

Minutes of Information Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, February 13, 2013

An Information Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Vineyard Room, at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, at 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, February 13, 2013.

Board Members Present

Dana B. Fisher, Jr., Chairman
James Cleo Hanks
David R. Pettijohn

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish and Game

Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternate Absent

John V. Foley
Franz W. De Klotz

John Palmer Powell, Jr.
Bill D. Wright

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
Autumn Ashurst
James E. Barrett
Stephen W. Benson
John Penn Carter
J.C. Jay Chen
Dan Denham
Leslie M. Gallagher
Jennifer Goodsell
Christopher S. Harris
William J. Hasencamp
Thomas G. Havens
Michael T. Hogan
Michael W. Hughes
Richard Johnson

Thomas E. Levy
Jan P. Matusak
Doug McPherson
Glen D. Peterson
William D. "Bud" Pocklington
Tom J. Ryan
Halla Razak
Tina L. A. Shields
Ed W. Smith
Catherine M. Stites
Tanya M. Trujillo
Meena Westford
David Vigil
Mark Van Vlack
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced that a quorum was not present so the meeting was an informational meeting only. He called the informational meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director Tanya Trujillo requested that Board staff introduce themselves and describe their positions.

Executive Director and Chairman of the Board visit Sacramento

Ms. Trujillo reported that she and Chairman Fisher met with representatives and staff of the California executive and legislative branches in Sacramento, on February 4th and 5th. Chairman Fisher added that the meetings went well and that they were well received by all of the directors, representatives and staff they met with in Sacramento.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Ms. Trujillo reported that Colorado River Basin reservoir storage from October 1st to February 1st in Lake Powell was about 12.17 maf or 50 percent of capacity, storage in Lake Mead was 13.83 maf, or 53 percent of capacity, overall System storage was 32.78 maf, or 55 percent of capacity. System storage at this time last year was 38.32 maf, or 64 percent of capacity, about ten percent greater than current System storage. As of February 4th precipitation was 78 percent of normal. The snow water equivalent was 83 percent of normal. Reclamation's projection of unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was 3.85 million acre-feet (maf) for April through July 2013, or 54 percent of average. The water year projection from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 was 5.80 maf, or about 54 percent of average.

Ms. Trujillo reported that Reclamation's forecast of estimated consumptive use (CU) during calendar year 2012 was for the State of Nevada to be under its apportionment of 300,000 acre-feet (i.e. 236,000 acre-feet). Arizona was also estimated to use less than its apportionment of 2.8 maf (i.e. 2.796 maf), and California is expected to be slightly over its basic entitlement of 4.4 maf (i.e. 4.420 maf). The total Lower Division States are estimated to be at 7.452 maf. In 2011, the Lower Basin CU was about 7.321 maf.

State and Local Water Reports

Ms. Jeanine Jones, of the California Department of Water Resources, reported that there were a few wet storms in late November and early December, but since then it's been dry except in the extreme north of the state where it is about average for this time of year. Fortunately, the water year began with most of the states' reservoir storage above average.

Chairman Fisher asked whether adjustments were anticipated regarding releases through the Delta. Ms. Jones reported that the Federal Central Valley Project has not yet announced the allocations for this year, but it is expected within the next week or two. The initial and current State Water Project Table A allocations are 40 percent and have not yet been adjusted. Under the current Biological Opinion, the take limit on the Delta Smelt at the Clifton Court Bay pumping facility is at 75 percent of the threshold through June of this year, so pumping has been reduced in order to stay under the take limit. If the threshold is reached, a mandatory consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is triggered.

Mr. Glen Peterson, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), added that there would be a press conference on February 13th dealing with this issue by Westlands Water District, MWD and other State Water Project contractors in the area. He also mentioned that recent reductions in turbidity may inadvertently reduce the number of Delta Smelt taken at the Clifton Court Bay Pumping Plant. Mr. Peterson reported that as of February 1st, MWD's combined reservoir storage of Lakes Skinner, Mathews, and Diamond Valley, was about 844,900 acre-feet, or about 82 percent of capacity. As of February 1st, Lake Mathews had about 105,300 acre-feet, or 58 percent of capacity. Lake Skinner had about 38,300 acre-feet or about 87 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley Lake had about 701,400 acre-feet in storage, or about 87 percent of capacity. Mr. Peterson reported that total deliveries for calendar year 2012 were about 1.81 maf, or 86 percent of the ten-year average of 2.10 maf.

