

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, August 9, 2023

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at the Westdrift Manhattan Beach, Beachgrass Room, 1400 Parkview Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

Gloria Cordero (MWD)	Jim Madaffer, Vice Chairman (SDCWA)
Gina Dockstader (IID Alternate)	Peter Nelson (CVWD)
John B. Hamby, Chairman (IID)	David R. Pettijohn (LADWP)
Eric Heidemann (SDCWA Alternate)	Frank Ruiz (Public Member)
Jordan Joaquin (Public Member)	Jack Seiler (PVID)
Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee)	David Vigil (DFW Alternate)

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID)	Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee)
David De Jesus (MWD Alternate)	Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate)
Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate)	

Others Present:

Steven Abbott	Yuanyuan Myint
Brian Alvarez	Jessica Neuwerth
Nick Bahr	Shana Rapoport
Dennis Davis	Angela Rashid
JR Echard	David Rheinheimer
Daivd Edwards	Alex Rodriguez
Bill Hasencamp	Shanti Rosset
Ned Hyduke	Tom Ryan
Eric Katz	Alexi Schnell
Laura Lamdin	Joseph Vanderhorst
Tom Levy	Meena Westford
Aaron Mead	Jerry Zimmerman
Rebecca Mitchell	

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hamby announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

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

ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the May 10, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Mr. Pettijohn moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Ms. Jones. By roll-call vote, the minutes were approved with abstention from Mr. Vigil.

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the June 14, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Mr. Nelson moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Pettijohn. By roll-call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Deputy Director Neuwerth introduced two new members of Board staff: Ms. Yuanyuan Myint and Mr. Brian Alvarez.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM STATE OF COLORADO'S COMMISSIONER TO THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION

Chairman Hamby introduced Ms. Becky Mitchell, Commissioner for the State Colorado on the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC). Ms. Mitchell thanked the CRB for inviting her and stated that she felt this type of communication would be important over the next couple of years as the Basin States negotiate the next set of operating guidelines.

Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado doesn't experience consistency from the Colorado River as the snowpack, and thus water availability, changes significantly from year to year. As a result, Colorado's water availability, economy, and communities change. Ms. Mitchell explained that sub-basins in Colorado can all experience different conditions. One basin could have an average snowpack while another experiences drought. Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado's water users are limited by hydrology and can't overuse because the water is not there.

Ms. Mitchell explained that she answers to the governor and, as of July 5th, became the first full-time Colorado River Commissioner for Colorado. Previously, she was director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado River Commissioner. Ms. Mitchell explained that the change in her position resulted from legislation and that now she and additional staff focus solely on the Colorado River. Ms. Mitchell explained that the reorganization allows her and her staff to work directly with all the state agencies and will be important moving forward.

Ms. Mitchell explained that the Division of Water Resources is responsible for curtailing water. Ms. Mitchell provided background information regarding the priority system of water rights in Colorado. Ms. Mitchell explained that the Water Conservation Board provides funding for its water projects and programs including policies, facilitation, environmental programs, and an in-stream flow program. Ms. Mitchell stated that the Water Conservation Board is about moving Colorado forward together.

Ms. Mitchell explained that eighty percent of the precipitation in the Colorado basin in Colorado is on the West Slope and eighty percent of the population is on the East Slope. One can't survive without the other. People in Colorado have been moving water across that continental divide for over 130 years. Transmountain diversions to support the population and agriculture on the East Slope have a significant impact on the Western Slope of Colorado.

Ms. Mitchell explained that transmountain diversions support about 5 million people on Colorado's Front Range or eighty-five percent of the population. Almost ninety percent of the water is used by agriculture. A lot of agricultural counties are located in the eastern half of the state. A booming dairy industry in the eastern half is supported by forage crops produced on the West Slope. Agriculture contributes \$47 billion to Colorado's economy.

Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado has warmed about two and a half degrees Fahrenheit in the last 120 years. The warming has accelerated and there are some areas of the state that are significantly more than that. Ms. Mitchell stated that something that binds Colorado and California is some of the worst wildfires that have happened in the last decade. Ms. Mitchell explained that climate change is affecting the Colorado River system and the water supplies. The river has always been highly variable, but those impacts are changing available water supplies on a consistent basis.

