

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS TELEPHONIC REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES FOR JULY 15, 2021

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:30 a.m. This meeting was held via teleconference/ZOOM in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19, with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance Division 1

Vince Lucchesi, Alternate for Bobby Pierce
Anthea Hansen, Director (arrived during item 16)
Rick Gilmore, Director - Lea Emmons, Alternate

Division 2

Ryan Ferguson, Director
William Bourdeau, Director (arrived during item 7)
Michael Linneman, Alternate for John Bennett
Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3

Jarrett Martin, Alternate for Chris White
Cannon Michael, Director
Ellen Wehr, Alternate for Ric Ortega

Division 4

John Varela, Director
Richard Santos, Alternate for Gary Kremen (arrived during item 18)
Jeff Cattaneo, Director
Sara Singleton, Alternate for Joseph Tonascia

Division 5

Bill Pucheu, Director
Tom Birmingham, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer
Frances Mizuno, Special Projects Administrator
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Joyce Machado, Director of Finance
Lauren Neves, Accountant III
Stewart Davis, IT Officer
Gerald Robbins, Special Programs Manager
Jaime Bowker, Summer Clerk

Others in Attendance

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District
Mike Wade, California Farm Water Coalition
Don Wright, Water Wrights
Charmel Cajimat, Friant Water Authority
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner, LLP

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cannon Michael and roll was called.

2. Board to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

No corrections or additions.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Don Wright encouraged the Board to continue holding online meetings for the public.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: a) June 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Staff Reports.

Director Bill Diedrich complemented staff on the complete and comprehensive nature of the reports.

On a motion of Director Rick Gilmore, seconded by Director Bill Pucheu, the Board accepted the Meeting Minutes, Financial Expenditures Reports, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Gilmore, Ferguson, Linneman, Diedrich, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

ACTION ITEMS

5. Agenda Item 7: Board of Directors to Consider Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Authorization to Execute Master Science Coordination Agreement with State Water Contractors.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that historically, the Authority and State Water Contractors have jointly funded a number of science activities, including facilitation and participation in forums, direct funding of studies, among other activities, associated with reducing uncertainty and improving the effectiveness of and minimizing the water supply impacts of species recovery efforts. Petersen reported that these efforts have been performed under individual agreements, some informal, and each action was taken to the Board for approval and execution, therefore taking up staff time and meeting time with the Board. Petersen reported that with the adoption of a revised procurement policy for the Authority, staff is proposing to transition existing agreements and to authorize future science efforts that are jointly funded with the State Water Contractors pursuant to a Master Science Coordination Agreement, with individual project orders to be issued for specific activities. Petersen reported that the attached Master Science Coordination Agreement outlines the terms and includes a template project order form that includes the information that will be incorporated into each subsequent individual project agreement. Petersen reported that the Water Resources Committee recommended that the Board authorize the execution of the Master Science Coordination Agreement with the State Water Contractors with the recommended amendment to item 6 allowing termination by either party with 30-days' notice.

On a motion of Director Tom Birmingham, seconded by Director Rick Gilmore, the Board authorized the execution of the Master Science Coordination Agreement with State Water Contractors with the revision recommended by the Water Resources Committee.

AYES: Lucchesi, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Linneman, Diedrich, Jarrett
Martin, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu,
Birmingham, Amorelli

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

6. **Agenda Item 8: Board of Directors to Consider Water Resources Committee Recommendation to Adopt Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation.**

S. 2185 (Barrasso) – Western Water Infrastructure Act of 2021 – Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported the Water Resources Committee recommended that the Board adopt the staff recommended position of “Support and Amend” on S. 2185, the Western Water Infrastructure Act of 2021. Petersen reported that S. 2185 would reauthorize the WIIN Act funding accounts, authorize funding to eliminate Reclamation’s maintenance backlog, and restore storage capacity at Reclamation and Corps of Engineers facilities by establishing a sediment management program. Petersen reported that it would grandfather the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and

