

Minutes of Meeting  
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
Thursday, August 11, 2016

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California was held at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in Bishop, California. Thursday, August 11, 2016

Committee Members and Alternates Present

Stephen Benson	David R. Pettijohn
Brian Brady	John Powell, Jr.
Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman	Jack Seiler
Jeanine Jones	David Vigil
Peter Nelson	Doug Wilson
Glen D. Peterson	

Committee Members and Alternates Absent

James Hanks	Christopher Hayes
Hank Kuiper	
Michael Touhey	

Others Present

Steve Abbott	Eric Katz
Marty Adams	Andrew Leimgruber
Robert Cheng	Ronald C. Leimgruber
Dan Denham	Sara Leimgruber
Matt Dessert	Jessica Lovecchio
Karen Donovan	Jan Matusak
Castulo Estrada	Vic Nguyen
Andrew Fisher	Fernando Paludi
Sally Fisher	Autumn Plourd
Norma Sierra Galindo	Angela Rashid
Serge Haddad	Tom Ryan
Christopher Harris	Tina Shields
Bill Hasencamp	Darren Simon
Scott Houston	Tanya Trujillo
Michael Hughes	Gerald Zimmerman
Lisa Johansen	

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:05 A.M.

## **WELCOME**

General Manager Adams with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power welcomed everyone to the Owens Valley, Inyo County and Mono Basin to see the Los Angeles Aqueduct system. He acknowledged the similarities between the environmental mitigation projects in the Owens Valley and projects proposed for the Salton Sea. Mr. Adams also thanked the speakers from his staff that were present and provided vital information during the tour. He also introduced Jeff Griffiths, the Chair of the County Board of Supervisors for Inyo County. Mr. Griffiths also welcomed everyone and acknowledged the county's long relationship with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Chairman Fisher invited anyone in the audience to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board.

## **Consideration and Approval of the Minutes**

Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to approve the June 15, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Benson moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Pettijohn, and by unanimous support, the June 15, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.

## **COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORTS**

### **Colorado River Basin Water Reports and State and Local Water Reports**

Ms. Trujillo reported that as of, August 1, the Colorado River Basin system was 52% of capacity. Lake Mead was 36% of capacity, while storage in Lake Powell was 56%. Ms. Trujillo stated that Lake Mead's elevation was 1072.2 feet, noting that in late July, Lake Mead hits its lowest level on record but its elevation is slowly increasing. The preliminary observed April to July 2016 runoff to Lake Powell was 92% of normal. Ms. Trujillo noted that on August 15, 2016, Reclamation will be releasing the August 24-Month study which will be used to set the operating tiers for reservoir operations in 2017. For 2017, recent projections show that 9.0

million acre-feet will be released from Lake Powell and that Lake Mead will be operating under a normal or surplus year for the Lower Basin. Ms. Trujillo reported that for 2018, Reclamation's current projections indicate that there is a 50% chance of hitting the first level of shortage under the 2007 Guidelines.

Ms. Trujillo reported that the second consultation meeting for the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) was held at the end of July in Las Vegas, Nevada. Public drafts are available on Reclamation's website. Ms. Trujillo reiterated that the AOP governs the operation of all the reservoirs in the system. Further, Ms. Trujillo reported that during the meeting she provided a brief annual report on California's compliance with the Colorado Water Use Plan, which included reporting of various conservation efforts, canal linings, transfers and fallowing programs that have been implemented over the past several years and concluded that California has exceeded the targets that were established in the 2007 Guidelines for California's agricultural water use reductions. Her report also included an update on the status of California's drought.

### State and Local Reports

Mr. Benson reported on the status of Imperial Irrigation District's transfers to the Coachella Valley Water District and the San Diego County Water Authority as required by the Quantification Settlement Agreement. Mr. Benson reported that IID currently has an over 100,000 acre-feet underrun and is scheduled to store 25,000 acre-feet in Lake Mead as Intentionally Created Surplus.

Ms. Jones reported that the California Department of Water Resources has released the results of the Spring Statewide Groundwater Level Monitoring from the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring program on its website. The results indicated continued declines in the San Joaquin Valley and significant decline in the Ventura Coastal Plain.

Mr. Peterson reported that it is anticipated that the Metropolitan Water District will deliver the same amount of water it received last month. To date, MWD has delivered 82% of its average interim deliveries which indicates that their member agencies are still conserving water.

Vice Chairman Wilson reported that SDCWA conservation targets have been reduced because it has passed the State's "stress test", certifying that it has three years of dry year storage available. Mr. Wilson reported that SDWCA has met and exceeded the State's mandated conservation targets, conserving 22% over a 13-month period of time. Mr. Wilson noted that SDWCA is still advising customers to conserve water.

Mr. Pettijohn stated that the LADWP has also passed the stress test and is no longer required to implement the State mandated conservation target. Mr. Pettijohn explained that aside

from the State mandated conservation targets, the City of Los Angeles, under direction of the Mayor, has set a goal to improve water efficiency and reduce its use to 104 gallon per capita per day. Further, despite passing the stress test, the City of Los Angeles will continue water use restrictions. Mr. Pettijohn reported that the LADWP recently adopted the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan which outlines the levels of water use efficiency that the City of Los Angeles hopes to achieve. Mr. Pettijohn stated that LADWP is exporting 100,000 acre-feet from the LA Aqueduct system and leaving a lot of water in the Owens Valley watershed for environmental maintenance and enhancement. Mr. Pettijohn explained that LADWP water supplies are very closely integrated with the Delta and the Colorado River systems because if LADWP exports less water from the Owens Valley it needs to purchase more water from MWD to supplement its supply. These actions affect MWD's incremental supplies in the Delta, its land fallowing programs tied to the Colorado River systems and the water supply needs of its member agencies.