Ms. Mitchell stated that the compact split the river into equal apportionments between the upper basin and the lower basin, also granting the lower basin an additional 1 million-acre feet (MAF) to account for tributary use. Ms. Mitchell stated that those rights are held forever. Ms. Mitchell explained that a couple of decades after the 1922 Compact, in 1948, the Upper

Colorado River Compact recognized the flows in the Colorado River are unpredictable and we split apportionments by percentages across the states. Colorado's portion is 51.75 percent.

Ms. Mitchell stated that in 2020, the Upper Basin used about 4.5 MAF and in 2021 about 3.5 MAF, due to poor hydrology. Ms. Mitchell stated that the Ute Mountain Ute Farm and Ranch Enterprise received only ten percent of their allocation in 2021. Ms. Mitchell stated that the following year they received twenty-five percent of their allocation. Ms. Mitchell asked what we can do to make sure that water is there to provide certainty for those that rely on it.

Ms. Mitchell stated that she thinks it is important, as we talk about the leadership that is going to be required as we move forward, that we reckon with a drier, more variable future. Ms. Mitchell stated that water managers will have to do some big things to craft a solution. Ms. Mitchell stated that she has asked people in Colorado to recognize that they may not be happy with everything. Ms. Mitchell stated that we also have to acknowledge climate change is real and that means a shift. Ms. Mitchell stated that we must operate in a way that is looking at what is available and planning not just for this year, but for the next year.

Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado is going to defend against any attempts at compact curtailment. Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado curtails every year. Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado curtails based on what's available within its own state and she is going to defend that. Ms. Mitchell stated that part of her negotiation strategy is to make sure to state where her lines are. Ms. Mitchell stated that she doesn't wish shortages on anyone, that they are painful, and Colorado water users know that personally.

Ms. Mitchell stated that preserving Federal Reserve Water Rights for tribal nations is important for Colorado. Ms. Mitchell explained that the two tribes that reside within the Colorado River Basin in Colorado, the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute, have settlements. Ms. Mitchell stated that those rights need to be preserved and they're the ones taking a lot of hits right now in Colorado. Ms. Mitchell also stated that we need solutions that comply with federal environmental law and advance coordination between the United States and Mexico.

Ms. Mitchell concluded her talk, acknowledged her appreciation for being at the CRB meeting, and offered to answer questions.

Board Member Ruiz introduced himself as Salton Sea Program Director for the Audubon Society. He asked how Ms. Mitchell makes sure that diverse voices and diverse communities are invited to be part of the process, obviously recognizing that there is a huge landscape of voices and interest groups.

Ms. Mitchell stated that it is continual work and that her thoughts and philosophies on it changes almost monthly. Ms. Mitchell stated that she touched on tribal water rights when she first started and that there were obviously voices that needed to be heard and elevated and louder. Ms. Mitchell stated that Colorado began that dialog with its tribal sovereigns within Colorado. Ms. Mitchell explained that Colorado created an MOU on how to dialog with tribes: consistency, timing of dialog, what is being discussed, and more. She added that dialog has to go both ways, not just her speaking to the tribes.

Board Member Nelson stated that Colorado and California have so much in common in terms of urban and agricultural issues. California has a north-south issue while Colorado has an east-west issue, and we're all trying to maximize the benefit of the declining river. Mr. Nelson asked how much water is diverted from the Western Slope over to the Front Range and then how much of that then goes to agriculture on the Front Range.

Ms. Mitchell stated that she would get back to Mr. Nelson with the exact numbers because it's variable and dependent on what's available and decisions that are made by the transmountain diverters on an annual basis. Ms. Mitchell added that it is very specific to what's available in the river. Ms. Mitchell stated that about ninety percent of that water goes to agriculture and that urban conservation alone can't save the river. However, Ms. Mitchell noted that efforts to remove nonessential turf are being advanced in Colorado.

Board Member Jones stated that she thinks that California may have more in common at the state level with Colorado than Ms. Mitchell might realize, especially in terms of shortages. Ms. Jones added that California had three years of severe drought prior to this good water year. In two of those years, the largest water project in California, which provides more water to agriculture than anyone else, including the Colorado River, had two years of zero supplies to agriculture.