Mr. Pettijohn, of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, reported that as of February 5th, the Eastern Sierra Snow Survey results started out great, but recently have essentially flat lined and are currently slightly above average.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that prior to the 1980's, exports from the Owens Valley averaged about 450,000 acre-feet per year. However, environmental reallocations, including the Owens Lake dust control remediation project, have reduced the available supply by about 100,000 acre-feet per year, and that the average Owens Valley exports are now about half of what they used to be.

Colorado River Operations

Resignation of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior Ken Salazar

Ms. Trujillo reported that Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced his resignation on January 16th, effective in March 2013. On February 6th, President Obama announced his nomination of Ms. Sally Jewell, CEO of REI, to be the next Secretary of the Interior. The next step for Ms. Jewell is confirmation by the Senate.

Status of the Long Term Experimental Management Plan (LTEMP) Environmental Impact Statement and the Adaptive Management Work Group

Ms. Trujillo reported that on February 8th the Department of the Interior (DOI) met with representatives of the Basin States to discuss the technical details of the States' alternative for the LTEMP – EIS called the “Resource Targeted Condition-Dependant Alternative”. DOI anticipates a draft LTEMP-EIS by the end of December 2013. Discussions will continue during a half-day session on the LTEMP at the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group's (AMWG) annual meeting, scheduled for February 20th and 21st in Tempe, Arizona.

Status of the Salinity Control Forum and Work Group

Ms. Trujillo reported that Salinity Control Forum and Work Group is currently meeting in San Diego and Ms. Liu of the Board's staff is attending. A report on the Salinity Control Forum and Work Group will be made at the next Board meeting. Ms. Trujillo reported that in January, Reclamation issued a Scoping Report in connection with the EIS for the brine removal operations at the Paradox Valley Unit in Southwestern Colorado. The Scoping Report evaluates replacement options for the deep-injection well that is nearing the end of its life. A proposed evaporation pond

pilot study is being considered. It is anticipated that selection and implementation of a project will be in place before the Paradox Valley Unit fails.

Revised Schedule of Calendar Year 2012 Water Deliveries to Mexico

Ms. Trujillo reported that on December 26, 2012, Reclamation notified the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) that a revision to the schedule of water deliveries to Mexico had been approved. Mexico's Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA) requested an additional downward delivery adjustment of 748.7 acre-feet for the month of December 2012. The downward delivery adjustment was made pursuant to Minute 318. In Calendar Year 2012, 1.228 maf was delivered at the Northerly International Boundary of the Colorado River and 0.139 maf was delivered at the Southerly International Boundary of the Colorado River. The total downward delivery adjustment totals 133,000 acre-feet, and is being stored in the Colorado River reservoir system.

Minute 319 Updates and Next Steps

Ms. Trujillo reported that since Minute 319 was signed on November 20, 2012, Reclamation and the IBWC have coordinated regarding implementation efforts. The Principal Engineers from Reclamation, IBWC, and their Mexican counterparts are currently meeting to initiate a process to form Small Bi-National Teams for specific projects that could include: Water Accounting; Hydrology; Reforma Canal Lining; Rosarito Desalination Plant; All-American Canal Turnout; and an Environmental Work Group. Ms. Trujillo reported that a coordination call is scheduled for the afternoon of February 13th.

Basin States Discussions

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report (Basin Study Report) – Update and Next Steps

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Final Basin Study Report was released on December 12, 2012. The Basin States and DOI are planning educational workshops to be held in the Upper and Lower Basins. After the workshops have been held, small groups would be formed to begin the implementation as described in Section 10 of the Basin Study Report of Future Considerations and Next Steps. Small groups would be formed to look more closely at municipal conservation and reuse and agricultural conservation and transfers. DOI received feedback from the Native American Tribes and DOI has agreed to meet with Tribes and consider tribal water uses and issues that would be evaluated as part of the Basin Study process.

Mr. Trujillo reported that additional white papers may be prepared that address other categories within Section 10: creation and use of water banks; system augmentation; watershed management; tribal water; environmental flows; data and tool development; climate science; and partnerships. There is a planning meeting scheduled for February 22nd to continue discussions.

Status of the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project

Ms. Trujillo suggested that the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project discussion and action be deferred until the next Board meeting. Chairman Fisher concurred.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, at 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California.

There being no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher called the informational meeting to an end at 11:13 a.m. on February 13, 2013.

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Tanya M. Trujillo
Executive Director