

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
Wednesday, July 13, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Orchid Room, at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, at 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, July 13, 2011.

Board Members Present

Dana B. Fisher, Jr., Chairman  
John V. Foley  
W. D. 'Bill' Knutson  
Henry Merle Kuiper  
James B. McDaniel  
John Pierre Menvielle

John Palmer Powell, Jr.  
  
Jeanine Jones, Designee  
Department of Water Resources

Board Members Absent

Terese Marie Ghio

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee  
Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott  
James M. Barrett  
James H. Bond  
John Penn Carter  
Ron Derma  
Dave Fogerson  
William J. Hasencamp  
Mark L. Johnson  
Richard Johnson  
Michael Kaschak  
Michael L. King  
Thomas E. Levy  
Douglas B. Noble  
Carrie Oliphant  
Glen Peterson  
David R. Pettijohn  
Halla Razak  
Steven B. Robbins  
Thomas J. Ryan

Jack Seiler  
Tina L. Shields  
Peter S. Silva  
Catherine M. Stites  
Ed W. Smith  
Mark Stuart  
William H. Swan  
Deven N. Upadhyay  
Joseph A. Vanderhorst  
Bill D. Wright  
  
J.C. Jay Chen  
Christopher S. Harris  
Michael W. Hughes  
Lindia Y. Liu  
Mark Van Vlack  
Gerald R. Zimmerman

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Mr. Knutson moved the June 15<sup>th</sup> minutes be approved. Mr. Kuiper seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

## **AGENCY MANAGERS' MEETING**

Mr. Harris requested that the Agency Managers meet following the Board meeting, and the Colorado River Authority meeting. Mr. Harris reported that the meeting will be in preparation for a conference call with Reclamation and the contractors conducting the Basin Study.

## **PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS**

### Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that precipitation from October 1<sup>st</sup> through July 5<sup>th</sup>, was 130 percent of normal, the previous month it was a 128 percent of normal. The snowpack in the Upper Basin, though not currently reported, the previous month it was 264 percent of normal. There is still a lot of snow in the high country and some of this snow may last till summer.

Mr. Harris reported that the projected April through July unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was 12.0 million acre-feet (maf), or 151 percent of normal. The projected water year inflow (October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>) was 16.1 maf, or about 134 percent of normal.

Mr. Harris reported that as of July 5<sup>th</sup>, Lake Powell storage was about 17.43 maf, or 72 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,651.7 feet above the mean sea level. Lake Mead storage was 11.78 maf, or 46 percent of capacity, with the water surface elevation 1,103.2 feet above sea level. Total System storage was 37.37 maf, or 63 percent of capacity; whereas, this time last year the total System storage was 34.64 maf, or 58 percent of capacity. Total System storage this year is about 2.7 million acre-feet greater than this time last year.

Mr. Harris added that Reclamation's projected consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada is approximately 263,000 acre-feet; for Arizona, the CU projection is about 2.767 maf; and for California the CU projection is under 4.4 maf (4.153 maf). Currently the total projected CU in the Lower Basin is expected to be about 7.183 maf.

### State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Mark Stuart of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported that as of July 2011, storage in Lake Oroville was 3.5 maf, compared to July 2010, the storage in Lake Oroville was 2.7 maf. Total State Water Project (SWP) storage is up about 1.2 maf, from last July. Projected deliveries from the SWP were 80 percent of Table A Entitlements. Precipitation statewide was 135 percent of average, runoff was 130 percent of average, and reservoir storage was 110 percent of average.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, storage in the main Southern California reservoirs was about 971,000 acre-feet, or 94 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley Lake was about 782,000 acre-feet or 97 percent of capacity. The storage in Lake Mathews was about 152,000 acre-feet or 84 percent of capacity, and Lake Skinner was about 37,000 acre-feet or 84 percent of capacity. Mr. Foley reported that storage in Diamond Valley had filled near the end of May, but some of the water was withdrawn, and will continue to be withdrawn through September, and expect to refill Diamond Valley to its maximum of 810,000 acre-feet by the end of the year. Mr. Foley added that MWD currently holds about 2.5 maf of storage 'in basin', about 350,000 acre-feet in Lake Mead.

