

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, October 12, 2022

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at the Sheraton Ontario Airport Hotel, 429 North Vineyard Avenue, Ontario, California 91764.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

David De Jesus (MWD Alternate)
Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)
John B. Hamby (IID)
Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)
Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)
Peter Nelson, Chairman (CVWD)

Glen D. Peterson (MWD)
David R. Pettijohn, Vice Chairman (LADWP)
Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate)
David Vigil (DFW Alternate)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

Gary Croucher (SDCWA Alternate)
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)
James Hanks (IID Alternate)
Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)

Jim Madaffer (SDCWA)

Others Present:

Steve Abbott
Nick Bahr
JR Echard
Dennis Davis
Chris Harris
Bill Hasencamp
Joanna Hoff
Michael Hughes
Ned Hyduke
Rich Juricich
Laura Lamdin
Tom Levy

Henry Martinez
Jessica Neuwerth
Kelly Rodgers
Shanti Rosset
Kit San Lai
Alexi Schnell
Tina Shields
Gary Tavetian
Petya Vasileva
Meena Westford
Jerry Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nelson 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 Nelson invited members of the audience to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, Chairman Nelson moved to the next item on the agenda.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORTS

Colorado River Basin Report

Mr. Juricich reported that as of October 3rd, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,529.51 feet with 5.81 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 25% of capacity. The water level at Lake Mead was 1,045.15 feet with 7.34 MAF of storage, or 28% of capacity. The total system storage was 19.54 MAF, or 33% of capacity, which is 3.32 MAF less than system storage at this time last year.

Mr. Juricich reported that the summer monsoonal activity created about 200,000 AF more inflow into Lake Mead during July, August, and September, noting that this represents above average intervening inflow. He stated that Lake Mead is about seven feet higher than where it was in June.

Mr. Juricich reported that as of September 16th, for Water Year-2022 (WY-2022), the observed August inflow to Lake Powell was 0.37 MAF, or 98% of normal. The September preliminary observed inflow to Lake Powell is 0.25 MAF, or 71% of normal. The preliminary observed WY-2022 inflow into Lake Powell is 6.08 MAF, or 63% of normal and the observed WY-2022 April to July inflow to Lake Powell is 3.75 MAF, or 59% of normal.

Mr. Juricich reported on the August and September Colorado River Mid-Term Modeling System (CRMMS) report projections. He noted that Lake Powell's elevation is projected to fall below minimum power pool (3,490 ft) by the end next year. He reported that Lake Mead's elevation is projected to decline to around 1,025 feet by the end of next year. He explained that that the results reflect the physical elevation, and it does not include the water that has been

held back in Lake Powell. He stated that if precipitation conditions are poor this winter, then the reservoir projections will worsen.

Mr. Juricich reported that through the end of September, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 60,333 AF and 85,614 AF, respectively. He also reported that the excess deliveries to Mexico were 4,126 AF, compared to 26,866 AF this time last year. Finally, the total amount of saline drainage water bypassed to the Cienega de Santa Clara in Mexico was 110,067 AF.

State and Local Report

Ms. Jones, representing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported that the state's WY-2022 precipitation was 76% of average and reservoir storage was 69% of average. She remarked that for the second year in a row, that Central Valley Project (CVP) agricultural contractors have had zero supplies, and its first ever M&I health and safety allocation to the CVP contractors, and there is a 5% allocation on the state water project (SWP).

Ms. Jones reported that the California is in its third year of drought. Dry conditions persist with drought conditions in the Sacramento Valley which is usually the wettest part of the state's developed water supplies. She added that significant rice acreage was not harvested this year because the CVP settlement contractors only received an 18% allocation, which are senior water rights. She added that the SWP Feather River contractors only received a 50% allocation.

Ms. Jones reported that the state's groundwater represents about 60% of California's urban and agricultural use. She stated that groundwater conditions in the San Joaquin Valley are experiencing significant declines on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, which is the area served by Reclamation. Ms. Jones reported that land subsidence due to groundwater extraction continues at a high rate in the southern San Joaquin Valley, which has been experiencing this issue historically.

Board member Peterson, representing The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) reported that as of October 1st, MWD's reservoir storage is 63% of capacity. He reported declines in water use due to recent conservation efforts within MWD's service area. He also reported that MWD elected a new chairperson of its Board, Mr. Adan Ortega.

Colorado River Basin States Activities

Mr. Harris reported that on October 5th, the CRB Board and several California contractors sent a letter to the Department of the Interior (DOI) stating that it was California's intention to conserve up to 400,000 AF a year in 2023 to 2026, which is the remainder of the interim period.

