Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, December 9, 2020

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held virtually on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, using the Zoom Webinar meeting platform.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

David DeJesus (MWD Alternate)
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)
James Hanks (IID)
Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)
Henry Kuiper (Public Member)
Jim Madaffer (SDCWA)
Peter Nelson, Chairman (CVWD)
Glen D. Peterson (MWD)
David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)
Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate)
David Vigil (DFW Alternate)
Mark Watton (SDCWA Alternate)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

Evelyn Cortez-Davis (LADWP Alternate)
Norma Sierra Galindo (IID Alternate)
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)
John Powell, Jr. (CVWD Alternate)

Others Present:

Steven Abbott
Brian Alvarez
Jim Barrett
Bert Bell
JR Echard
Melissa Baum-Haley
Christopher Harris
Bill Hasencamp
Joanna Smith-Hoff
Michael Hughes
Ned Hyduke
Sarai Jimenez
Lisa Johansen
Rich Juricich
Larry Lai
Laura Lamdin
Tom Levy
Lindia Liu
Henry Martinez
Kara Mathews
Aaron Mead
Dylan Mohamed
Jessica Neuwerth
Jessica Rangel
Shana Rapoport
Angela Rashid
Ivory Reyburn
Kelly Rodgers
Shanti Rosset
Tom Ryan
Tina Shields
Andrew Slagan
Zach Stevens
Gary Tavetian
Tanya Trujillo
Margaret Vick
Jay Weiner
Meena Westford
Jerry Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nelson announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Nelson invited members of the audience to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board.

Ms. Margaret Vick, Special Counsel for the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), reported that CRIT has been working closely with the Arizona Department of Water Resources and other major water users in Arizona on draft proposed federal legislation that would allow CRIT to lease, exchange, or store portions of its water allocation off of its reservation. Ms. Vick noted to contact her should anyone wish further information.

Hearing no more public comments, Chairman Nelson moved to the next item on the agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to approve the October 14, 2020, meeting minutes. Mr. Peterson moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Madaffer. By roll-call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to approve the Proposed Calendar-Year 2021, Board meeting schedule. Mr. Kuiper moved that the Proposed Calendar-Year 2021, Board meeting schedule be approved, seconded by Mr. Madaffer. By roll-call vote, the Proposed Calendar-Year 2021, Board meeting schedule was unanimously approved.

Mr. Harris introduced Ms. Shana Rapoport and Ms. Jessica Rangel, the new Environmental Program Manager and Staff Services Analyst for the Colorado River Board of California

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORTS

Colorado River Basin Report

Mr. Juricich reported that as of November 30th the water level at Lake Powell was 3,587.87 feet with 10.63 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 44% of capacity. The water level at Lake Mead was 1,081.04 with 10.10 MAF of storage, or 39% of capacity. The total system storage was 27.92 MAF, or 47% of capacity, which is 3.26 MAF less than system storage at this time last year.

Mr. Juricich reported that as of November 16th, the unregulated inflow into Lake Powell for Water Year-2021 is 6.8 MAF, or 63% of normal and the WY-2021 forecasted April to July inflow to Lake Powell is 4.55 MAF, or 64% of normal. For WY-2021, the observed October inflow to Lake Powell was 0.09 MAF, or 18% of normal. The November inflow forecast to Lake Powell is 0.26 MAF, or 55% of normal. To date, the WY-2021 precipitation in the Upper Colorado River Basin is 60% of normal and the current Basin snowpack is 76%.

Mr. Juricich reported that precipitation conditions in October and November were very dry throughout the Basin. He noted that in October the Basin's precipitation was 30% to 50% of average, with some minor improvement in precipitation conditions in November.

Mr. Juricich reported that as of December 3rd, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 127,489 AF and 71,768 AF, respectively. He also reported that the excess deliveries to Mexico through December 6th, were 51,060 AF. Mr. Juricich reported that as of November 30th, the total amount of saline drainage water bypassed to the Cienega de Santa Clara in Mexico was 118,056 AF.

