

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

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Big Bear room, at the Ontario Airport Double Tree Hotel, at 222 N. Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, California, Wednesday, July 9, 2008.

Board Members and Alternates Present

D. Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman
John V. Foley
Henry Merle Kuiper
W. D. Bill Knutson
John W. McFadden

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish and Game

Mark Stuart, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternates Absent

Thomas M. Erb
Terese Maria Ghio
James Cleo Hanks

James B. McDaniel
John Pierre Menvielle

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
John P. Carter
Dan Denham
William J. Hasencamp
Michael L. King
Russell Kitahara
Jan P. Matusak
David R. Pettijohn
Steven B. Robbins
John L. Scott
Ed W. Smith

Joseph A. Vanderhorst
Peter E. von Haam
Bill D. Wright

Abbas Amir-Teymoori
J.C. Jay Chen
Christopher S. Harris
Kathleen Kenealy
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher, announced the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:08 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 June 11th meeting minutes. Mr. Knutson moved the June 11th minutes be approved. Mr. McFadden seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the June 11th meeting minutes.

Fiscal Year 2008-09 Assessment Letters

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Fiscal Year 2008-09 Assessment letters were sent out to each of the Member Agencies. Mr. Zimmerman requested each respective Board of the Member Agencies, authorize payment corresponding to the Assessment letters.

AGENCY MANAGERS' MEETING

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the agency managers had not met since the June Board meeting; the agency managers are scheduled to meet following the July 9th Board meeting.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that as of July 1st, Lake Powell water storage was nearly fifteen (14.999) million acre-feet (maf), or 62 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,631 feet above sea level. The Lake Mead storage is almost twelve (11.935) maf, or 46 percent of capacity. The water elevation was 1,104.9 feet above sea level. Total System storage was 34.763 maf, or 58 percent of capacity, whereas, this time last year the total system storage was 33.754 maf. Total System storage this year is about one million acre-feet great than this time last year.

Mr. Harris reported that precipitation from October 1st to July 1st, was 107 percent of normal. The snowpack in the headwaters regions had largely melted. The projected April through July unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was 8.8 maf, or 111 percent of normal. The projected water year inflow (October 1st through September 30th) was 12.6 maf, or 104 percent of normal.

Mr. Harris added that Reclamation's projected consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada is under its entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (280,000 acre-feet); and for Arizona, the CU is projected to be slightly over its basic entitlement of 2.8 maf (2.847 maf); and for California the CU is also projected to be slightly over its basic apportionment of 4.4 maf (4.516 maf). The total projected CU in the Lower Basin is expected to be about 7.643 maf.

State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Mark Stuart, of the California Department of Water Resources, reported on the dry conditions in California. He reported that the runoff for thirty one rivers in California are 60 percent of normal. The Sacramento River Run-off is about 50 percent of normal. Storage as of July 1st for the State Water Project (SWP) north of the Delta was 44 percent of normal. Lake Oroville storage is 43 percent of normal, about one million acre-feet less than last year and about two million acre-feet below capacity. South of the Delta storage in the SWP was 63 percent of normal. SWP projected deliveries are 35 percent of Table A Entitlements.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that as of July 1st, storage in the main Southern California reservoirs was about 760,000 acre-feet, or 73 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley Lake was down to 68 percent of capacity. Demand has been met with about 700,000 acre-feet from the Colorado River, nearly 700,000 acre-feet from the SWP, and the balance of about 700,000 acre-feet from storage both in the Central Valley, Kern Ground Water Storage Bank and Southern California, primarily Diamond Valley reservoir.

Mr. Dave Pettijohn, of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, said that there was nothing to report regarding the climate conditions of the Los Angeles Aqueduct System.

Colorado River Operations

2009 Annual Operating Plan

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the first consultation meeting for the development of the 2009 Annual Operating Plan (2009 AOP) was scheduled to be held July 14th, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The 2009 AOP will be the first AOP prepared since the Record of Decision was issued on December 13, 2007, implementing the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lakes Powell and Mead.

Yuma Desalting Plant Operations

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the small work group looking at the potential to reactivate the Yuma Desalting Plant (YDP) was scheduled to meet July 17th. The small work group is developing a funding agreement to move forward with a demonstration project. The water created by the demonstration project could be classified as System Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus and could be made available to entities funding the project. The work group will also identify what type of project monitoring should be implemented; environmental compliance required; and project costs.

Basin States Discussion

Lake Powell Pipeline Project

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recently announced that a National Environmental Policy Act scoping effort associated with the potential issuance of a hydropower license for the Lake Powell Pipeline Project. The Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the Board respectively submitted brief comment letters asking to continue to receive information regarding the project; and that more detailed comments may be submitted after the draft Environmental Impact Statement has been released for review and comment.

Navajo-Gallup Pipeline Project Legislation

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Senate Bill 1171 has been formally introduced in the U.S. Senate. The draft legislation has been discussed by the Basin states over the past couple of months. There are still differences between Arizona and Colorado. Meetings are being held among Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and the Navajo Nation an effort to resolve the last remaining differences. It is hoped that all seven Basin states can at least agree not to actively oppose the legislation as it moves forward.

Upper Basin Recovery Programs Update

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Senators Bingaman and Domenici of New Mexico introduced Senate Bill 3189 that would amend the 1956 Colorado River Basin Storage Project Act (Public Law 106-392) that authorized construction of the participating projects in the Upper Basin. The proposed amendment would; increase the amount of funding available from the Upper Basin fund for native fish recovery; provide additional expending authority; and extend the duration of the funding of the recovery programs.

Colorado River Environmental Issues

Ms. Kathleen Kenealy, of the Office of Attorney General, reported that the State of California, as an intervenor in the *Grand Canyon Trust v. United States Bureau of Reclamation*, filed an answer to the Grand Canyon Trust's (GTC) Supplemental Complaint. The court set a hearing date of August 29th for Motions for Summary Judgment and a Motion to Dismiss on Counts One through Five of the Complaint. Ms. Kenealy added that she expects the court to set up a schedule for dealing with resolution of Counts Seven and Eight.

Mr. von Haam, of MWD, added that the agencies (i.e., Central Arizona Water Conservation District, IID, MWD, and the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association) have also filed an answer to the GTC's Supplemental Complaint along with the seven Basin states in support of Reclamation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held in conjunction with the Urban Water Institute 15th Annual Southern California Urban Water Conference, on Wednesday, August 13, 2008 at 3:00 p.m., at the Hilton Mission Bay Resort, 1775 East Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, California.

There being no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Knutson moved the Board meeting be adjourned. Mr. Foley seconded the motion, and with unanimous approval, the Board meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m. on July 9, 2008.



Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director