Ms. Jones added that California's state water project last year only had a five percent supply to all of its contractors, and that was based off of health and safety only: fifty-five gallons per person per day. Ms. Jones added that the Department of Water Resources alone provided \$500,000,000 in emergency grants for drinking water for communities that have run out of water and that most of those problem communities are in the agricultural areas that are small, rural and that the lack of agricultural supplies that contribute to some shallow groundwater recharge for drinking water systems was a big problem. This year DWR has provided at least \$300,000,000 in emergency flood grants. Ms. Jones stated that California has the highest annual variability of precipitation anywhere in the US. In response to a question from Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Jones stated that California has a system in place to facilitate voluntary transfers to support communities who lose their water supply. Those who can afford it can purchase water on the market. Most of

California's state financial assistance is for the health and safety emergency water supplies.

Ms. Laura Lamdin asked for clarification on a slide showing water use in the Upper and Lower Basins, noting that the Lower Basin bar included Mexico's water allocation. In response, Ms. Mitchell stated that due to issues with tributaries and surplus classification, Colorado views the Lower Basin's 7.5 MAF allocation as including the annual delivery of 1.5 MAF to Mexico.

Mr. Hasencamp thanked Ms. Mitchell for coming. Mr. Hasencamp asked whether the numbers shown included Lower Basin tributary use in both Utah and New Mexico, if Colorado believes that tributaries count toward Lower Basin allocations. Ms. Mitchell declined to answer, and Ms. Neuwerth stated that it would be part of future negotiations.

Chairman Hamby asked if there were any other audience questions. Seeing none, he noted that Commissioner Mitchell joining the Board today was appreciated.

LOCAL AND STATE WATER SUPPLY AND OPERATIONS REPORTS

Board member Jones, representing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reported that to date, the statewide precipitation was 137% of average, noting that hydrology conditions this year are better than the previous year.

Ms. Jones presented a figure showing 125 years of statewide average temperatures across the U.S. She stated that the State experienced colder temperatures between January and June 2023, stating the temperatures during this period were ranked one of the coldest on record. Ms. Jones stated that this is the reason the snow melt has been manageable. She stated there were fears that the snow melt would cause massive damage, especially in the San Joaquin system. Ms. Jones added that the colder temperatures are out of the ordinary if you compare these temperatures to the last twenty years of climate records and not to expect this to occur again in the future.

Ms. Jones reported on Water Year-2023 precipitation to date, stating that above average precipitation was focused on the middle and southern coastal areas of the State. She stated that statewide reservoir storage was above historical averages, apart from Trinity reservoir which is not in a favored location for recent storm activity.

Board member Cordero, representing the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) stated that as of August 1st, MWD's reservoir storage was at about 79% capacity, and the Colorado River Aqueduct will be on a five-pump flow throughout the end of the year. She added that MWD's diversion target for 2023 is 749,000 acre feet (AF) and it has diverted 406,235 AF of water as of August 1st. She displayed a figure that showed MWD's deliveries to member

agencies for the first half of 2023, including immediate storage or replenishment to its member agencies. Ms. Cordero stated that the deliveries for the first three months were 76% of average.

Board member Pettijohn representing the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) reported that most of the snow has melted out, noting however, that snow conditions were favorable in early July for skiing on Mammoth Mountain. He concurred with Ms. Jones, noting that the temperatures were mild during the onset of summer allowing LADWP to manage flow through the LA Aqueduct system. Mr. Pettijohn stated that it allowed LADWP to spread a lot of water to replenish groundwater. He added that the dust mitigation infrastructure built on Owens Dry Lake, representing billions of dollars of investment, sustained minimal damage from the large amount of snow melt.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER SUPPLY AND OPERATIONS REPORT