Board member Peterson, representing The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), inquired whether another metric should be used to measure the snowpack's impact on water supply. In response, Executive Director Harris stated that the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC) looks at an array of metrics to evaluate both the water content of the snowpack as well as early and late season snow events as they develop its forecasts and estimated runoff values. He added that the CBRFC is also evaluating and factoring the changing climate conditions in the Basin.

State and Local Report

Ms. Jones, representing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported that California is experiencing a dry start to Water Year-2021, but noted that it is still early in the season. She stated that statewide reservoir capacity at the end of November was 84% of average. She noted that storage in the large Northern California reservoirs is lagging the statewide average, with Oroville at 59% of average and Shasta at 74% of average. She stated that this reflects how dry it has been in the northern parts of California.

Ms. Jones reported on the status of DWR's work on experimental forecasting. She noted that during the last CRB meeting, she discussed an experimental forecasting product developed by

the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) that utilized a relatively simple statistical model. She reported that DWR is now working with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Earth System Research Lab in Denver, Colorado on a more complex statistical experimental forecasting model that uses a canonical correlation analysis. She stated that the model results show the signature of La Nina conditions, that influence drier conditions across the Southwest region. She explained that La Ninas have historically been dry in Southern California and the model suggest dry conditions for Northern California as well. She added that, historically, there has been no correlation between La Ninas and wet or dry conditions in Northern California. She stated that the model utilized data sets of ocean temperatures and pressure in the relevant areas of the Pacific Ocean as well as wind fields. The model was run last year and preformed relatively well. She concluded that that the model results are in line with other experimental forecasts.

Mr. Peterson reported that reservoir storage has declined slightly which is normal for this time of the year. He added that consumption has also increased, noting that may be due to dry conditions in its service area. Mr. Peterson added that overall consumption is well below average at 1.55 MAF.

AGENCY END-OF-YEAR REPORTS

Coachella Valley Water District

Board Chairman Nelson, representing Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), reported on its COVID-19 pandemic response, noting that there were no service interruptions. He stated that from March to May, CVWD adhered to alternative work schedules, provided face coverings for its employees, worked in micro-teams, outlawed carpooling, and provided rapid testing to workers that were exposed to the virus. He stated that from June to December, all its employees were physically at work, facility access was restricted to employees only, and the district encouraged the use of online services. He noted that the Coachella Valley area only had less than 1% of active COVID cases.

Mr. Nelson reported that CVWD started its operation in 1918 and since then, CVWD has had several important milestones which include the construction of the Coachella Canal (1949), State Water Project deliveries (1973), the expansion of the Whitewater facility (1984), completion of Dike 4 pilot facility (1997), construction of the Mission Creek Facility (2002) and Thomas E. Levy Facility (2009). He stated that in 2019, CVWD added about 20,000 AF of capacity to the Palm Desert Replenishment Facility which has five ponds. Phase 1 of this project will replenish 10,000 AF per year and Phase 2 will replenish another 10,000 AF. He stated that in 2019 and 2020, CVWD was able to recharge close to 8,000 AF using the Mid-Valley pipeline and measured an increase of up to 20 feet in the surrounding groundwater levels. Mr. Nelson added that CVWD signed a $46 million contract in December for the construction of the Oasis

In-Lieu Project which will use Colorado River water instead of pumping groundwater. The project is expected to be completed in July 2022 and 32,000 AF of Colorado River water will be delivered to the areas that are primarily using groundwater at this time.

Imperial Irrigation District

Ms. Shields, the Water Department Manager for the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), provided a summary of IID's Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) transfers. She reported that by 2021, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) will be receiving the maximum volume transfer of slightly over 200,000 AF. She stated that there is an additional 10,000 AF split over 2020 through 2022, and then the transfer will level off at the maximum transfer volume. She reported that the Coachella Valley transfer continues to ramp up in smaller increments of about 5,000 AF a year and it is anticipated that IID will meet and exceed all conservation obligations for calendar year 2020. Ms. Shield reported that IID is finalizing its annual conservation summary, noting that IID began to reduce its conservation programs. She noted the conservation programs will be curtailed because the excess conservation water produced cannot be utilized by its ratepayers.

