

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, March 13, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Salon 4 Room, of Radisson Ontario Airport, 2200 East Holt Boulevard, Ontario, California, Wednesday, March 13, 2013.

Board Members and Alternates Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr, Chairman
James Cleo Hanks
Henry Merle Kuiper
David R. Pettijohn

Bill D. Wright

Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternate Absent

John V. Foley
Terese Marie Ghio
Franz W. De Klotz
James B. McDaniel

John Palmer Powell, Jr.

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Autumn Ashurst
James M. Barrett
John Penn Carter
J.C. Jay Chen
Dan Denham
Leslie Gallagher
Jennifer Goodsell
William J. Hasencamp
Michael T. Hogan
Thomas E. Levy
Lindia Y. Liu
Jan P. Matusak

Doug McPherson
Glen D. Peterson
Bud Pocklington
Halla Razak
Tom J. Ryan
Jack Seiler
Tina L. A. Shields
Ed W. Smith
Gary E. Tavetian
Joseph A. Vanderhorst
Mark Van Vlack
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum, and called the meeting to order at 10:14 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 the meeting to the next agenda item.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fisher adopted the informational meeting minutes of February 13th, and asked if there was a motion to approve the December 12th meeting minutes. Mr. Pettijohn moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Ms. Jones. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the December 12th meeting minutes.

New Board Member Information

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Board would be putting together a new Board member packet for the new Board members. The new Board member packet will be available at the next Board meeting.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Ms. Trujillo reported that precipitation from October 1st to March 4th was 75 percent of normal, and the snowpack was about 79 percent of normal. The April through July runoff is expected to be 3.75 million acre-feet (maf) or 52 percent of normal. The anticipated 2013 water year runoff is 5.74 maf, or about 53 percent of normal.

Ms. Trujillo reported that as of March 1st, the storage in Lake Powell was 11.89 maf, or 49 percent of capacity. The surface elevation was 3,601.5 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 13.81 maf, or 53 percent of capacity. The surface elevation was 1,122.1 feet. Total system storage was about 32.44 maf, or 54 percent of capacity. Last year at this time there was 37.94 maf, or 64 percent of capacity.

Ms. Trujillo added that the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, Upper Colorado Mainstem Group indicated that current precipitation is about the same as 2002, the lowest year on record.

State and Local Water Reports

Ms. Jeanine Jones, of the California Department of Water Resources, reported that precipitation in Southern California is also quite dry. January and February were together the driest in 90 years of records in California. Both the Sacramento Basin Eight-station Index and the San Joaquin Five-station Index showed a downward trend. Usually April 1st is the peak of

the snowpack, but it appears the peak has already occurred and the snow has started to melt. The ten-day forecast indicates there is a potential for wet conditions, but the prediction models are not in agreement. The Central Valley Project announced that the initial allocation at the end of February for agriculture south of the Delta is 25 percent of their allocation, and for urban exports it is 75 percent of their allocation.

Mr. Wright, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that the Colorado River Aqueduct is now pumping at a seven pump flow, the increase will allow the storage capacity of local reservoirs to be restored. As of March 1st the combined storage of Lakes Skinner, Mathews, and Diamond Valley, was 825,900 acre-feet, or 80 percent of capacity. MWD's 2013 Colorado River supply estimate is about 764,000 acre-feet. Deliveries to member agencies were about 99,000 acre-feet for the month of January, or about 74 percent of the ten year average.

Mr. Pettijohn, of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), reported that there was almost no precipitation in the Eastern Sierra during the months of January and February. December was great, but if current conditions prevail, runoff will be about 60 percent of average. Without additional runoff, LADWP will probably be buying over 300,000 acre-feet of water from MWD this year.

