

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, May 11, 2016

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

Committee Members and Alternates Present

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

Committee Members and Alternates Absent

James Hanks
John Powell, Jr.

Others Present

Steve Abbott	Tom Ryan
Robert Cheng	Philip Southard
Dan Denham	Gary Tavetian
Michael Hughes	Tanya Trujillo
Lori Jones	CherieWatte
Tom Levy	Donnell Wilcox
Vic Nguyen	Gerald Zimmerman
Autumn Plourd	
Angela Rashid	
Eric Ruckdaschel	

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:06 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.

Consideration and Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to approve the March 9, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Pettijohn moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, and by unanimous support,

the March 9, 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 May 1, the Colorado River system storage was 48% of capacity. Lake Mead storage was 37% of capacity, while storage in Lake Powell was 45% of capacity. Lake Mead's elevation was at 1,076 feet and is estimated to drop to around 1,070 feet during the next few months. Ms. Trujillo reiterated that first tier shortages are outlined in the 2007 Guidelines and are based on August projections of reservoir levels on January 1 of the following year. Water Year (WY) 2016 precipitation to date is 97% of average and current Upper Basin snowpack is 130% of average. Runoff inflows into Lake Powell for WY 2016 are projected to be 78% of average. The April to July runoff is projected to be 74% of average. Precipitation in the Basin for March 2016 was about average in Northern Colorado, but below average throughout most of the Basin. Precipitation for April 2016 was above average in most of the Basin.

Ms. Trujillo reported that Upper Colorado Region snowpack conditions are better than last year's snowpack as of this time but are still below average. For May 2016, snow conditions throughout most of the Upper Basin ranged from 80% to 150% of average, with drier snow conditions, in Utah and areas of Wyoming and New Mexico, ranging from 50% to 80% of average. As of May 3, Upper Basin reservoir levels, other than Lake Powell, were 51% of capacity at Fontenelle and 86% of capacity at Flaming Gorge in Wyoming, 69% of capacity at Blue Mesa and 95% of capacity at Morrow Point in Colorado, and 88% of capacity at Navajo in New Mexico.

Ms. Trujillo reported that as of May 5, Brock and Senator Wash Reservoirs have captured up to 60,240 acre-feet and 24,090 acre-feet, respectively. As of May 3, bypass flows per Minute 242 were 29,058 acre-feet. As of May 8, excess flows to Mexico were 1,181 acre-feet.

California Drought Update

Ms. Trujillo reported that 21% of the State was in the exceptional drought category, noting that at this time last year; about 46% of the State was in the exceptional drought category. Ms. Trujillo stated that Governor Brown issued a new Executive Order indefinitely extending some of the provisions of the existing Executing Orders, such as restrictions to the hosing of sidewalks and driveways. Over the next couple of months, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) will continue their process of adjusting conservation targets for cities throughout California. Ms. Trujillo noted that the State is close to reaching its cumulative water conservation target of 1.2 million acre-feet. Ms. Trujillo also reported that the State Water Project allocation has been increased to 60%.

Ms. Jones explained that the Water Board has been working to adjust allocation targets based on current observed conditions and have released a proposal that would allow local agencies to determine their own conservation targets. The Water Board has also been directed to develop a process to make urban conservation requirements mandatory in order to achieve the goal of the Water Action Plan and the 2009 legislation of 20 percent conservation by 2020. Ms. Jones added that the Governor's new order calls for significant upgrades in drought planning required for urban water management plans and agricultural water efficiency plans. Ms. Jones explained that the Executive Order applies to all water municipalities regardless of their water source, whether the source is from the State Water Project, Federal Central Valley Project, groundwater, surface water or from the

Colorado River.