Ms. Shields reported that on September 24, 2020, the House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing titled "Federal and State Efforts to Restore the Salton Sea". She stated that the hearing's witnesses include Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the California Natural Resource Agency; E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair of the California State Water Resources Control Board; and Thomas Tortez, Chairman of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. She added that witnesses from the Bureau of Reclamation did not participate in the hearing. She reported that during the hearing the witnesses expressed the need for more federal involvement to honor its existing commitments and address the federal government's role as the largest landowner at the Salton Sea. She stated that Mr. Crowfoot and Mr. Esquivel did a good job discussing the historical commitments of the federal government, while Mr. Tortez stressed the importance of moving forward with this project to help the local community and the Basin as a whole, to start to address climate change and drought issues. She added that IID submitted testimony along with the Salton Sea Authority.

Ms. Shields provided an update on the status of the Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program. She reported that the State recently completed nearly 600 acres of additional interim dust control measures on its species conservation habitat site, noting that the State has completed slightly over 600 to 700 acres of dust control measures. She stated that the State has made good progress, but it only represents 20% of the acreage that was supposed to be completed by end of 2020. She added that IID will continue to facilitate the State's efforts to meet its dust mitigation target.

Ms. Shields reported that IID continues to implement its own air quality mitigation program, which is comprehensive, science-based, and adaptive. IID has completed over 2,400 acres of tillage and reseeding projects to grow cover to help protect the exposed playa and reduce dust storms. She stated that in the longer term, IID will plant native vegetation to hold the soil and help protect its projects. Ms. Shields reiterated that the State has committed to develop 3,500 acres of dust mitigation projects but has only completed 20% of this obligation. She stated that in 2021 the State is obligated to provide dust control for 7,000 acres, explaining that the acreage is tied to the amount of playa that will be exposed next year. Ms. Shields added that IID's website includes data on on-going air quality emissions and the data shows that there are more opportunities to reduce emissions on the south end of the Salton Sea.

Finally, Ms. Shields stated the IID's cumulative QSA conservation and transfers, from 2002 to 2020, will total over 6.2 MAF. She noted that IID is getting closer to ramping-up all of its QSA transfers and when combined with canal lining and other programs, IID's annual conservation will total approximately half-million acre-feet. She added that IID continues to work with its growers to improve their efficiency and the efficiency of its water delivery system.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Board Vice Chairman Pettijohn, representing the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) reported that water demand in the City of Los Angeles was 488,000 AF in 2020, the lowest it has been since 1970. He noted that the low demands reflect LADWP's ambitious water use efficiency efforts.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP is focusing on a State mandated initiative for all retailers to comply with new water loss audit regulations. Mr. Pettijohn displayed a figure that showed the number of gallons of water loss per water connections per day, stating that the water losses have improved over the last few years, down to 29 gallons per connection per day. He noted that this figure appears to be large but incorporates the losses from all water connections, including significant industrial and other uses. He explained that LADWP received a Data Validity Score of 80, which is a measure of how well it is managing its water losses. He explained that the score is good for a system of its size and demonstrates LADWP's commitment to managing infrastructure efficiently.

