

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, January 9, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Keller Peak Room, of Ontario Airport Doubletree Hotel, at 222 North Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, California, 91764-4428, Wednesday, January 9, 2008.

Board Members Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman

John V. Foley

Terese Marie Ghio

W. D. 'Bill' Knutson

Henry Merle Kuiper

James B. McDaniel

John W. McFadden

Jeanine Jones, Designee

Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternate Absent

John Pierre Menvielle

James Cleo Hanks

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee

Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott

Celia A. Brewer

John Penn Carter

William I. DuBois

David Fogerson

William J. Hasencamp

Russell Kitahara

Thomas E. Levy

Jan P. Matusak

David R. Pettijohn

Steven B. Robbins

Tom J. Ryan

John L. Scott

William H. Swan

Peter von Haam

Bill D. Wright

Abbas Amir-Teymoori

J.C. Jay Chen

Christopher S. Harris

Gary E. Tavetian

Mark Van Vlack

Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher, announced the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

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

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fisher requested the approval of the December 12th meeting minutes. Mr. Kuiper moved the December 12th minutes be approved. Mr. Knutson seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the December 12th meeting minutes.

AGENCY MANAGERS' MEETING

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the agency managers had not met since the December Board meetings.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that as of January 2nd, the storage in Lake Powell was 11.2 million acre-feet (maf), or 46 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,594.3 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 12.8 maf, or 50 percent of capacity, and water surface elevation of 1,114.9 feet. Total System storage was about 31.56 maf, or 53 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 33.96 maf in storage, or 57 percent of capacity.

Mr. Harris reported that precipitation from October 1st to January 2nd was 107 percent of normal. The snowpack was 101 percent of normal. Reclamations projections of unregulated inflow into Lake Powell were 8.15 maf for April through July 2008 or 103 percent of average. Water year projections from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 were 11.79 maf, about 98 percent of average.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation projected consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada to be slightly over their entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (308,000 AF); and for Arizona, the CU is projected to be 2.798 maf; and for California the CU is projected to be 4.374 maf. The total projected CU in the Lower Basin is expected to be about 7.480 maf. In 2006, the Lower Basin CU was about 7.373 maf.

State and Local Water Reports

Ms. Jeanine Jones, of the California Department of Water Resources, reported on the current climate conditions in California. Precipitation in Los Angeles is about average. The

recent storms brought sufficient rain to bring the totals up, but precipitation is still a little below average. The snowpack in the Northern and Central Sierra on the west slope is about 110 percent of average. In the southern Sierra the snowpack is about 130 percent of average.

Ms. Jones reported that the State Water Project (SWP) is operating under the Court's decision to help save the Delta smelt. The imposed restriction reduces the SWP ability to divert water to Southern California. Depending on the hydrologic conditions this year, the expected impact of the Court's order could be a reduction of as much as 30 percent. The SWP projected deliveries were 25 percent of Table A entitlements.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that as of January 1st, MWD's combined reservoir storage (Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake) was 749,000 acre-feet or 72 percent of capacity. With SWP entitlements at 25 percent, water has been drawn from storage to meet demand, and underscores the importance of the Colorado River deliveries.

Mr. McDaniel, of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), reported that as of January 8th, the Mammoth Pass snowpack, was 16.2 inches, 79 percent of average, which was about twice the amount of last year at this time. Water Year 2008 is encouraging, but it is too early in the season to predict how large the Eastern Sierra supply will be.

Colorado River Operations

Department of the Interior and Basin States' Execution of Interim Shortage Guidelines and Associated Agreements

Mr. Zimmerman reviewed the recent history of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Shortage Guidelines and Coordinated Operations of Lakes Powell and Mead (Guidelines). He reported that on December 13th, at the Colorado River Water Users Association's conference in Las Vegas, NV, Secretary Kempthorne signed the Record of Decision (ROD) executing the Guidelines. Upon the Secretary's execution of the ROD, the Basin States executed a resolution recognizing that adoption of the Guidelines represents a historic milestone reflecting the continuation of the consultative approach to river management between the federal government and the affected states, thereby successfully implementing the principles of federalism. Afterwards, the parties to the agreements signed the:

- Lower Colorado River Basin Intentionally Created Surplus Forbearance Agreement;
- Specific Intentionally Created Surplus Water Supply Project exhibits;
- California Agreement for the Creation and Delivery of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus;
- Lower Colorado River Drop 2 Storage Reservoir Project Funding and Construction Agreement; and
- Intentionally Created Surplus Water Delivery Agreements between the United States and each of the parties creating Intentionally Created Surplus (i.e., Southern Nevada Water Authority, MWD and the Imperial Irrigation District)

Final 2008 Annual Operation Plan

Mr. Zimmerman reported that he had not received the Final 2008 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River System Reservoirs (AOP). The AOP is expected to be signed mid-January and then sent to the Governors of the Basin states.