Board Staff Dr. Rheinheimer reported that as of August 7th, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,579.11 feet with 9.22 MAF of storage, or 40% of capacity. The water level at Lake Mead was 1,061.74 feet with 8.56 MAF of storage, or 33% of capacity. The total system storage was 25.81 MAF, or 44% of capacity, which is 5.73 MAF more than system storage at this time last year.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported that as of August 1st, for Water Year-2023 (WY-2023) the forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is 13.75 MAF, or 143% of normal. He reported that the forecasted April to July inflow into Lake Powell is 10.62 MAF, or 166% of normal. He stated that observed inflow into Lake Powell for July was 109% of normal and the August inflow forecast was 114% of normal. He added that precipitation to date is 116% of normal.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported on precipitation conditions during June and July. He stated that the northern part of the Basin, especially higher up in the mountains in Colorado, was generally above average precipitation in June, and below average in the lower part of the basin in Arizona. He stated that coming into July, precipitation conditions were below average throughout the entire basin, with some exceptions.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported on the July 24-Month Study. He presented a figure showing the end of month elevations for Lakes Powell and Mead. He stated that during the months of April through June, the elevations of Lakes Powell and Mead increased significantly due to improved hydrology conditions. He noted that Lake Mead's projected most probable elevation will hover between 1,050 feet and 1,075 feet in 2024.

Dr. Rheinheimer reported that through the end of July, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 59,474 AF and 44,799 AF, respectively. He also reported that the excess deliveries to Mexico were 22, 541 AF, compared to 1,852 AF at this time last year.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN PROGRAM STAFF REPORTS

Status of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program

Ms. Rapoport reported that Technical Work Group (TWG) of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) met in June. Ms. Rapoport noted that the TWG received a report on the April High Flow Experiment (HFE). Ms. Rapoport explained that the experiment was designed to push sediment down the river. Ms. Rapoport added that the circumstances were unique, necessitating a regulatory process to facilitate the experiment. Ms. Rapoport reported that preliminary results from the April HFE show good sediment rebuilding of the beaches, which recreators were excited about for the summer rafting season. Ms. Rapoport added that part of the urgency of the experiment was due to planned high water releases in the summer, which are likely to erode beaches. Researchers will evaluate the size of the beaches again at the end of the summer.

Ms. Rapoport reported that the TWG moved forward a budget for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center for fiscal year 23-24. The Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) will consider the budget at its upcoming meeting.

Ms. Rapoport reported that Reclamation provided information to the TWG on possible work on the 12-mile slough. The slough currently provides a breeding ground for non-native fish. Consideration is being given to modifying the slough to increase water circulation, thereby decreasing the temperature in the slough. The National Park Service, who would be responsible for implementing any such effort, is reviewing the plans.

Ms. Rapoport reported that there will be a virtual TWG meeting that afternoon. The purpose of the special meeting is to hopefully move forward a plan to possibly modify the sediment accounting window that triggers HFEs. Currently, the sediment accounting window is split into a fall accounting period and a spring accounting period, and the proposal would result in one annual window, allowing for greater flexibility in HFE timing. The TWG will consider the plan this afternoon and hopefully advance that plan to the AMWG.

Ms. Rapoport reported that an AMWG meeting will be held the following week in Flagstaff, Arizona and that the TWG will meet in October 2023.

Status of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Ms. Rapoport reported that the Steering Committee of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) held a virtual meeting. Ms. Rapoport reported that the Steering Committee considered a final implementation report on the work done in the previous year. The Steering Committee voted to move the report forward to Reclamation for their reporting to Congress.

Ms. Rapoport reported that the Steering Committee approved procedures for adding or removing members. The item stemmed from the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) wanting to withdraw from the program.

Ms. Rapoport reported that the next Steering Committee will be a hybrid meeting with in-person attendance at the Las Vegas airport on October 18, 2023.

MEMBER AGENCY AND PUBLIC MEMBER REPORTS

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Board member Vigil reported on its dove hunting season opener from September 1 -15, 2023, which brings hunters out to the Colorado River in southern areas, noting that opportunities on private lands have decreased. He stated that CDFW has increased acreage to provide opportunities for hunters. He added that CDFW enhances the habitats by planting food crops and forest food for dove hunting. He stated that the Imperial Wildlife Area has 2,000 acres and 140 acres has been enhanced. He reported that CDFW works with Desert Wildlife Unlimited and private farmers in the Imperial Valley to use their farm fields. He noted that the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve has 500 acres of enhanced areas available for use by hunters.