San Luis Reservoir Expansion projects and authorize an additional \$1.6 billion in funding for the WIIN Act Section 4007 water storage funding account, and \$500 million for desalination and water recycling projects pursuant to WIIN Act Section 4009. Petersen reported that it does contain a provision that would require that projects be transmitted to Congress and approved by both authorizing and appropriations committees prior to funding, which is a change from current practice that only requires that projects be named in appropriations legislation. Petersen reported that projects that had a transmitted feasibility study by January 1, 2021 would be grandfathered under the prior process. Petersen reported that additionally, the legislation authorizes \$300 million for the WaterSMART program, \$50 million in non-reimbursable funds for inspections of aging infrastructure in Reclamation states, \$5 billion for maintenance backlog projects contained in Asset Management Reports, and \$100 million for reservoir sediment management. Petersen reported that staff is recommending a "Support and Amend" position, and is recommending that the Authority support the underlying legislation while working to add a WIIN Act Operations extension to the legislation.

On a motion of Director Tom Birmingham, seconded by Director John Varela, the Board Adopted Staff Recommendation for Positions on Legislation:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Linneman, Diedrich, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

7. Agenda Item 9: Board of Directors to Consider Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding WY 21 Recalculated Rates

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave presented the Water Year 2021 recalculated rates. Arroyave explained that version 1 did not include any additional water transfers and version 2 accounted for the potential water transfer deliveries from OID/SSJID. Arroyave reported that the Finance & Administration Committee recommended the Board adopt Version 1, excluding the potential deliveries of OID/SSJID transfer water, and consider revising the rates at a later date if warranted.

On a motion of Director Rick Gilmore, seconded by Director Bill Pucheu, the Board Adopted the WY 21 Recalculated Rates. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Lucchesi, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Linneman, Diedrich, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli
NAYS:	None

ABSTENTIONS: None

REPORT ITEMS

8. Agenda Item 10: Report on State and Federal Affairs.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen highlighted items in his report included in the packet. Petersen reported that last month, the Senate confirmed several of President Biden's nominations, including Richard Spinrad to lead NOAA and Tanya Trujillo for the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at Interior. Petersen reported that additionally, the President formally nominated Camille Calimlim Touton to as Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. Petersen reported that the Authority sent a letter, signed by the Family Farm Alliance, Environmental Defense Fund, the California Farm Bureau, Western Growers and Friant and Tehama Colusa, urging the Senate to rapidly confirm Ms. Touton given the drought conditions throughout the western United States.

Petersen reported that the Biden Administration has announced their first sweeping regulatory agenda, revealing plans to continue modifying environmental regulations on climate, air pollution, toxics and workplace safety. Petersen reported that the biannual plan showcases administration's priorities and offers a glimpse into how quickly and aggressively those priorities might be carried out. Petersen reported that it builds on agency actions ordered by President Biden through Executive Orders on his first day in office, and is usually an aspirational guide to agencies in developing new regulations, but given the gridlock in Congress, it will be used to implement the President's climate agenda, especially for environmental and energy rules.

Petersen reported that Congress will spend July getting the trains loaded for the "two-track" infrastructure push, and the budget committees in both chambers will be the key to unlocking the reconciliation process that gets the Democrat-backed plan going in tandem with a bipartisan deal. Petersen reported it is expected that the Senate Budget Committee will adopt a budget resolution in short order that lays out the spending ceiling for that partisan plan and directs various committees to write the policy details. Petersen reported that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer reiterated his goal of passing that budget resolution on the floor before August recess.

Petersen reported that Senate Democrats announced a top line budget number late Tuesday that will propel their plan to enact the full array of President Joe Biden's social welfare and family aid promises without Republican votes. Petersen reported that the proposal sets an overall limit of \$3.5 trillion for the spate of Democratic policy ambitions that won't make it into a bipartisan infrastructure deal, if Congress can reach one.