Reclamation Request for Voluntary Proposals for System Conservation of Colorado River Water Within the State of Arizona

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Reclamation has solicited voluntary proposals to conserve mainstream Colorado River water. Reclamation is soliciting interest among Arizona entitlement holders, and is willing to pay \$80 per acre-foot of water conserved. Reclamation has already conducted a similar demonstration program in 2006-2007 where California entitlement holders have conserved 10,000 acre-feet of mainstream Colorado River water.

Memorandum of Understanding, Assessment of Options for Operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant

Mr. Zimmerman reported that included in the handout materials is a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Metropolitan Water District, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Yuma County Water Users Association, the City of Yuma, the Environmental Defense Fund, and Reclamation. The MOU assess the options for re-activation of the Yuma Desalting Plant (YDP). The goals of the MOU: reduce the groundwater mounding in the Yuma area; provide drought protection for Arizona entitlement holders; provide certainty of flows to the Limitrophe section of the Lower Colorado River, and the Cienega de Santa Clara; reclaim some of the bypass water that now flows to Mexico; provide some water for agriculture, municipal and industrial use; and aid in fulfilling the purposes of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act.

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the MOU seeks to accomplish its goals through the formation of three work groups: 1) an engineering and operations Work Group, 2) an environmental Work Group and 3) a legal/regulatory Work Group. The Engineering and Operations Work Group is to look at the facilities and operations of the Yuma Desalter. The Legal/Regulatory will look at the law related to the operation of the YDP and how water can be moved both within Arizona and outside of the state. The Environmental Work Group will assess the environmental impacts associated with the operation of the YDP. The Work Groups are to prepare recommendations that would be given to the Advisory Group. The Advisory Group is to prepare a final report of those recommendations by April 15th. It is the intention of the Advisory Group to move forward with those recommendations and fund portions of the study by July 1, 2008.

Basin States Discussion

Mr. Zimmerman mentioned the events at the December 2007 Colorado River Water Users Association's conference. The execution of the Record of Decision based on the Final Environmental Impact Statement on interim shortage criteria and the cooperative

management of Lakes Powell and Mead. The associated agreements executed concurrently by Basin states and applicable Lower Basin water agencies. The interim shortage guidelines and coordinated reservoir operations are effective in the 2008 AOP. Included in the preliminary proposal submitted to the Secretary on February 3, 2006, was a recommendation to pursue long-term augmentation of the Colorado River. The Southern Nevada Water Authority hired a consulting consortium to report on the alternatives available to augment the Colorado River supply. The consultants have reviewed previous studies and met with stakeholders in the Basin states. The consultants had prepared technical memorandums and white papers dealing with the available alternatives for augmenting the water supply from Colorado River System. They are preparing to release their final report. The final report identifies potential options for increasing and supplementing the water supplies available to water users in the Basin. The options include intra-basin conservation and efficiency projects, as well as importation of water supplies from other watersheds into the Colorado River Basin.

Mr. Zimmerman asked the Board for approval for Chairman Fisher to sign a letter to Secretary Kempthorne accompanying the final Long-Term Augmentation Options report. Upon the motion of Mr. Knutson, seconded by Mr. Kuiper and unanimously carried, the Board approved Chairman Fisher signing the letter to Secretary Kempthorne that will accompany the Long-Term Augmentation Options for the Water Supply of the Colorado River System.

Colorado River Environmental Activities

Proposed Glen Canyon Dam High Flow Test - 2008

Mr. Harris reported that, included in the Board folder is a memorandum, that the Department of the Interior (DOI) issued on December 20, 2007, associated with the potential for conducting a high flow test from Glen Canyon Dam in spring 2008. The DOI has contacted most of the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) for their views on the test flow. The DOI is considering the test flow due to sediment-rich conditions in the Grand Canyon. Storm events over the past 18 months have deposited a large mass of sediment in the Glen Canyon reach of the river, near the confluence with the Paria River. The intent of the test is to distribute the large mass of sediment downstream up on the banks of the Colorado River. There is some concern whether the large flows will accomplish this and what disruption the test flows will have on the endangered species in the river. The test flows may be released for 30 to 90 hours, and could range from 60,000 to 90,000 acre-feet. The DOI has asked the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center to attain the associated environmental compliance to perform the monitoring work, such as a National Environmental Policy Act assessment and Endangered Species Act evaluation. In addition there could be loss of power revenues as well as the cost to perform the test flows. The DOI has scheduled a conference call with the AMWG on January 17th. At the present time the DOI has not yet determined if a test is to be done, but preparations are continuing as if a test flow will be implemented.

Other Business

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2007, 10:00 a.m., at the Ontario Airport DoubleTree Hotel, 222 North Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, California.

There being no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon the motion of Mr. McFadden, seconded by Mr. Knutson, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. on January 9, 2008.


Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director