioned that the Basin States meeting on July 6th had been discussed in detail at the recent Board workshop. A technical meeting is scheduled for the July 22nd and either another meeting or a conference call, prior to July 22nd to discuss various modeling scenarios and those that could be considered by the Basin States, for the technical meeting. The technical representatives for California are scheduled to meet on Monday July 18th. This meeting is in preparation of the Seven States Technical Committee Meeting. The next Basin States meeting is scheduled for August 4th.

Miscellaneous News Articles

Mr. Zimmerman reported on two articles from the Arizona Daily Star describing Tucson's 50-year water plan and another article on a bond measure to expand the Central Arizona Project (CAP) service area and construct the infrastructure for expanded use of CAP water.

Colorado River Environmental Activities

Status of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP)

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation is preparing a draft fiscal year 2006 work plan and budget for implementation of the LCR MSCP. The work plan and budget are to be submitted to the Steering Committee in August or September.

Mr. Harris added that Reclamation is proceeding with identifying restoration activities that can be implemented both on some land formerly included within the Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District and California Department of Fish and Game's Palo Verde Ecological Reserve lands within Arizona and California. These projects will likely be initiated during fiscal year 2006.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

"Management Plan for the Big River Fishes of the Colorado River Basin"

Mr. Harris reported that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently released the Big River Fishes Management Plan. The plan consists of three basic strategies: the establishment of a native fish genetic refugia, augmentation of existing native fish populations through the use of hatchery facilities, and make use of natural and constructed habitats to support the big fish in the Colorado River. Also included is a scheme to exploit and use aquatic habitats in the reservoirs during drawdown periods.

WATER QUALITY

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Status Report on the Groundwater Cleanup at the Topock Gas Compressor Station

Ms. Yvonne Meeks of PG&E reported on PG&E's accomplishments during past year, i.e., the time since PG&E provided its initial presentation to the Board requesting an allocation of water to conduct the cleanup effort. The cleanup effort is being funded and accomplished by PG&E, but oversight and guidance is provided by a Consultative Workgroup consisting of various agencies and organizations. The California Environmental Protection Agency has designated the California Department of Toxic Substances Control as the administering agency and lead agency to oversee and direct the cleanup.

Ms. Meeks mentioned that the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) spells out the guidelines and systematic processes that regulate how contamination clean up is undertaken. From investigating contamination to identifying possible measures of cleanup and weighing and comparing those measures, then selecting the action to be implemented. The operation and maintenance period while the remedy is implemented is also described. The regulations also provide for interim actions or measures to be undertaken to stabilize contamination prior to proceeding through the methodical process of long term remediation. That is the current process that is being undertaken at Topock.

Mr. Martin Barackman of the engineering and consulting firm, CH2M & Hill, described the details of several slides depicting the underlying geologic formations and groundwater flow characteristics in the vicinity of the Topock area. Of particular interest is the alluvial aquifer which includes the sediments where the cleanup effort is underway. The extent of the potential contamination was depicted in various slides. The geography of the contamination as well as monitoring and containment activities were displayed. The history of the investigation, movement, and effects of cleanup activities on the contaminant plume was described with slides, charts, tables, and graphs. Through

pumping, the groundwater gradient has reversed and now slopes toward the contaminated area, away from the river. The monitoring wells closest to the Colorado River have verified that containment actions have managed to keep chromium levels below the detection limit.

Mr. Barackman described how organic materials in the soil have influenced the boundary of the contaminant plume. He also laid out the details of the pumping and removal of contaminated water that began in March of 2004. In July 2004, a batch treatment facility pretreated the pumped water. Thirty-three million gallons of water, as of March 2004, have been hauled from the Topock site. About 7,000 tanker trips have been made from Topock to a hazardous waste treatment facility in Vernon, California. Construction of a treatment facility at the site began September 2004. The treatment facility will treat the pumped contaminated water to drinking water standards. The treatment facility is expected to go online in the next few weeks. The treated water is to be recharged back to the groundwater aquifer. The recharge permits had been requested to and approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting

Vice Chairman Foley announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, August 24, 2005, starting at 3:00 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Islandia Hotel in Mission Bay in San Diego, California.

There being no further items to be brought before the Board, Mr. Fisher moved that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mr. Bond, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 11:24 p.m. on July 13, 2005.


Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director