Mr. McDaniel of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power reported that runoff for the season is expected to finish out at about 150 percent of normal. Mr. McDaniel reported that though the year has been good, but that it's going to take more than one good year to get fully recovered.

### Colorado River Operations

#### *U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Letter to the International Boundary and Water Commission for the Revised Schedule of Calendar Year 2011 Water Deliveries to Mexico*

Mr. Harris reported Reclamation notified the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) confirming that Mexico's delivery schedule of Mexican Water Treaty was to be modified. Mexico requests that the June water delivery be increased by 2,941 acre-feet and the August water delivery be decreased by the same amount.

*Reclamation's Letter to Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Regarding Calendar Year 2011 Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy Payback Obligation in California*

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation continues to meet with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe regarding an inadvertent overrun incurred on the California portion of its reservation lands in 2009. Reclamation believes that a payback plan needs to be developed to repay an overrun of 4,557 acre-feet. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (Tribe) maintains that the actual overrun is 2,255 acre-feet. Reclamation and the Tribe are scheduled to meet over the next few weeks to work out the actual amount of the inadvertent overrun. The Tribe will then submit a payback plan that will go before Reclamation and the Lower Basin States Technical Staff to ensure that the payback plan is viable.

Mr. Harris apologized for the oversight that a couple of older letters regarding previous inadvertent overruns by the Tribe were mistakenly included in the Board folder; the correct letter was included in the handout materials.

*San Francisco Gate News Article on Groundbreaking for Blythe Solar Energy Project*

Mr. Harris reported that the Secretary of the Interior announced the groundbreaking of the Solar Millennium Blythe Solar Energy Project. Chairman Fisher reported that the groundbreaking ceremony was attended by 40 to 50 people, mostly members of the press. It was about 102 degrees so after the initial groundbreaking, the ceremony adjourned to the Community College Auditorium where presentations were continued. Chairman Fisher added that most of the presenters read from notes where Governor Brown gave an impressive 20 minute extemporaneous speech that was comprehensive and to the point. Chairman Fisher reported that the Blythe Solar Energy Project is expected to add about 1,000 temporary jobs during the construction phase. Mr. Harris added that the Project, when completed, is estimated to cost approximately \$4 billion, and provide several hundred permanent jobs. The completed project is likely to be the world's largest solar energy project.

*Pacific Institute Report Entitled "Municipal Deliveries of Colorado River Basin Water", June 2011*

Mr. Harris reported that the Pacific Institute released a new report on the Colorado River entitled "Municipal Deliveries of Colorado River Basin Water". The report provides a fairly comprehensive overview of population and water delivery and use trends for 100 cities and water agencies that use Colorado River Basin water supplies. The report is available online at: [http://www.pacinst.org/reports/co\\_river\\_municipal\\_deliveries/](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/co_river_municipal_deliveries/).

*Wyoming Business Report Entitled "Municipal Deliveries of Colorado River Basin Water", June 2011*

Mr. Harris reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has suspended its environmental review of the Million proposal to transport water from Flaming Gorge Dam to Colorado's East Slope. Mr. Million is evaluating the feasibility of adding small hydroelectric power generating stations to the proposed pipeline. Mr. Million is investigating whether the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission might be the appropriate federal lead agency to conduct the environmental review.

*Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association's Letter Regarding Cadiz Valley Water Conservation Recovery and Storage Project*

Mr. Harris reported that the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association (MDHCA) recently sent a letter to landowners in the eastern Mojave Desert region of California. The MDHCA is concerned that elements of the proposed Cadiz Valley Water Project could negatively impact local groundwater supplies for landowners. The Project could remove approximately 50,000 acre-feet of groundwater annually from the Fenner Watershed, and affect local water levels for well owners. The MDHCA requests that the Project proponents do a better job of notifying adjacent landowners and evaluating potential impacts.

