

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

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

Board Members and Alternates Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman
Franz W. De Klotz
James C. Hanks
Henry Merle Kuiper
Glen D. Peterson

David R. Pettijohn
W.D. "Bud" Pocklington
Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources
Christopher G. Hayes, Designee
Department of Fish & Wildlife

Board Members Absent

John V. Foley
Terese M. Ghio
Michael T. Hogan

James B. McDaniel

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
Tim Blair
John Penn Carter
Mickey Chaudhuri
J.C. Jay Chen
Robert Cheng
Dan Denham
Christopher S. Harris
William Hasencamp
Lori Jones
Lindia Liu
Jan Matusak
Kara Mathews

Carrie Oliphant
Autumn Plourd
Angela Rashid
Tom Ryan
Jack Seiler
Tina L. A. Shields
Ed W. Smith
Joanna Smith
Gary Tavetian
Tanya Trujillo
Joe Vanderhorst
Doug Wilson
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Fisher asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Mr. John Carter announced that he is currently retained to advise Imperial Irrigation District (IID) regarding Colorado River issues, and that there may be some confusion about his role. He stated that unless specifically directed by IID, any opinions that are expressed by him about Colorado River matters will be his own.

Chairman Fisher moved to the next agenda item.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fisher asked if there was a motion to approve the October 9 minutes. Mr. Kuiper moved the minutes be approved. Seconded by Mr. De Klotz and unanimously carried, the October 9 meeting minutes were approved.

2014 Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Trujillo reported that meetings have typically been held on a monthly basis on the Wednesday after the second Tuesday of every month in Ontario, CA. Ms. Trujillo presented an option for consideration of rotating the Board meetings among the various member agency locations. Based on feedback from the Board, a formal schedule will be proposed during the December Board meeting.

Mr. Zimmerman explained that sometimes when the Board met at other locations, the meetings were not as well attended as the Ontario location and that there were sometimes problems getting a quorum.

Ms. Trujillo answered Mr. Kuiper's question that the exact cost has not been analyzed yet, but she would work with the member agencies at their respective locations to find a location that made sense from a fiscal perspective.

Resolution Honoring Mr. Dennis Strong

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Board folder included a draft resolution honoring Dennis Strong, the Director of the Utah Division of Water Resources. Mr. Strong announced his retirement from public service, effective November 1, 2013. The resolution recognizes Mr. Strong's public service for the State of Utah and his cooperation and collaboration on Colorado River issues. Ms. Trujillo stated that she appreciated his good influence and problem solving on the River and asked the Board for consideration of a resolution in his honor. Chairman Fisher and Mr. Zimmerman also commented on Mr. Strong's good sense of humor and willingness to help resolve

Colorado River Basin issues.

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Pocklington, seconded by Ms. Jones, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the resolution to honor Mr. Dennis Strong.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Ms. Trujillo reported that as of November 1, 2013, the water level at Lake Mead was at 1,104 feet with 12.10 million acre-feet of storage, or 47 % of capacity, while the water level at Lake Powell was at 3,591 feet with 10.90 million acre-feet of storage, or 45 % of capacity. She also reported that the total System active storage as of November 1 was 29.62 maf, or 50 % of capacity, which was 4.02 maf less than one year ago when the System storage was at 56 % of capacity.

Ms. Trujillo reported that the projected consumptive use of Colorado River water in the Lower Division States for calendar year 2013 is forecasted to be 7.44 million acre-feet with Arizona using 2.82 million acre-feet; California using 4.38 maf; and Nevada using 253, 000 acre-feet. Ms. Trujillo reported that it looked like the Lower Basin would be staying well under the 7.5 million acre-foot allocation for Calendar-Year 2013.

State and Local Water Reports

Board member, Ms. Jeanine Jones of the California Department of Water Resources, reported that statewide reservoir storage is about 70 percent of average. The State Water Project initial allocation will come out at the end of the month. The San Luis Reservoir is quite low and that will be a significant factor in the decision about the initial allocation. She also reported that a research workshop for the annual winter outlook forecast will be held next week and that DWR is working to expedite the water transfer process for entities who are buying water in the Sacramento Valley and moving it down to the San Joaquin River or Southern California for the possibility of dry conditions.