Petersen reported that on July 8, Governor Newsom called on Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent to preserve available supplies and protect water reserves. Petersen reported that additionally, Governor Newsom expanded the drought emergency declaration to nine additional counties, bringing the total to 50 counties across the state now under a drought state of emergency.

Petersen reported that the State Water Board will be considering a proposed General Order and draft Programmatic EIR to establish a streamlined permit authorization process for specific types of restoration activities. Petersen reported that this proposed General Order could have the potential to streamline permit authorizations for restoration work. Petersen reported that the State Water Board will accept written comments on the Proposed General Order and draft PEIR until noon on August 13, 2021, and Authority staff anticipates providing comments on the documents and will coordinate with member agencies and other key parties.

Petersen reported that Newsom and legislative leaders announced late Monday that the governor signed the primary bill clearing one of the state's final budget hurdles, nearly two weeks into the new fiscal year and amid one of California's most confusing budget processes to date.

Petersen reported that staff SB 559 advanced through the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee this month and now heads to the Appropriations Committee. Petersen reported that it is anticipated that potential amendments to the bill are likely to be negotiated between now and the return of the Legislature in advance of the bill being heard at the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Petersen reported that Separately, the budget signed by the Governor included \$100 million for water conveyance projects.

Dennis Cardoza reported that the infrastructure bill has significant tax provisions that could significantly impact agriculture, and will be problematic for the industry.

9. Agenda Item 11: Executive Director's Report.

a) **DMC Subsidence Correction Project**– Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the geotechnical work has been completed. Arroyave reported that the focus right now is working with Reclamation on developing a cooperative agreement and staff hopes to bring it to the Board in substantial form in August or September.

b) **Future Board Meetings** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that staff is in the process of transitioning to in-person meetings, and are also working on virtual options. Barajas reported that to make the Boardroom virtual compatible the initial estimated cost would be between \$3,000-\$8,000. General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that the Brown Act relaxation will end September 30, 2021. Barajas reported that hybrid meeting options will be brought to the Board next month. After a brief discussion the Board agreed to have in-person

meetings start in August, with phone options available for both the committee and Board meetings.

c) **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that geotechnical work will be taking place on State Route 152. Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that drilling has started, and will go from 9 p.m-6 a.m. thru Friday July 16th, and will start back up on Monday July 19, and finish up on Wednesday July 21. Arroyave reported that during that time period, one lane in each direction will be closed.

Arroyave reported that the Authority is expecting to receive input from Reclamation on their views on the operational sub-configuration in the next couple of weeks. Arroyave reported that he will then reach out to the technical team for further discussion, and would also invite Reclamation.

d) **Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project** – Director Varela reported that project development is still on target, and hopes to have an update next month.

10. **Agenda Item 12: Chief Operating Officer's Report.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that staff is in the twelfth week of the Unit 1 Rewind Project at Jones Pumping Plant, and successfully passed all specification requirements for the stator core reinstallation.

Arroyave provided an update on Water Transfers: 1) Yuba Transfer: Arroyave reported that that as of Friday, July 9th, Reclamation did submit the 5-day notice to the State Water Resources Control Board for the Yuba transfer, and the Authority expected to start pumping today. Arroyave reported Reclamation is still currently having trouble meeting the 3-mile slough water quality requirements, and when they come into compliance then the movement of the Yuba transfer water will begin; 2) North of the Delta Water Transfer: Arroyave reported that there has not be much change since last month. Arroyave reported that all the available transfer water continues to be backed up in Shasta, and is expected to be released in October; 2) OID/SSJID and Stockton East Transfers: Arroyave reported that the Authority is making good progress on both, and ultimately the release of this water will depend in part on how long Reclamation continues to maintain a 1,500 cfs release out of New Melones. Arroyave reported that at this point if these transfers are approved it's expected that the water would move late August or more likely in September and beyond.