Basin States Technical Committee Meeting

The Basin States Technical Committee meeting was held in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 21, 2016. During the meeting, Reclamation and the Basin States provided updates on a number of topics that included reservoir storage conditions and hydrology, remote sensing tools, Salton Sea, California Drought, Glen Canyon Dam LTEM EIS process, and the Basin Study. Ms. Trujillo reported on Reclamation's latest 5-year projections that found a 10% chance of a shortage in 2017 and 56% in 2018. In 2019 and 2020, the probability of a shortage increases to 64%. In 2021, there is a 10% chance that the reservoir will hit an elevation of 1,025, triggering a Tier 3 shortage. Ms. Trujillo also noted that in 2021 there is a 12% chance of a surplus condition.

State and Local Reports

The accumulated precipitation for Water Year 2016 at the Los Angeles Civic Center is about 7 inches, or 47% of average. Ms. Jones reported that the Northern and Central Sierra precipitation is slightly above average at 119% and 104% of average, respectively. Southern Sierra's snowpack is slightly below average at 94%. Ms. Jones reported that the northern reservoirs of Shasta, Oroville, Folsom are at normal levels, while southern reservoirs, such as the San Luis are below average. Ms. Jones added that the April to July runoff forecasts are below average. Runoff inflow from the American River down into the Tuolumne have the best runoff forecasts, with runoff ranging from 95% to 99% of average. Ms. Jones reported that Central Valley Project contractors in the San Joaquin Valley received a 5% allocation this year.

Board member David Pettijohn reported that as of May 9, the Mammoth Pass snowpack was above average, at 34.3 inches. He added that recent modeling shows that deliveries to the LA Aqueduct were 70% of normal and reiterated that above average snowpack does not necessarily translate into normal runoff due to very dry soil conditions and infiltration of runoff into the ground. Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP received a climate adjustment of 14%, down from 16%. Mr. Pettijohn noted that Los Angeles has met its conservation target and the city is working to meet the Mayor's goal to reduce the gallons per capita per day.

Board member Glen Peterson reported that Metropolitan Water District's current storage capacity was 50%. He added that Lake Castaic, which has a capacity of 100,000 acre-feet, fell to 8,000 acre-feet. Colorado River diversions are anticipated to be 961,000 acre-feet.

Vice Chairman Wilson reported that San Diego has conserved 21%, exceeding the state mandated conservation target of 20%. Mr. Wilson also noted that the Water Board has given San Diego credit for the Carlsbad Desal Project, reducing their water conservation mandate to 13%.

Board member Peter Nelson reported that Coachella received some relief from their state water conservation target of 36%, decreasing to 32%. Coachella has achieved a cumulative reduction of 24%. Mr. Nelson also reported that Coachella received a fine of \$61,000 for falling short of their conservation mandate. Coachella and the Water Board have been agreed that the monies from the fine will be invested in Coachella's conservation education for landscape irrigators. Coachella is also in the process of restructuring their water rates and will be eliminating drought penalties soon. Mr. Nelson also reported that Coachella is continuing to address Chromium 6 treatment, as well as assess the impacts of groundwater use in the western side of the Coachella Valley.

Board member Steve Benson reported that the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) has a 60,000 acre-feet underrun. He also stated that IID is on target to deliver 130,000 acre-feet of water to the Salton Sea in 2016 and 150,000 acre-feet in 2017. IID's on-farm conservation program is progressing and has produced close to 100,000 acre-feet of conserved water in 2016. Mr. Benson stated that over a year ago, IID submitted a petition to the State Board regarding restoration of the Salton Sea. Mr. Benson noted the State's budget includes \$80 million to fund Salton Sea restoration efforts.

Mr. Jack Sieler from the Palo Verde Irrigation District provided an update on construction and maintenance activities on the diversion dam gates.