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Board member Nelson reported that CVWD is working with MWD to manage 138,350 AF of Table A and 9,500 AF of Rosedale Rio Bravo surplus supplies for the State Water Project. He stated that 141,000 AF of water has been replenished through the Whitewater Replenishment project, noting that in 2017, a record 386,000 AF of water was replenished.

Mr. Nelson reported that on CVWD's system conservation agreements on Bucket 1a, which are short term agreements proffered by Reclamation this year. He stated that CVWD has a signed contract with Reclamation to curtail its replenishment facilities by up to 35,000 AF (105,000 AF over three years). He explained that the agreements have been executed by all the parties and CVWD sent a revised water order to Reclamation. He stated that in progress is

CVWD's Agricultural Conservation Program, in which CVWD would work with growers to save up to 10,000 AF per year (30,000 AF over the next three years).

Mr. Nelson explained that for Bucket 2, which are long-term projects with Reclamation, CVWD submitted proposals to recycle up to 1,120 AF per year (33,000 AF over 30 years) and to undertake a golf course conservation program.

Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID)

Mr. Eckard reported on issues with laterals within PVID's service area. He stated that the laterals range from a quarter of a mile to one mile in length, and most of them run adjacent to residential properties. Mr. Eckard stated that in the past, there were issues with the pin and lock mechanism that are used on the gates that prevent vandalism or other damage. He added that for some reason over the last few years those pins have been left off or removed, causing flooding in residential areas. Mr. Eckard explained that the telemetry department came up with a device to control or eliminate flooding, stating that the device is connected to the existing SCADA system. He reported that the devices have been operating for about a year and a device will be installed at each of the eleven lateral delivery systems.

Loa Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Board member Pettijohn showed several grant funding awards received by LADWP, noting that he has previously talked about different projects LADWP had related to conservation, recycling, water user efficiency, stormwater, groundwater and recovery. He then highlighted three updates related to ongoing projects and new awards.

Mr. Pettijohn described LADWP's groundwater replenishment program, including the Donald C Tillman Water Reclamation Plant for advanced treated recycled water and the Hansen spreading grounds to recharge the San Fernando Groundwater Basin. He stated that the total project cost is about \$700 million and that so far, they have received about \$240 million in grants and loans and recently received another \$15 million. He noted that the project will treat 23 million gallons per day of wastewater, that it will produce 21,000 AF of drinking water, and that it will come online by 2027, which will serve about 250,000 homes.

Mr. Pettijohn then described an award of \$14.6 million from DWR's Urban Community Drought Relief Program for LADWP's Landscape Efficiency Assistance Program. He noted that the LADWP program is a unique program for disadvantaged communities to retrofit homeowners' landscapes in those communities. Mr. Pettijohn stated that the City of Los Angeles has removed over 50 million square feet of turf within the City generally, noting that a few years ago the

governor wanted a goal of 50 million for the entire state. He also noted that MWD helped fund the program and expressed appreciation for that.

Mr. Pettijohn finally noted that money from DWR to mitigate saltwater intrusion was being used to fund LADWP's Dominguez Gap Seawater Barrier Intrusion Project. He briefly reviewed the history of seawater intrusion along the coast in the Dominguez Gap area. He noted that they designed and built a hydraulic seawater intrusion barrier using potable water, and they are now trying to convert the barrier to use advanced treated recycled water instead. He stated that the total project cost will be about \$20M.

Ms. Neuwerth asked Mr. Pettijohn how much water they need to pump down the barrier wells to prevent intrusion. Mr. Pettijohn replied that it is about 9.5 million gallons per day and that some of that water will eventually get pumped out, noting that it is very high-quality water. He also noted that some of the injected water will eventually make it to drinking water wells.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Chairman Hamby provided the IID agency updated, noting that no IID staff was present. He first stated that IID just completed the Lloyd Allen Water Conservation Operational Reservoir, noting that Lloyd Allen was a five-term IID board member, integral to the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and was chair of the Colorado River Board for several years before passing away. He described the reservoir's function, noting that, with a 40 AF capacity, it serves to help regulate the 13-mile-long East High Line lateral. He noted that the reservoir will save about 400 AF per year. He also described the opening ceremony and dedication.