11. **Agenda Item 13: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts**

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported that Shasta is drawing down faster than projected by Reclamation. With releases nearly 2,000 cfs higher than forecasted during

July, the projected carry over storage has been lowered from 1.25 MAF to 1.1 MAF. Folsom storage is also about 30 TAF lower than projected at 264 TAF. The projected carry over storage was reported to be about 100-150 TAF below carry over storage levels experienced in 2014 and 2015. Boardman described Delta conditions and stated that water quality levels in Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers have exceeded the relaxed salinity levels but are now back in compliance. Boardman also reported that wheeling of Yuba transfer water may not begin until an incoming high tide passes, and Sacramento valley water diversions begin to decline later in July.

Boardman stated that the CVP share of San Luis is about 30 TAF above its share of dead storage. It was reported that the CVP storage will be about -130 TAF by the end of September. However, since the SWP share of San Luis is projected to be about 450 TAF, delivery interruptions are not expected as total San Luis storage will remain above 300 TAF. Boardman concluded his report by stating that Project operators are discussing the details of borrowing storage in San Luis and the timing of pay back.

Responding to a question from the public, Boardman stated that CVP operators have not provided an update to the current balance of Coordinated Operations Agreement. However, Boardman reported that the SWP likely owes the CVP some amount of water under the COA due to CVP releases from New Melones and north of Delta upstream CVP releases made to reduce the draw on Oroville.

12. **Agenda Item 14: Committee Reports.**

- a. **Water Resources Committee** – Chair Tom Birmingham reported that the committee met, and addressed agenda items.
- b. **Finance & Administration Committee** – Chair Rick Gilmore reported that the committee met, and addressed agenda items.
- c. **O&M Committee** – No report.

13. **Agenda Item 15: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.**

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)**
No report.
- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)**
Report included in the packet.
- c. **Farm Water Coalition.**

Mike Wade reported that they have been working in support of the Western Water Infrastructure process moving through the committee yesterday that was approved in the Senate, and have been leading much of the media effort. Wade reported that they

have submitted over thirty letters to newspapers around the state talking about the benefits of infrastructure. Wade reported that they have worked with OID to support the process of the OID/SSJID transfers.

d. **Association of California Water Agencies**

Director Bill Diedrich reported that it is election year for ACWA. Diedrich reported that the Region 6&7 event is scheduled for October 28. Diedrich reported that AWCA is planning on having an in-person conference in late fall.

Director Varela reported if anyone is interested in serving on any committees the deadline is in September.

e. **San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Effort**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Blueprint Effort is going through some proposed revisions to the governance structure, and there is a memo out to key members for feedback.

f. **CVPWA**

No report.

14. **Agenda Item 16: Board Member Reports.**

No report.

15. **Agenda Items 17-20: Closed Session Report.**

Closed Session 1: Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda under Agenda Item 17 at approximately 10:53 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:14 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

Closed Session 2: Director Bill Diedrich, and Michael Linneman announced that they were recusing themselves from the Closed Session agenda under item 19 because of a conflict of interest associated with anticipated litigation under Government Code section 87100. Director Bill Diedrich, and Alternate Michael Linneman did not attend or participate in closed session.

Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda under Agenda Item 20 at approximately 11:18 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:53 p.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

16. **Agenda Item 21: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2 (a) (3)**

No reports.

17. **Agenda Item 22: Adjournment.**

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The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:54 p.m.

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August 5, 2021

To: Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

From: Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director

Subject: O&M Report for July 2021

Operations Department

The C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) operated at one unit for the entire month of July. Single-point CVP/SWP Delta exports from the JPP continued from June 17th through July 15th. The average rate of pumping for the JPP, through July 29th, was 794 cfs for the month.

Total pumping for the month through July 29th at the JPP was 45,691 acre-feet. The O'Neill Pump/Generating Plant (OPP) generated 96,401 acre-feet through July 29th, and no water was pumped. Due to the single Delta diversion point for the CVP and SWP, 6,777 acre-feet was pumped at the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Plant (DCI) and 0 acre-feet was reversed from the California Aqueduct to the DMC.

The Federal share in San Luis Reservoir on July 29th was 42,469 acre-feet as compared to 209,407 acre-feet on June 29th, 2020. This amount includes 50,000 acre-feet that the CVP borrowed from the SWP.