Drought Contingency Planning

Executive Director Trujillo provided background and an update regarding the ongoing discussions among the Basin States relating to drought contingency planning to respond to continued, below normal hydrology in the Basin. The focus of the discussions has been to develop additional tools to build upon the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Ms. Trujillo noted that recent media reports from Arizona have highlighted the drought planning discussions going on in Arizona, but they have not been accurate from a California perspective. The goals of the discussions have been to protect the elevations at Lake Mead to avoid dangerously low levels but also recognize the need for additional flexibility for water users at lower elevation levels beyond the terms agreed to in the 2007 Guidelines. Ms. Trujillo noted the need to address rules for the Intentionally Created Surplus program below Lake Mead elevation 1,075 and to develop incentives to encourage more water storage in Lake Mead. Ms. Trujillo noted that it was premature to announce any agreement regarding the level of potential reductions that California contractors may be willing to accept and reiterated that no element of any agreement had been finalized. Ms. Trujillo stated that any agreements would be subject to approval from the Boards at Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District and the Palo Verde Irrigation District and that the managers from those districts were involved in the discussions. Ms. Trujillo noted that Arizona's drought planning process was different than the process underway within California, which is more focused on the individual contracting agencies. Ms. Trujillo noted that the current discussions also contemplate an expiration date of 2026 to coincide with the 2007 Guidelines timeframe. Chairman Fisher commented that the Board staff's role was to facilitate the discussions among the contracting agencies who would be asked to forebear water and that one of the concerns was the ability to address the potential scenario of Lake Mead falling below the levels anticipated by the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Chairman Fisher noted that there is a 10% chance of falling below elevation 1,025 over the next 5 years, at which point there would be approximately 5.4 million acre-feet of storage in the reservoir, with probabilities increasing over time. Chairman Fisher noted the importance of continuing to work with the other States and looking for ways to benefit California, especially through flexibility of ICS below 1,075. Chairman Fisher noted that the contractor agencies were still looking at options and that it was premature to announce the success or failure of the process. Ms. Trujillo noted that additional updates would be provided for the Board.

Director Wilson noted that he was interested in a status report regarding the planning process and expressed concern regarding the level of detail presented by the Central Arizona Project regarding proposed contributions from California. Mr. Wilson cited the mission of the Colorado River Board and requested a detailed presentation regarding the ongoing discussions at the next Colorado River Board meeting. Mr. Wilson expressed concern that the San Diego County Water Authority was not

included in the discussions, and Chairman Fisher noted that SDCWA's manager and attorney had been receiving updates. Director Benson commented that the current drought contingency planning discussions would extend through 2026 and were in line with the 2007 Interim Guidelines that contemplated reinitiating discussions among the States by 2020. Mr. Benson stated that IID is interested in additional storage and ICS flexibility, and emphasized the need to allow the individual agency boards the ability to make their own decisions. Mr. Benson also noted the importance of the Salton Sea issues for IID and anticipated the development of a MOU between the state and federal governments. Director Peterson stated that the individual contractor agencies were affected by the drought planning decisions and saw a role for the Colorado River Board in connection with issues such as Congressional advocacy. Ms. Jones asked whether the new drought contingency agreement would involve reopening the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Ms. Trujillo and Chairman Fisher stated that the intent was to stay within the general framework of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Director Pettijohn noted that Section 5 contractors have specific roles and responsibilities that are distinct from the Colorado River Board and that LADWP is represented through MWD on contracting issues along with other entities in Orange County, San Diego County, Ventura County, Riverside County and San Bernardino County.

Ms. Trujillo provided other updates on drought contingency planning including a review of elements in the final Bypass Flows Workgroup report such as an effort by Reclamation to expand pumping from the Minute 242 well field and reoperation of the Yuma Desalting Plant.

Review status of Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

Ms. Rashid provided a brief history of the Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study program and provided an update on the status of Phase 2 of the Moving Forward effort. On April 5, Reclamation held a preliminary meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, to discuss the goals and implementation process of Phase 2. The next meeting is scheduled for mid-June 2016. Ms. Rashid explained that Reclamation is still developing the appropriate funding structure for Phase 2, which could be a cost-share by the states, grant funding or a combination of both options.