Board member, Mr. Glen Peterson of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that MWD's Colorado River Aqueduct is currently at a seven-pump flow and that the member agencies' combined total water uses are at about 98 percent of average.

COLORADO RIVER OPERATIONS

Glen Canyon Dam High-Flow Experimental Release, November 11-16, 2013

Ms. Trujillo reported that on November 11, 2013 the Department of Interior

(DOI) started the second High Flow Experimental Release out of Glen Canyon Dam in accordance with procedures that DOI adopted last year for utilizing high flow releases in order to move sediment down, when it was appropriate, through the Marble Canyon reach of the Colorado River. The High Flow Release will be conducted from November 11-16, 2013 and normal operations will resume on November 16. The United States Geological Society will take the lead in evaluating the results of this experiment.

BASIN STATES DISCUSSIONS

Status of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply & Demand Study

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Basin Study work groups continued to meet in October and additional meetings are planned in November. The work groups address municipal conservation, agricultural conservation, and environmental flows. The Basin Study Coordination Team is scheduled to meet on November 14, 2013 to review the status and progress of the work groups, and receive updates from the federally led projects, which include the Tribal Basin Study and climate-related analysis. The states will provide updates on augmentation activities, including the Weather Modification programs and on Upper Basin water banking progress.

Minute 319 Implementation Update

Ms. Trujillo reported that the most-recent bi-national meeting was held in Rosarito, Mexico. The International Boundary & Water Commission (IBWC) and its Mexican counterpart are evaluating possible locations for a desalination facility. The bi-national environmental work group is developing a draft recommendation for the pulse flow that would be released next Spring to help the environmental issues in the Mexican Delta. Mexico has allocated approximately 105,000 acre-feet for an environmental flow release. The work group is working to ensure that the parameters of the release will work from an operational perspective in the U.S. The work group is also developing a monitoring plan to monitor the effects of the release.

In response to a question, Ms. Trujillo explained that the environmental work group has analyzed the pulse flow effects in terms of seven different reach segments along the river, including the Limitrophe regions and the border at the U.S. northern and southern delivery points. Hopefully, the peak flow event will encourage growth of the cottonwood and willows, which is the good habitat for birds and plants in the area. Water rights have been acquired to establish a base flow of water for use throughout the year to support the seedlings that will develop as a result of the pulse flow.

In response to Chairman Fisher's question, Ms. Trujillo explained that it is unlikely that the Colorado River will reunite with the delta during this experiment because there is not a big enough flow for a long enough duration. But, that is one of the general goals with respect to the rehabilitation of the Delta.

Board member, Ms. Jones commented that they're re-watering a long stretch of the San Joaquin River that had historically been de-watered and there are hydraulic issues associated with moving the water because the land contours have changed due to subsidence.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

Mr. Harris provided an overview of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. He started out by describing the historical background leading to the implementation of Minute 242 and the passage of the 1974 Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act. Mr. Harris described the salinity control activities required under Titles I and II of the Act. Mr. Harris also discussed the sources of salt-loading within the Colorado River Basin with approximately fifty-percent of the salt coming from naturally occurring sources like geologic formations, and the remaining salt entering the Colorado River as a result of human activities. The salinity of mainstream water is responsible for significant economic damages that are incurred by users of in both the municipal and agricultural sectors. Mr. Harris also provided an overview of the salinity standards at the three numeric criteria measuring points below Hoover Dam, below Parker Dam, and at Imperial Dam.

Mr. Harris then focused the remainder of his presentation on the implementation of the various salinity control measures being implemented in the Upper Colorado River Basin pursuant to Title II of the Act. Mr. Harris identified the participants in the Program and how the Program is administered through the Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Council. As of the 2011 Triennial Review, the total amount of salt being controlled in the Basin is approximately 1.2 million tons annually. It is estimated that an additional 8.8 million tons of salt enter the mainstream annually. Finally, Mr. Harris briefly described how the Program is funded and the cost-sharing relationships among the Program participants.

Ms. Lindia Liu of the Board staff gave an update on the Salinity Forum and Work Group's meetings on October 21 - 24, 2013 at the MWD offices in Los Angeles. The Advisory Council did not meet due to the government shutdown. The Forum recognized Mr. Jerry Zimmerman for his services on the Forum and Advisory Council. As part of the continuing discussions on the cash-flow issues of the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund and its potential impact on the implementation of the Salinity Control Program, a states-only meeting was held on the evening of October 22, 2013 and a subcommittee with up to two representatives from each state would be convened to evaluate long-term funding solutions.