Chairman Hamby also noted that IID is planning a QSA 20th anniversary commemoration in coordination with CRB's October meeting to be held in Imperial Valley, including a formal dedication of the new Lloyd Allen Reservoir.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Board member Jones first noted some grants DWR awarded, including the Land Flex Program to support groundwater sustainability by taking agricultural land out of production in severely over drafted groundwater basins.

Ms. Jones noted that in the previous week DWR conducted the annual Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) Workshop along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and other partners. She noted that several years ago there was legislation that directed the Corps to expand their FIRO program. She provided further details about this program, noting that there are five pilot FIRO projects ongoing in California.

Ms. Jones then described the current and projected future state of Tulare Lake, indicating that is expected to exist for another couple of years. She noted that the water itself is of little overall value to groundwater storage due to the relatively impermeable Corcoran Clay aquifer below it. She also noted that DWR's assistance to the Tulare area is limited to emergency response, since the Tulare area did not previously sign up to be part of DWR's State Plan of Flood Control, so DWR does not have any formal role in managing Tulare Lake.

Ms. Neuwerth inquired about how much water was spread this year for groundwater replenishment. Ms. Jones responded that she didn't have the final numbers yet, but that they were at least several hundred thousand acres.

Vice Chairman Madaffer asked how thick the Corcoran Clay layer is. Ms. Jones responded that some of the pumping wells in the Tulare Basin are almost 2,000 feet deep.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Board member Cordero described a new advertising campaign with the Angel City Women's Professional Team, noting that MWD will be participating with the team in their title game later this month when the team will recognize MWD's general manager and board and promote MWD and its conservation efforts.

Ms. Cordero described repairs to the Etiwanda Pipeline that provides State Water Project to the Inland Empire, noting that the repairs used specialized equipment that included new technology such as robots and a new kind of pipe lining. She noted that this repair will help bring more water from Northern California for local storage.

Ms. Cordero then described an education program that MWD participates in, including hosting a two-day meeting for 50 educators from across the state to teach young people about water issues using STEAM curriculum and virtual learning programs. She noted that the group also visited MWD's Pure Water facility and the Southern California Water facility.

Ms. Cordero stated that MWD is considering the addition of rebates for trees to their turf replacement program, which, as she noted, environmental groups have been supporting to provide a more sustainable landscape and an urban canopy.

Ms. Cordero also noted MWD's diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plan, indicating that their board has been reviewing the plan.

Ms. Cordero finally noted that Board Member Joaquin visited MWD and spoke to the board, and thanked him for his visit.

San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)

Vice Chairman Madaffer provided a verbal update without slides. He described a water storage project that SDCWA just finished, called the Hauck Mesa Storage, and that received some awards. He noted that the facility is on SDCWA's first aqueduct pipeline and provided a basic description of the facility, including noting that it holds about 2.1 million gallons of water. Vice Chairman Madaffer noted that the project received the honor award from the American Public Works Association and an Outstanding Water Project Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Basin States Activities

Ms. Neuwerth reported that on June 16th, Reclamation published a federal register notice of intent (NOI) for the post-2026 operating guidelines for Powell and Mead, inviting public comments to be submitted by August 15th. Ms. Neuwerth noted that the Basin States have been working for a month to prepare a joint seven-state letter, and that the Lower Basin States were also considering a joint letter.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that in mid-July, technical staff from the California agencies held a three-day workshop to discuss post-2026 operations. Ms. Neuwerth noted that the meeting had been very productive. Based on the discussion, modeling teams were preparing analysis to share at the next workshop, scheduled for the end of the month. Ms. Neuwerth reported that during a future meeting, the Board would be briefed on the initial ideas and positions developed during these workshops.

2024 Colorado River Annual Operating Plan

Ms. Neuwerth reported that on June 22nd, Reclamation hosted its first consultation to review and accept comments for the first draft of the Annual Operating Plan (AOP). She stated that the August 24-Month Study projections of January 1st elevations of Lakes Powell and Mead are used to set the operations for the reservoir system. She stated that the first draft of the AOP was based on the June 24-Month Study which projected Lake Powell will operate in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier with the most probable release of 7.48 MAF. For Lake Mead, a Level 1 Shortage is projected, and Lake Mead's elevation will be between 1,075 feet and 1,050 feet. The projected delivery to Mexico of 1.45 MAF.