Mr. Nelson reported that Coachella Valley Water District has also certified that it has three years of dry-year storage and no longer needs mandatory conservation. In July 2016, CVWD conserved 28% and 36% over a ten-year average. He also reported that CVWD has removed over 6 million square feet of turf. CVWD continues to recharge the aquifer with Colorado River water and the Board is in the process of developing policies to address the aquifer's overdraft issues using QSA water.

Ms. Trujillo reported that as of August 1, the State Water Project reservoirs were at 57% of capacity.

### Drought Contingency Planning

Ms. Trujillo reported that the drought contingency planning efforts are still underway and that there have been no new developments. Ms. Trujillo reported that during the latest meeting, which involved managers from California, Arizona, Nevada and the Commissioner of Reclamation the attendees reviewed the status of the planning efforts and discussed the potential for coming to an agreement by the end of the year, before the transition of the new federal government. Ms. Trujillo reiterated that the California agencies would like the agreement to include increased operational flexibility regarding ICS retrieval below the existing shortage triggers outlined in the 2007 Guidelines and that there should be incentives for creating additional storage in Lake Mead. The ultimate goal of the drought contingency planning process is to avoid hitting critically low levels at Lake Mead. Responding to a question from Mr. Wilson regarding the timeline for California to finalize an agreement, Ms. Trujillo stated that each agency would have an opportunity for its Board to review the agreement and would determine its own approval process.

Mr. Benson asked whether there have been discussions regarding the Salton Sea Memorandum of Understanding with the State of California. Ms. Trujillo responded that the federal government recognizes the significant challenges within California regarding the Bay Delta and the Salton Sea. She noted that the California Natural Resources Department has established an Assistant Secretary positions for the Salton Sea and has been holding meetings to discuss the restoration efforts. The federal government is interested in putting together a MOU between the Department of the Interior and the State Natural Resources Department. Chairman Fisher noted that in addition to finalizing the Salton Sea MOU and Bay Delta issues, the federal government will also continue its work in the Yuma area to create 100,000 acre-feet to offset water released via the Bypass for Minute 242 operations.

### Salinity Control Forum

Ms. Trujillo reported that the next Forum meeting is scheduled for the end of October in Moab, Utah and will include a tour and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for the Paradox Disposal Well. Ms. Trujillo reiterated that the Paradox Well has far exceeded its projected useful life and an EIS process is underway to replace the well. It is anticipated that the EIS will be completed by 2018. Ms. Trujillo reported that the EIS is considering three options for salt disposal which include constructing a new injection well, surface evaporation ponds, and a commercial disposal concept. Ms. Trujillo also reported that the Forum is developing a video to highlight the successes of the Salinity Control Program. The primary source of funding for the Salinity Control Program is from power revenues from the Hoover Dam. California contractors represent the largest purchasers of energy from the Hoover Dam and contributors to the program.

### Minute 319/32x

Ms. Trujillo reported that the bi-national negotiation group has had three negotiation sessions since June 2016. It is anticipated that a draft framework of the new Minute may be completed by the end of September. Ms. Trujillo stated that the new Minute would include similar provisions to Minute 319 such as the provision for Mexico to share in shortages if there are shortages in the U.S. The new Minute will also include a project component, which will give U.S. funders the opportunity to invest in conservation projects in Mexico, resulting in increased water for water users in the U.S. Ms. Trujillo reported that the environmental flows team would probably not recommend an additional pulse flow release but rather utilize their water to maintain existing habitat in Mexico. The new Minute's provisions may extend through the 2026 timeframe so that they are in-sync with the 2007 Guidelines. Ms. Trujillo added that the Mexican negotiators are currently reviewing how Reclamation analyzes and develops the hydrology projections so that they are comfortable with Reclamation's operating procedures for the reservoir system.

## Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Ms. Trujillo stated that the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program evaluates the various resource goals along the river through the Grand Canyon, from Lake Powell down to Lake Mead. An EIS process has been underway for several years to evaluate and determine new operating criteria for that region. Ms. Trujillo stated that completion of the EIS is also driven by the deadline for the federal administration transition. A Record of Decision is anticipated within the next few months. The next Adaptive Management Group meeting is scheduled for the end of August in Flagstaff, Arizona.

## Multiple Species Conservation Program

Mr. Harris reported that the Fiscal Year 2017 budget has been approved, which is approximately \$30 million for program implementation. He also reported that Reclamation finalized the Accomplishment Reports for 2015, which details the amount of habitat created and fish repatriated to the river system. Mr. Harris added that and Reclamation is working to fill a position for a Biological Program Manager as one of the program's key biologists accepted a position with the National Park Service. The next meeting for the Workgroup is scheduled for September and a Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for late October. Mr. Harris added that copies of the program's annual California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Compliance Report were submitted to Chris Hayes and David Vigil with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Harris explained that the report outlines the progress made toward meeting the program's CESA obligations.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Trujillo reported that Jennifer Gimbel, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science has retired and moved back to Colorado. She also noted that she thinks Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary of the Interior and Estevan Lopez, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation plan to stay with the administration through January 20, 2017, the federal administration transition deadline.

Ms. Trujillo reported that planning for the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) conference is underway and the conference will be held on December 14 -16, 2016. A Colorado River Board meeting will be held in conjunction to the conference.

## ADJOURNMENT

With 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 Mr. Nelson, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 P.M.