He stated that LADWP implemented numerous changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including measures to ensure employee safety, digital outreach campaigns to customers, and modifying or scaling back certain initiatives. He noted that LADWP typically replaces about 140,000 feet of trunk lines every fiscal year, but due to the pandemic they have replaced 30,000 feet less.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP has maintained water use of about 105 gallons per person per day for fiscal year 2020. He stated that LADWP installed 1,360 new weather-based irrigation controllers, which was a 330% increase over the previous year. He added that LADWP also installed 2,138 new high-efficiency toilets, an increase of 205% over last year and removed 548,000 square-feet of turf, an increase of 28% over last year. Mr. Pettijohn stated that the Governor's goal for turf removal for the State was fifty-million square feet and LADWP has exceed the statewide goal within the city's limits, saving over 2.3 billion gallons of water.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP recently completed an interconnection with the city of Burbank that will deal with some of the contamination in the San Fernando groundwater basin. The interconnection will allow the transfer of about 2,600 AF per year, enough water to serve 30,000 customers.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP has been expanding the capacity of the Tujunga Spreading Grounds by deepening the basins and removing dikes and barriers, increasing the stormwater capture capacity to 74,000 AF. He stated that an additional 8,000 AF of capacity will be added to the spreading basin by the spring of 2021.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP received $21 million from Measure W's Safe, Clean Water Program to enhance three parks in Los Angeles to capture stormwater and applied for a second round of Measure W funding for $137 million to enhance four additional parks in Los Angeles.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP provides 10,000 AF of recycled water annually to sixty-six recycled water sites. He added that 26,000 AF of recycled water is also used for environmental purposes. In 2020, 440 feet of new recycled pipelines ("purple pipe") was installed and now totals, 68 miles of recycled water pipeline. In 2020, there has been an additional 44 AF of new recycled water demand. He noted that there are five different recycled water systems operating independently with their own source of supply throughout the city. The Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant serves the San Fernando Valley. The Burbank Water Recycling Plant serves the North Hollywood area. The Los Angeles Glendale Water Reclamation Plant serves the Downtown Los Angeles metro area, and the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility serves the westside of Los Angeles. Finally, the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant serves the Long Beach Harbor area.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that one of LADWP's key accomplishments in the San Fernando Valley was the implementation of the LA Groundwater Replenishment project, which will begin in mid-2021. He explained that the project will spread 3,500 AF of advanced treated recycled water into the San Fernando Basin and will ramp up to 30,000 AF over time. He added that in the Long Beach harbor area, LADWP will connect several refineries such as Valero, Tesoro and Philips 66, to its recycled water system. He added that a second connection will be made to

Dominguez Gap Seawater Intrusion Barrier, increasing the amount of recycled water to the harbor area to about 16,000 AF per year.

Finalizing his report, Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP is moving forward with its Operation NEXT Water Supply Program which is an ambitious direct potable water reuse initiative. He explained that once the program is operational, treated wastewater from Hyperion Treatment Plant, which currently discharges most of its treated water into the ocean, will be used as a source of supply to meet the future demands of the City of Los Angeles.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Mr. Peterson provided an update on MWD's regional recycling project. He reported that MWD's Board has given authorization to prepare the Environmental Impact Report as well as prepare documentation for engineering, technical and outreach support. He added that costs of preparing these documents will be $30 million over the next three years. Mr. Peterson reported that MWD will be collaborating with Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to fund up to 24% ($6 million) of the environmental planning costs. He explained that the agreement with SNWA does not obligate SNWA or MWD to go forward with the project or commit to a full-scale project or exchange.

Mr. Peterson reported that last year MWD amended the contracts to the Desert/Coachella exchange and delivery agreements, explaining that the amendments proportionally share the operational benefits and risks of State Water Project participation, enacted consistent terms for deliver and reimbursement through 2026, increased delivery certainty for CVWD and increased delivery flexibility for MWD.

Mr. Peterson reported that MWD's turf replacement program replaced 4.3 million square feet of residential and commercial turf in 2020, adding that to date, the program has removed 194 million square feet of turf. He stated that MWD's program is one of the major reasons for declining water demand in Southern California. He stated that there has been a savings of 500 AF in 2020, and that the lifetime water savings through the program are expected to total 760,000 AF. Mr. Peterson stated that MWD invested $350 million into the program several years ago.

Mr. Peterson highlighted MWD's various collaborations with agriculture agencies such as the Desert/Coachella exchange agreements, land management and fallowing with Palo Verde Irrigation District and the summer fallowing program with Bard Water District. He also stated that MWD has an on-going exchange program with San Diego County Water Authority and is also involved in an Indian settlement agreement.

Mr. Peterson reported that MWD's historical demands are low, crediting many of MWD's conservation program efforts. He stated MWD has been putting more water into its dry-year storage account in Lake Mead, which has increased Lake Mead's elevation.