Ms. Liu reported that the next Work Group meeting was scheduled for November 21 and 22, 2013 in St. George, Utah, with a field trip to see the Pah Tempe Springs experiment on November 20, 2013. The purpose of the experiment is to determine how much salt is actually entering the Virgin River from the saline hot-springs. Finally, Ms. Liu reported that the next Forum meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 2014 in

Jackson, Wyoming.

Colorado River Basin Water Quality Programs

Mr. Mickey Chaudhuri of MWD gave the Board a presentation on current Colorado River water quality issues. He gave an overview of MWD's Source Water Projection Program, which includes watershed management, monitoring, resources and planning, remediation and protection programs, modeling and forecasting, and regulatory and legislative efforts. MWD coordinates with various key water quality stakeholders including Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, Lower Colorado River Water Quality Partnership, Lake Mead Water Quality Forum, and Clean Colorado River Sustainability Coalition. MWD oversees several water quality monitoring locations in the lower reaches of the river. Some of these locations are in response to compliance purposes but many of them are strategic and voluntarily done to understand seasonal variability and early warnings related to taste and odor components, as well as emerging contaminants.

Mr. Chaudhuri updated the Board on several key water quality issues that included the chromium VI remediation at the PG&E Topock gas compressor station in Topock, Arizona, the perchlorate remediation and phosphorus control near the Las Vegas Wash in Henderson, Nevada, and the Uranium Mill tailings cleanup in Moab, Utah. PG&E had used chromium VI as a corrosion inhibitor for its cooling tower water at its compressor station in Topock, Arizona, and as a result had created chromium VI contamination in the groundwater west of the river. The chromium VI cleanup project is currently at its remediation design stage and is anticipated to start in 2016.

The perchlorate contamination in the Las Vegas Wash, which discharges into Lake Mead, was a result of chemical manufacturing operations and later the production of ammonium perchlorate for the defense and aerospace industries. Remedial systems were put in place shortly after the discovery. In 2009, Tronox, one of the previous chemical manufacturers, filed for bankruptcy and an \$81 million settlement created an environmental trust that took over the clean-up operations. A long-term remedial plan for soil and ground water is being developed at the Tronox site. For the adjacent AMPAC plume, the fluidized-bed remediation system, in place since August 2012, is currently removing up to 1,400 lbs of contaminated soil per day. With the remediation in place, the loading of perchlorate into the Las Vegas Wash continues to decline. Another program, the Las Vegas Wash Stabilization Program led by Southern Nevada Water Authority, was initiated in the late 90's to stabilize the Las Vegas Wash and to restore habitat by building erosion control structures along the wash. As a result of the program, the wash was taken off Nevada's impaired water body list for suspended solids.

The mill tailings cleanup effort has so far removed over 6.3 of the 16 million tons of uranium piles from the Moab site, which is about 750 feet from the west bank of the Colorado River in Utah. The tailings are removed via rail to a site about 30 miles northwest of Moab. The removal is anticipated to be completed in 2025, depending on the amount of federal annual appropriations that the project receives.

Tour of the Yuma Area Facilities

Ms. Angela Rashid reported that the staff of the Colorado River Board toured Reclamation's Yuma Area Office (YAO) operations and facilities on November 4 and 5, 2013. The tour was guided by Maria Ramirez, Yuma Area Manager, Ed Virden, Chief of YAO's Operations and Maintenance, and Aaron Marshall, a Water Resource Specialist. The group toured operations related to water deliver, salinity management and hydropower. Some of the tour sites included the Yuma Desalting Plant, the Limitrophe region, the Yuma Siphon, the Minute 242 Well field, the Laguna Habitat Improvement Project, and Imperial Dam.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Board folder included two flyers. One flyer announced the Imperial Valley forum to be held on November 14, 2013. The second flyer announced the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's celebration of the centennial of the Los Angeles Aqueduct with scheduled events from October 18 through November 6, 2013.

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next Board meeting will be held in conjunction with the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) on December 11, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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. Pettijohn, seconded by Mr. Kuiper, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 11:35 a.m. on November 11, 2013.