Ms. Rashid also provided an update on the Tribal Basin Study that has been under development for over two years. The Tribal Basin Study is a comprehensive study that will assess the role of future undeveloped and unquantified water and evaluate the impact of supply and demand imbalances on meeting tribal needs in the future. It is anticipated that the study will be complete by the end of 2016.

Salinity Control Forum

Ms. Trujillo noted that the Paradox Valley replacement well EIS process was on track and that additional updates associated with options for evaporation ponds and other options were anticipated in connection with the Forum meetings scheduled for early June. Ms. Trujillo noted that the Salinity Workgroup had developed a video to highlight the successes of the program. Ms. Trujillo noted that congressional testimony had been submitted expressing support for continued funding for the program and that she participated in briefing meetings with Don Barnett in Washington, DC in early May, in her capacity as the Vice Chairman for the program. Additional updates will be provided after the next Forum meeting in Colorado on June 8-9.

Minute 319/32x

Ms. Trujillo noted that workgroup reports have been received from the various workgroups

involved in reviewing proposed elements of Minute 32x. Ms. Trujillo also noted that the Mexican delegation has expressed interest participating in drought contingency actions in parallel with actions that may be developed within the US.

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Ms. Trujillo noted that the Colorado River Board finalized its comments relating to the Draft LTEMP EIS, which reflected continued good coordination among the Basin States, and a balanced approach to managing the various resources at stake within the Grand Canyon area, including water supply and hydroelectric generation. The technical workgroup will meet in June.

Multiple Species Conservation Program

Ms. Trujillo reported that Chris Harris was re-elected as the chairman for the MSCP program and that the program had approved a budget of \$30 million for next year, with a contribution of \$7.4 million coming from California.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Trujillo noted that the Board hosted an “accounting 101” session for agency staff with Reclamation which was timely because the final Decree Accounting report was expected on May 15.

Ms. Trujillo noted that the formal NEPA process for the Lake Powell pipeline had begun with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as the lead agency for the project. Ms. Trujillo pointed out that federal legislation should be obtained to allow the use of Utah’s Upper Basin water in the Lower Basin in St. George, Utah.

Ms. Trujillo noted that she was preparing testimony for the record in connection with a legislative provision sponsored by Senator Flake from Arizona and others relating to water storage in Lake Mead. The provision would be the subject of a hearing along with other bills including Senator Feinstein’s most recent California drought legislation. Ms. Trujillo noted that the proposed purpose of Senator Flake’s proposal would be to restrict the Secretary of the Interior’s authority to release water stored in Lake Mead, which is already a component of the voluntary agreements for storage of the water. Ms. Trujillo noted the concern that the provision did not have the support of the Basin States and would allow Congress to get involved in the annual operations of the system, contrary to the historic practice in the Basin.

Traveling Colorado River Museum Exhibit

Ms. Rashid reported that the museum exhibit is a collaborative effort between the Department of the Interior, the Seven Basin States and other Colorado River users. The purpose of the exhibit is to explore the history and current and future challenges of the Colorado River Basin using narratives, photographs, videos, artifacts and hands-on interactive exhibits.

On April 5, that the funding entities held a preliminary meeting in Phoenix, Arizona to discuss the development of the Preliminary Interpretative plan and development of the Advisory Committee. Ms. Rashid reported that in December 2015, the Six Agency Committee approved an expenditure of \$15,000 to support the planning and initial design of the Preliminary Interpretative Plan.

The project team includes the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), as the contract manager, and the Chicago Field Museum will perform the preliminary design of the exhibit. An Advisory Committee will be created and include representatives from the seven Basin States, Central Arizona Conservation District, MWD, The Nature Conservancy, The Audubon Society, the Upper Colorado River Commission and Reclamation.

Upcoming Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled for June 23 in Las Vegas, Nevada, August at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois, and in the late Fall within the Colorado River Basin.

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 by Mr. Kuiper, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Tanya M. Trujillo
Secretary