Colorado River Operations

Review of Reclamation's Forecast of 2012

Ms. Trujillo reported the as of March 1st, the forecast 2013 consumptive use (CU) by the Lower Basin States is 7.1 maf. As of February 13, 2013, calendar year 2012 CU, for the Lower Basin, is 7.45, and California's CU is reported as 4.419 maf. California's CU is technically over the normal 4.4 maf, but the overage is not unauthorized or unanticipated in the context of the normal back-and-forth process between Reclamation and the water users throughout the water year. There are allowable uses over 4.4 maf, and that information is captured in Reclamation's "use to date and approved annual water orders" column of the forecast page. California's final CU is expected to be finalized in accordance with Reclamation's decree accounting process, in the next couple of months. Chairman Fisher asked for examples of the legitimate uses above 4.4 maf. Mr. Trujillo reported that in the column titled "Excess to Estimated Use" indicates estimated overuse by MWD and the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and under use by Coachella Valley Water District. Ms. Trujillo reported that MWD's overage is expected to be removed by the next report update and IID's overuse is tracked and monitored pursuant to the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy. In the category titled "Interim Surplus Guidelines Annual Target Comparison Calculation", Reclamation tracks the progress California has been making in terms of meeting the benchmark targets in Exhibit B to the Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement.

Final 2013 Annual Operating Plan

Ms. Trujillo reported that on January 24, 2013, Secretary Salazar approved the 2013 Annual Operating Plan (2013 AOP) for Colorado River Reservoirs. In the 2013 AOP, it notes that this year is tied for number two of the worst ten years of hydrology. That was taken into account in the development of 2013 AOP. The 2013 AOP is posted on Reclamation's Lower

Colorado Region webpage at: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/aop/AOP13.pdf>.

Status of the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project (LCWSP) was authorized by Congress in 1986. The City of Needles has the master contract with Reclamation for the water rights for the project and then subcontracts with all of the small, individual users to receive water through the LCWSP project. In 2005, the program was expanded, via federal legislation, to allow MWD to participate and receive the additional water through the project. Reclamation held a meeting on January 24th to update stakeholders on Phase II of the project. Phase II was initiated in 2010 and is currently about 40 percent complete. Phase II consists of drilling two additional wells, and includes a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system for the wells of the LCWSP system. The project is authorized to pump up to 10,000 acre-feet per year. Reclamation reported that the preliminary design/planning process phase was going to cost about \$320,000 dollars. Reclamation is in the process of determining a more precise estimate of the cost of the next phases of work. The LCWSP is an important component of California's water supply that primarily covers small water users along the river without an authorized use, or who have an insufficient authorization.

There were questions raised at the meeting about the project's current production rate and funding. The project is currently producing between 3,800 and 6,300 acre feet. There have been operational problems with the wells because they are not performing to the expected capacity. Reclamation provides no funding for the program; it is completely self-funded by the project participants. Participants in the program pay an annual fee per acre-foot into a trust fund that the City of Needles maintains.

Ms. Trujillo reported that there were several ongoing solar projects that are being developed in connection with BLM's and the state of California's renewable energy initiatives. Some of those projects do not have water rights and the Board will be monitoring and tracking them to determine what the sources of water will be used for those projects.

The Board currently has two applications before it requesting approval of a total of four acre-feet of water per year for domestic use. Upon the motion of Mr. Kuiper, seconded by Mr. Wright, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the two applications for a total of four acre-feet per year.

Ms. Jones asked if there was a similar program in any of the other Lower Basin States, namely Arizona. Ms. Trujillo reported that she has not heard of one.

Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group Meeting and the Status of the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) meet on February 20-21, 2013 in Tempe, Arizona. Ms. Trujillo reported that the primary purpose of the AMWG is to provide recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior relating to management of the Grand Canyon. Reclamation provided updates on the Basin hydrology, and the preliminary results of the recent High Flow Experiment (HFE). The purpose of the HFE was to build beaches for recreation use, and to track impacts on the native fish

species in the area, especially endangered species. The states have combined efforts to present a proposal for the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan environmental impact statement (LTEMP-EIS) process that is underway at the Department of the Interior (DOI). There has been ongoing communication between the states' scientists and DOI regarding the elements that the states are proposing. The states' concern is that the operational criteria the states agreed to in the 2007 Record of Decision must be preserved. There has been continued discussion among the stakeholders, Reclamation, the National Park Service (NPS), and the Basin States on refining the states' proposal as Reclamation and the NPS develop their process to develop the final alternative, and is expected in December.