Finally, Mr. Peterson reported that MWD's Board reelected Chairman Gray. He also reported that during a recent Board meeting, there were three and half hours of testimony and public comments regarding the MWD's environmental planning for the Delta tunnel for the State Water Project. He stated that the Board unanimously approved moving forward with the environmental planning for the Delta tunnel.

Board member Fisher inquired about the retirement and replacement of Mr. Roger Patterson and Mr. Jeff Kightlinger. Mr. Peterson reported that Mr. Kightlinger was scheduled to retire in December 2020 but decided to stay on until his replacement is found. Mr. Hasencamp, MWD's Colorado River Resources Manager stated that Mr. Patterson will be retiring at the end of December after nearly fifteen years with MWD. He added that the General Manager will not be backfilling Mr. Patterson's position, and for now, the Bay Delta Initiatives group that reported to Mr. Patterson will report to Mr. Deven Upadhyay, Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Hasencamp stated that new General Manager will decide the future structure of the executive team.

Palo Verde Irrigation District

Mr. Hyduke, General Manager of the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID), reported on its COVID-19 pandemic response, noting that thirty out of seventy employees were exposed to COVID-19, with only two testing positive. He reported that that PVID continued to run business as normal but shut down its front office during the first few critical months of the pandemic. He added that the office reopened but had to shut down again during the most recent stay-at-home order. He stated that PVID has been successful with their health precautions, noting that during the early months they acquired 1,500 masks from Riverside County.

Mr. Hyduke reported that he asked the PVID Board to reduce the incidences of water outages to every three years. He noted that there is a planned outage in January, for about a week, to examine the diversion dam gates that were replaced in 2015, 2016, and 2017. He reported that PVID invented a type of water gate that allows the irrigation ditch to fill with water for continued deliveries of during an outage, which farmers appreciated.

Mr. Hyduke reported that PVID has participated in the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) program and received funds to improve its deficit irrigation program. He reported that PVID is also participating in a deficit irrigation study with the University of Southern California (USC), adding that PVID is currently in the second year of the three-year study. He noted that a few farmers, including Mr. Seiler, PVID Board alternate, are

participating in the study. He stated that the study is being conducted by Ali Montazar from USC, to identify and optimize deficit irrigation practices for alfalfa in the Palo Verde Valley. Board member Seiler stated that alfalfa is one of the most broadly planted crops in the Upper and Lower Basin, representing approximately a million acres annually in production. He stated that any demonstrated conservation of alfalfa irrigation water can amount to larger volumes in future water available for use by urban districts in times of need and could be incorporated into a demand management program in the Upper Basin.

Mr. Seiler explained that the study uses monitors to measure soil moisture at different depths daily. This data, including the yield and loss data, are used to analyze the impact of deficit irrigation. He explained that the study requires eliminating one irrigation per month in July, August and September, when yields taper off. He stated that they are hopeful that these actions result in water savings. He added that they are still compiling the second-year data but hopes to complete it by January. He added that if the data is available, PVID will present it during an upcoming CRB meeting. Mr. Hyduke reported that PVID also received NRCS funds to line irrigation ditches and install telemetry stations in the southern portion of the Valley. Mr. Hyduke stated that PVID is also considering applying for WaterSMART grants for additional funding for infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Hyduke finalized his presentation by reporting on the on-going project to remove diesel and gas tanks in the maintenance yard. He noted that PVID will receive its closure letter for removal of the tanks in two weeks.

San Diego County Water Authority

Board member Madaffer, representing the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), provided a summary of SDCWA's COVID-19 response. He stated that the twenty-four member agencies immediately increased regional coordination and communication to ensure the safety and security of the County's water supply. He stated that in the spring, SDCWA distributed about 25,000 cloth masks to water and wastewater agencies in six Southern California counties.