*Colorado River Commission of Nevada Appointed, Jayne Harkins, Executive Director*

Mr. Harris reported that on June 21<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Jayne Harkins was appointed as the Executive Director of the Colorado River Commission of Nevada. Ms. Harkins will be replacing Mr. George Caan. Ms. Harkins has about 27 years of service with Reclamation, much of it in the Lower Colorado Regional Office. For the past few years Ms. Harkins has served as Deputy Regional Director of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Regional Office.

Basin States Discussion

*Status of Binational Discussions between the U.S and Mexico*

Mr. Harris reported that on July 11<sup>th</sup>, Reclamation Commissioner Connor held a brief conference call with the Basin States' representatives. He provided an update on the status of the binational discussions with Mexico. Mr. Harris reported that Commissioner Connor's comments were: 1) The June meeting in Tijuana was largely focused on re-starting the effort to reach agreement on a new Minute 319; 2) Commissioner Connor is promoting a transition from a process focused on technical issues to one that focuses on the substantive policy and implementation issues (e.g., Intentionally Created Mexican Apportionment, shortage declaration criteria, river operations, etc.); 3) Commissioner Connor indicated that he wanted to meet with IBWC Commissioner Drusina soon to look at developing a schedule to guide the binational discussion process over the remainder of 2011; 4) Commissioner Connor believes that it still may be possible to reach agreement leading to the issuance of Minute 319 by late-2011 or early-2012; 5) Commissioner Connor reiterated Interior's commitment to maintain open and effective communication with the Basin states during the course of the binational process; 6) Commissioner Connor would like to see Mexico's ConAgua federal agency (Mexico's counterpart to Reclamation) in addition to Mexico's Section of the IBWC, involved with the process; and 7) Commissioner Connor also reported that Reclamation Deputy Regional Director Terry Fulp, will replace Ms. Jayne Harkins as Reclamation's lead contact in the binational process.

Chairman Fisher added that the conference call was important and helpful, though there appears to be increasing distance between the binational process and the non-federal Colorado River stakeholders.

### Colorado River Environmental Issues

#### *Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program*

Mr. Harris reported that on July 5<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Salazar announced the kickoff of the process to develop the “Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan” (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam. The LTEMP will provide a comprehensive review of dam operations, and ensure that flow regimes continue to meet downstream water supply and hydropower needs, as well as protection of natural and cultural resources. Mr. Harris reported that the last comprehensive environmental review of Glen Canyon Dam operations was done in 1995, since that time several high-flow experimental flows have been conducted and much data has been collected. All of this will be included in a new National Environmental Policy Act review process. The LTEMP is intended to guide future actions and management decisions coming out of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (AMP). Public scoping meetings are anticipated to be held later in 2011 in advance of preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Mr. Harris reported that also on July 5<sup>th</sup>, Reclamation released a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating potential impacts associated with the “Development of and Implementation of Protocol for High-Flow Experimental Releases from Glen Canyon Dam”. The purpose of the protocol will be used to determine the timing and duration (several days to as long as ten days), as well as under what conditions to conduct experimental high-volume releases. The high-flow releases are being evaluated to determine the parameters of high-flow releases for conserving sediment to benefit natural and cultural resources below the dam. Mr. Harris reported that the proposed experimental protocol is intended to be part of the ongoing AMP, comply with the 1992 Grand Canyon Protection Act, and follow the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Reservoir Operation.

## **WATER QUALITY**

### Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

Mr. Harris reported that the 2011 Draft Triennial Review Report (Triennial Review) adopted by the Salinity Control Forum at its June 2011 meeting. The Triennial Review composes a three year overview of the goals and objectives, as well as the status of the salinity control programs in the Upper Basin. The Triennial Review is available on the Board webpage at: <http://crb.ca.gov/PublicNotice.html>. Comments on the Draft are due by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### The Return of Mr. Zimmerman

Chairman Fisher announced that with the new Fiscal Year, Mr. Zimmerman is again available to serve the Board in its inter-state issues. Chairman Fisher announced that he's asked Mr. Zimmerman to take the lead on the Basin Study and the Binational negotiations with Mexico.

### Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California.

There being no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kuiper moved the Board meeting be adjourned. Mr. Menvielle seconded the motion, and with unanimous approval, the Board meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. on July 13, 2011.

/S/

Christopher S. Harris  
Acting Executive Director