Ms. Trujillo reported that on the afternoon of February 21st, the Central Arizona Project hosted a tour for participants of some of their facilities.

Salinity Control Workgroup Meeting

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Salinity Control Workgroup (Workgroup) met in San Diego, February 11-13, 2013. The Workgroup heard reports on the status of the Paradox Valley Salinity Control Unit (PVU) EIS, an activity the Board is monitoring, and the U.S Department of Agriculture Research Service (ARS) briefed the Workgroup on the status of the "Rangeland Study". The "Rangeland Study" is a cooperative effort among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and Reclamation to look at potential areas where additional salinity control projects may be possible on federal rangeland areas. The "Rangeland Study" is currently at the literature review phase of references relative to salt mobilization and transport on rangelands. The next phase consists of a synthesis performed by BLM, USGS and Reclamation, and a draft is expected to be available in a couple of months.

Ms. Lindia Liu reported that the Board agreed to be a cooperating agency in the PVU EIS process. Reclamation recommended each of the states within both the Upper and Lower Basins agree to be cooperating agencies for the PVU EIS so that open discussions can be held at the Workgroup and Forum meetings.

Ms. Trujillo reported that members of the Workgroup were asked to prepare testimony in support of federal appropriations for the Salinity Control Program. She added that the next scheduled meeting of the Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Council meeting is on May 16-17, 2013 in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Basin States Discussion

Status of the Bi-National Discussions

Ms. Trujillo reported that a binational meeting to begin implementation of Minute 319 was held on March 7 in Tijuana, Mexico. California was well represented with staff from IID, MWD, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), and the Board. There was a large contingent from Mexico, as part of Mexico's effort to involve more stakeholders in ongoing activities. Mexico gave updates on several of the projects they are particularly interested in moving forward on. Small groups have been formed as part of the binational process to continue discussions on Mexico's projects. The All-American Canal turn-out was one of the options where IID was particularly active in continuing discussions. Reports were heard on the potential

to develop a regulating reservoir at the Alamo Canal, as well as updates on the restoration projects, the Miguel Aleman Project and the Laguna Grande Project. Tree planting and habitat restoration are underway. Mexico will be using funding from the Minute 319 agreement to purchase water rights for the restored habitat sites and to facilitate restoration work. An update on the Rosarito Desalination proposal, in which SDCWA has been active for several years, was heard. Discussions on developing the accounting procedures for Mexico's Environmental Pilot Program intended to restore periodic pulse flows as well as a base flow through the delta areas, are tentatively scheduled for next week in Tijuana, Mexico.

Status of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report

Ms. Trujillo reported that Reclamation has scheduled three educational workshops on the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report in: 1) Salt Lake City, Utah on March 25th; 2) Phoenix, Arizona on March 26th; and 3) a Webinar session on April 3rd. Reclamation is forming small work groups to address Municipal Conservation and Reuse and Agricultural Conservation and Transfers.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Trujillo reported that Friday, March 14th the annual Colorado River Law of the River Continuing Legal Education Seminars is being held in Las Vegas, NV. She added that Mr. Hasencamp was one of the organizers of the event. Ms. Trujillo reported that on March 13th the International Boundary and Water Commission scheduled a stakeholders meeting relating to the binational water issues and issues relating to Minute 319.

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 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 the meeting. Upon the motion of Mr. Kuiper, seconded by Mr. Wright, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 11:18 a.m. on March 13, 2013.

/S/

Tanya M. Trujillo
Executive Director