The signatories of the letter included Chairman Nelson, general managers of Coachella Valley Water District (CVID), Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and MWD. He stated that the letter emphasized the need for funding for Salton Sea conservation, which would enable California to meet its conservation targets. He added that the letter strongly encourages other parties across the Basin to take actions to voluntarily reduce water use to help stabilize the reservoir system. Mr. Harris remarked that the letter was well received by the DOI, adding that the proposed action is consistent with other activities California has been working on all summer with other Basin States, particularly with Arizona and Nevada, and the action did not vary from the proposals that have been previously discussed.

Mr. Harris stated that California believed that the proposed action outlined in the letter was the right thing to do and provides a path forward for an immediate reengagement of the seven Basin states and the United States in developing additional measures and activities to help stabilize the reservoir system. Mr. Harris and Board member Jones noted the positive news media response.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program Implementation

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group Meeting

Mr. Juricich summarized the outcomes of the Colorado River Salinity Control Work Group meeting held September 19-21 in Santa Fe, NM. The Work Group discussed several program topics including progress on developing the 2023 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado River System; a proposal to update projected funding associated with the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Funds using the best information on hydropower generation at Hoover, Davis, and Parker dams; program benefits; a proposal for covering habitat replacement requirements associated with new salinity control projects; new studies, investigations, and research; and program funding. The Work Group is also preparing content for the fall meeting of the Salinity Control Forum to be held October 24-26 at South Lake Tahoe, CA.

2023 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado River System

A key topic discussed by the Work Group was initial modeling assumptions for the 2023 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado River System. Modeling assumptions include projected cost effectiveness of program implementation, program implementation rates, program funding, future hydrology, and operations of the Paradox Valley Unit. The current Work Group proposal would include a PVU operation at 65,000 tons/year through 2027 and would consider both full operation and no operation of PVU beyond 2027. The

Forum will review and provide guidance on the modeling assumptions during its Fall meeting. Section 303 of the Clean Water Act amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act requires that water quality standards are reviewed every three years by the Forum and are adopted by the water quality agencies of the seven basin states for inclusion in their state water quality standards.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington, DC Updates

FY 2023 Appropriations

Mr. Harris reported that the U.S. Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) on September 30th to fund the federal government through the beginning of the next fiscal year on October 1st. The CR also included an extension for the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act and extensions for the Emergency Drought Relief Act.

Inflation Reduction Act Implementation

Mr. Harris reported that he had a phone discussion with Commissioner Touton and Deputy Commissioner Palumbo regarding funding opportunities under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). He stated that the first category of funding under IRA would be associated with potential water conservation activities in the Colorado River Basin to help stabilize the reservoir system. He stated that funding opportunities announcement would be available on Reclamation's website on October 12th or 13th.

Mr. Harris explained that there will be three categories with three separate tranches of funding. The first category would include \$300 to \$400 per AF of funding for activities such as fallowing or conserving water. The second category would provide funding to agencies or entities to enter into an agreement to do water conservation activities. He explained that this would be a grant funding opportunity and include funding of \$600 to \$700 per AF of conserved water supplies. He added that Reclamation's website will include the grant review criteria. Lastly, he stated that the last category would be the development of an array of capital improvement projects in the agricultural or urban sector that will lead to long-term, permanent, durable, water use reduction. These projects can include waste-to-drinking water recycle, and storm water recapture, all of which would be applicable to the urban sector. For the agricultural sector projects could include regulating reservoirs and canal widening.

Mr. Harris noted that Reclamation hopes to develop the second and third category as applicable programs between now and the end of the year. He remarked that it would be desirable for California to take advantage of all three categories.

House Republic Water Bill

Mr. Harris reported that the House Republicans have introduced a bill, H. R. 9084 that lays out the Republican water agenda dealing with Biological Opinions and funding for enlargement of Shasta Dam. He stated that the bill will also addresses reauthorizing the Water Infrastructure Investment for the Nation (WII) Act.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

Mr. Harris reported that the NDAA will include water legislation that will target specific programs in the Upper Basin, the native fish recovery program, and public lands.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to provisions of Article 9, commencing with Section 11120, of Chapter 1 of Part 1, Division 3 of Title 2 of the government Section Program 12516 and 12519 of the Water Code to discuss matters concerning interstate negotiations with representatives from other states or the federal government, a motion was made by Mr. Fisher to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Madaffer. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board entered Executive Session at 10:34 a.m. and adjourned from executive session at 11:31 a.m.

REGULAR SESSION

The Board resumed the regular session at 11:31 a.m. and Chairman Nelson reported that the Board held an Executive Session to discuss interstate negotiations and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Nelson adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.