Mr. Madaffer provided a summary of SDCWA's key activities and awards in 2020. He reported that SDCWA installed new fish-friendly intake pumps at Carlsbad Desalination Plant. He explained that the intake screens are designed to prevent any sea life larger than one millimeter from entering the plant and the project will be completed in 2023. He stated that the Carlsbad Desalination Plant will be the first in California to comply with the 2015 California Ocean Plan amendment, which is the most advanced sea life protection measure in the world.

Mr. Madaffer reported that the SDCWA Board approved a new agricultural water rate. The rate offers lower and guaranteed rates to farmers in exchange for lower water supply

reliability. He explained the rate gives local growers a lower level of water service during shortages or emergencies allowing the Water Authority to reallocate supplies for commercial and industrial customers that pay for full reliability. He added that in exchange, participating farmers are exempt from storage and supply reliability charges.

Mr. Madaffer reported that the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) honored SDCWA with the 2020 Award of Merit for the emergency repair of the Moosa Canyon pipeline. He explained that the pipeline was successfully repaired and brought back into service using carbon lining after a leak was detected during the fall of 2019. He stated that the repair gave the pipeline many more years of service and its repair is a testament to how SDCWA effectively maintains its assets. Mr. Madaffer also reported that SDCWA received an award for its Water News Network website, named the best website among California public agencies for 2020 from the California Public Information Awards. He stated that the website generates over 9,000 page views a month and has received praise for its innovative stories and for producing original content.

Mr. Madaffer reported that Phase A of the Regional Conveyance System Study is complete and concluded that the regional conveyance system is both technically and financially feasible, and economically competitive with other alternatives. Mr. Madaffer explained that the conveyance system is designed to transport its QSA supplies and will integrate with its aqueduct system with very few modifications. He explained that the study identified several projects that would provide regional benefits, not just in San Diego but also for Imperial Valley.

Mr. Madaffer reported that its Board approved proceeding to Phase B of the study which will analyze two proposed routes and include a detailed economic analysis. He added that Phase B will also analyze opportunities to collaborate for shared storge facilities in the Imperial Valley, as well as refine concepts that would complement and support the various Salton Sea restoration projects and potential geothermal development. He stated that Phase B efforts will also include reaching out to stakeholders and partners to garner additional input. Phase B is expected to be completed in eighteen months.

Mr. Madaffer added the SDCWA is also interested in participating in the Lake Mead Storage program, explaining that participation in the program would help maintain Lake Mead's elevation and would be a pivotal water management tool providing operational flexibility that would benefit the entire Basin.

Finally, Mr. Madaffer highlighted various potable reuse projects. He reported that SDCWA's largest increment of local supply development is the Pure Water San Diego project which will create 16,800 AF per year by 2025. He also noted that the East County Advanced Water Purification project will create 12,882 AF per year by 2025. He stated that these projects

along with water from QSA transfers and the Carlsbad Desalination Plant will provide SDCWA customers with safe and high-quality water.

STATUS OF COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAMS

Status of the Salinity Control Program

Mr. Juricich reported on the background and status of the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU) project. As the PVU project injection well nears the end of its lifespan, the Basin States have been working for many years now on a replacement project. A draft Environmental Impact Statement was released a couple of years ago with four different well replacement alternatives, which include a replacement well, a series of evaporation ponds, a zero-liquid discharge thermal process method, and a no-action alternative. The no-action alternative would essentially close the existing well at the end of its life cycle and cease salinity control at the Paradox location. Mr. Juricich reported that the final EIS, available on Reclamation's website, calls for the no-action alternative. The Basin States support the evaporation pond alternative, but Reclamation did not follow the Basin States' recommendation. Mr. Juricich reported that Reclamation's possible postponement of the release of a Record of Decision provides the Basin States additional opportunities to weigh in on Reclamation's decision. There are opportunities to further discuss the idea of a private partnership with Intrepid Potash for brine disposal at Paradox.

Mr. Juricich reported that the existing PVU project well has been shut down due to a significant earthquake that occurred in March of 2019. There were some talks to restart the well on a trial basis, but the effort has been stalled due to aftershocks and seismic activities in recent months. At this point there is no time frame for starting the trial process for the existing well. Mr. Juricich noted that he would report back any details that may arise between now and the next Board meeting on working with Reclamation and the Basin States on the PVU well issue.