Ms. Neuwerth reported that the next consultation is scheduled for September 6th, which

will be based on the August 24-Month Study.

Reclamation's Post-2026 Integrated Technical Education Workshops

Ms. Neuwerth provided an overview and update of Reclamation's Integrated Technical Education Workshop (ITEW). She stated that the workshop is a multi-stakeholder modeling group where Reclamation's modelers meet with Basin state representatives and stakeholders to inform them about how they are going to do modeling for the post-2026 analysis. Ms. Neuwerth then stated that four workshops had been held so far, including one in June, focusing on hydrology and a more recent one in early August focusing on demand. She noted that Reclamation is creating a web tool to allow stakeholders to run their own models for different scenarios and that they are currently deciding which variables to include in the tool. Finally, Ms. Neuwerth noted that Reclamation is planning a couple more meetings and that their goal is to release the web tool for use in November.

Washington D.C. Updates

Ms. Neuwerth provided an update on the Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act. She reported that the salinity control programs have struggled with funding from the Lower Basin Fund. Ms. Neuwerth also noted that, in addition to other problems, there are no State of Arizona funds going into this fund. The Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act would decrease the states' cost-share and increase the federal cost-share for salinity control programs across the Colorado River Basin. She stated that the Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act would keep salinity control funds stable while broader fixes may be seen in the next couple of years.

Vice Chairman Madaffer asked a question about being more included and/or involved with the Farm Bill. Chairman Hamby stated that different venues have been explored. Chairman Hamby reported that three quarters of the Farm Bill is focused on food assistance, aid, and only about a quarter of it on actual agricultural programs, the majority of which gets targeted for the Midwest and Southeast primarily. Chairman Hamby reported that the Republican House may want to maintain the Farm Bill at the same level of funding and other regions of the country may not be interested in giving up their own funding. Chairman Hamby stated that the options to obtain new funding seemed a little bleak. However, Chairman Hamby noted that there is an existing 4 billion dollars of IRA funding with some new western agriculture provisions that would aid in setting money aside while the next set of guidelines are underway.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hamby reported that he attended the Upper Colorado River Commission meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He stated that he shared California's historical perspective on the Colorado River and the Post-2026 general priorities that the Board discussed in 2021.

Chairman Hamby stated that the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) under development by Reclamation had incorporated versions of the Californian and Six State proposals into alternatives one and two. Chairman Hamby noted that the Lower Basin Plan submitted in June 2023 was considered internally by Reclamation as alternative three. He stated that the preliminary modeling results for alternative three shows favorable performance of the Lower Basin Plan compared to the alternatives one and two. Chairman Hamby stated that the Reclamation is likely releasing a revised draft SEIS in September 2023, having a final SEIS in December 2023, with a Record of Decision in January 2024. He stated that additional work needs to be done to ensure that the assumptions that Reclamation is incorporating into the SEIS reflect California's shared assumptions. Chairman Hamby reported that California was still exploring options to develop implementing agreements for the Lower Basin Plan.

Chairman Hamby reported that that Basin States were working to develop a joint scoping letter in response to Reclamation's Post-2026 NOI. He stated that there are still many items under discussion and that California was expecting to sign at least one joint letter.

Finally, Chairman Hamby reported that he will attend the Federal States Tribe Sovereigns meeting this week in Phoenix. He stated that the representatives of the thirty tribes, seven Basin States, and federal government will be meeting. Chairman Hamby stated that he invited Board Member Cordero to the meeting and will update the Board at the next Board meeting.

Chairman Hamby asked if there were any items the Board would like to add to future agenda. Board member Seiler asked to add an executive session at the next Board meeting. Chairman Hamby and Ms. Neuwerth confirmed. Ms. Neuwerth provided an update on the locations of the future CRB board meetings: Blythe, CA (September), El Centro, CA (October), and Winterhaven, CA (November).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.