In response to a question from a Board member, Mr. Harris emphasized that PVU remains an important project to the Basin States and with Mr. Juricich as the Work Group chair and Mr. Bill Hasencamp as the Forum and Advisory Council chair, we can expect a healthy dialog with the incoming administration and the Interior department on keeping salinity control at Paradox. Mr. Harris added that losing a point-source control of around 100,000 tons of salt each year would be a big step backward. Board member Mr. Peterson emphasized the importance of PVU project to California as it is an interstate transfer of salt under federal responsibility. Mr. Juricich added that the publishing of the Final EIS kicks off a thirty-day public review period, during which the Basin States can consider providing additional written comments on the Final EIS. Mr. Hasencamp added that Reclamation reluctantly moved forward with a no-action alternative due to concerns with the environmental impacts of the evaporation ponds and objections from the locals. While this may be the first time Reclamation issued a no-action preferred alternative, a closed Final EIS

allows for resumed dialog outside of the process for productive alternatives. Mr. Hasencamp stated that the Basin States are committed to find a long-term salinity control in Paradox.

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Board Staff Ms. Neuwerth reported that the Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program met via webinar on November 18. The group discussed the possibility of conducting a "spring disturbance flow" in March 2021 that would combine low flows for dam maintenance with a high flow release. Ms. Neuwerth noted that the flow would consist of low flows of about 4,000 cfs for several days, followed by a peak release of no more than 25,000 cfs, to stay within the dam's power plant capacity.

Finally, Ms. Neuwerth noted that the Program's Technical Work Group would be holding a meeting in conjunction with the Annual Reporting meeting on January 20-22.

Reclamation's Effectiveness Review of the 2007 Colorado River Interim Operating Guidelines

Mr. Juricich provided a summary and update on Reclamation's Effectiveness Review of the 2007 Colorado River Interim Operating Guidelines. The effectiveness review is required pursuant to Part G, Section 7, Subsection D of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. The review is intended to evaluate the effectiveness of the guidelines with respect to the purposes and operational elements of the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Mr. Juricich reported that the report is intended to look at the operational experience since 2007 through 2019 for the operation of Lakes Powell and Mead and evaluate how those 2007 interim guidelines worked. For example, one of the stated purposes of the guidelines is to improve Reclamation's management of the Colorado River by considering trade-offs between the frequency and magnitude of reductions of water deliveries, and considering the effects on water storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and on water supply, power production, recreation, and other environmental resources. Mr. Juricich shared a table from the report that highlights the operational rules and conditions from 2007 to 2019. Mr. Juricich also summarized some of the key findings from the report. Mr. Juricich reported that Reclamation released the public draft of the effectiveness review report on October 23, 2020, and provided targeted outreach in October and November to Basin stakeholders. The final effectiveness review report is expected to be released in mid-December 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington, D.C. Updates

Mr. Harris reported that USGS has recently conducted an analysis of future groundwater

conditions in the Colorado River Basin. The analysis concluded that there will be an increase in groundwater infiltration in the Upper Basin due to slightly more precipitation and warmer winters, and less groundwater recharge in the Lower Basin due to warmer weather and less precipitation.

Mr. Harris reported on Salton Sea legislation. Mr. Harris stated that Representative Raul Ruiz developed a piece of legislation called the "Salton Sea Public Health and Environmental Protection Act of 2020." Mr. Harris reported that the legislation is intended to codify a 2016 MOU between the federal government and state of California, establishing more collaboration between the two on habitat and dust suppression projects at the Salton Sea.

Mr. Harris reported on President-Elect Joe Biden's transition team. Mr. Harris stated that the previous Colorado River Board Executive Director, Ms. Tanya Trujillo, is the member of the Department of the Interior transition team.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting

Finally, Mr. Harris noted that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board would be held on January 13, 2021 and would also be held virtually using the Zoom Webinar meeting platform.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Nelson adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.