During the month of June, releases from Friant Dam ranged from 245 to 275 cfs with no flows entering the Mendota Pool. Flows past the Mendota Dam for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program were zero for the month of July.

Canal Operations staff members performed open channel and closed-pipe flow measurements, routine patrols and flow meter moss removal, bi-weekly meter readings, water samples, well soundings, and meter maintenance during the month of July. Staff also conducted flow study testing at Milepost 115.90 and SJR river flow testing with USBR at Millerton. The DMC Meter Replacement Project continued during the month of July with replacement meters being installed on the upper portion of the DMC.

Control Operations staff performed the following switching/clearance placements for the month of July:

- Tracy 13.8 kV switchgear building UZ11A placed grounds
- JPP Unit 2; annual maintenance
- JPP Unit 1 & 2; suction elbow entry
- JPP Unit 4; RTD investigation
- JPP Unit 2; accumulator PM

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Civil Maintenance Department

The Civil Maintenance crews worked on the following projects for the month of July:

- Moss removal from turnout trash racks and flow meters
- DMC erosion repair at Milepost 115.59
- Grading and repair of DMC, SLD, and Wasteway operating roads
- Repair DMC Meter Well Lids Hwy 33 and Marshall Road
- LBFO minor facility repairs
- Fabrication of trash racks for MP 81.08 & 80.08 and delivery to TFO for painting
- Haul generator to TFO for use at Tracy Fish Collection Facility
- Haul OPP Unit 3 pump casing taper section from Tracy to OPP for installation
- Haul JPP Unit 1 armature from Unico Machine (Benicia, CA) to JPP for installation
- Assisted with OPP Unit 3 repairs
- TFO compound minor maintenance
- Install speed bumps at TFO Warehouse Loading Dock area
- Chemical and mechanical weed control on DMC and SLD
- Grade embankment for new access steps at MP 42.02, 44.22, 45.20, & 56.82
- Installation of stairs and handrails to DMC turnout gates and meters
- Maintenance and repairs to float lines, signs, fences, guard rails and gates
- Maintain bait stations along DMC
- Cleaning of DMC drain inlets
- Garbage collection on DMC and Wasteways

Plant Maintenance Department

Electrical/C&I Staff:

- DCI loss of power investigation
- JPP monorail trash rake replacement
- JPP protective relay upgrades
- JPP sewer system PMs
- UZ3A/UZ4A feeder removal
- JPP penstock flowmeter repair
- JPP plant lighting repairs
- Provide support for data collection related to DMC subsidence correction effort
- JPP monorail trash rake replacement
- DCI O&M inspections repairs
- Troubleshoot JPP butterfly valve compressed air system dryer
- JPP west bank CO₂ fire system alarm investigation
- JPP Unit 2 annual maintenance
- JPP Unit 4 thrust bearing temperature alarm troubleshooting
- TFO water treatment plant chlorine pump troubleshooting

Mechanical Staff:

- JPP Unit 1 Rewind: Assist contractor with crane support, sand blast and paint components
- JPP Unit 1 exciter transportation
- JPP sandblast & paint facility air conditioning repairs
- OPP Unit 3 fabricate miscellaneous repair parts. Blast and paint components
- JPP Unit 2 annual maintenance
- Modify transportation bracket for JPP Unit 1 cooling fan

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USBR Support Services

Water Authority crews performed the following work at USBR facilities for the month of June:

- Repair to TFCF unwatering pumps and check valve
- Repair and supply parts for debris sweep arm
- Repair to TFCF monorail trash rake
- Coordination regarding electric panel PMs

Engineering Department

The Engineering staff worked on the following projects during the month of July:

- JPP Unit 1 rewind project
- JPP Unit 4 rewind project
- JPP Unit 1 thrust bearing inspection and repairs
- JPP Unit 1 armature machining contract
- JPP switchgear buildings relay settings update
- JPP Excitation slip ring brush holder upgrade to constant pressure type
- Anode replacement projects for OPP
- DMC Subsidence Correction Project
 - Geotechnical exploration project management
 - Management and compilation of USBR requested data
 - Cooperative Agreement development
- DMC MP115.90 flowmeter evaluation
- Upper DMC communication upgrades
- OPP Unit 3 repairs, including taper tube weld repairs and blade tip inspections
- USBR RO&M exam
- DMC PLC upgrade
- Data management of well readings.
- DMC structures list maintenance
- OPP Penstock Cathodic Protection System Replacement
- TFCF secondary channel equipment support
- Warren Act hydrographs
- Coordination with SGMA group for historical information data transfer
- FY2023 EO&M Budget planning and estimates
- OPP oil tanks disposal
- OPP electrical drawings update
- JPP industrial water settling basin repair

Land Management Activity Summary

The Engineering staff issued the following access permit during the month of July:

- Access permit P2202011 issued to Westside Hulling Association to temporarily stockpile almonds during the processing season on the Westley Wasteway

The Engineering staff were involved with the following land management projects during the month of July:

- Review and comment of 30% plans for Orestimba Creek Recharge
- Review and comment on SLD pipe crossing to Los Banos WTP
- City of Patterson Black Gulch Creek culvert inspection
- Costco Annexation Project, Tracy, CA
- PG&E pipeline relocation at MP92.73

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Safety Department

The Safety Department worked on the following items this month:

- Conduct new hire safety orientation for new employee.
- Provided Job Hazard Analysis support for the crews.
- Conduct Weekly Safety Tailgate talks with maintenance and operations crews.
- Sent out Weekly Safety Tailgate Topics – 7-1 Fire Prevention, 7-2 Silica Dust Safety, 7-3 Lead Safety, 7-4 Asbestos Safety
- Provided safety message for July Monthly Newsletter – Leave fireworks to the experts.
- Collected and sent dielectric rubber gloves to testing facility for semi-annual testing requirement.
- Provided critical lift and PRCS rescue standby support for OPP Unit 3 repair.

Work & Asset Management Department

The Work & Asset Management Department worked on the following items this month:

EAM/Financial Software Replacement Project

- End users continue entering data for Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, creating service orders, entering timesheets, creating and approving purchase orders and processing inventory, both receiving, checkouts & bin transfers.
- WAM Manager, WAM staff and end users finished testing of vendor credits for inventory and non-inventory items and WAM manager developing SOP's for vendor bill credits.
- WAM manager, Inventory Clerk and management continue testing various inventory procedures and brainstorming for best solutions for inventory check-out issues
- The implementation team continues testing various processes in NetSuite, including role comparison and adjustments, developing searches and reports to assist the end users. The most recent end-user training in June went successful and we will plan for another one in August.
- The implementation team continues supporting the end users as they work through their daily work processes and continues working with the NetSuite, Shepherd, and PyanGo teams to fine-tune the system.
- Management and staff working on asset management in Shepherd and Preventive Maintenance procedures.
- The implementation team selected Affirma as our additional support vendor to evaluate and provide solutions/support for our outstanding issues. Agreement is executed and we have begun working on our item list.

Contracts/PO Agreements/LOA's in Process and Executed

- PO1462 Issued for Workplace Threat and Violence Training- \$5,995.00
- F22-OPP-049, Amendment executed for scaffolding extending time for completion and adding additional funds- Total amendment \$5353.75
- PO1367 Issued for DHR Hydro task 5 of PSE Contract dated 6/29
- F22-OPP-056, PO1492 Issued for additional work/repairs needed
- PO1625 Existing flow meter system update-Accusonic, in progress- \$55,918
- F22-OPP-059, OPP Main Transformer Rehabilitation solicitation process in progress- Estimated release date September, 2021
- F22-DMC-058, Chipseal solicitation in progress, bids due 8/11

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Ongoing:

- Purchasing in support of the O&M crews, to maintain warehouse stock, and locate & purchase disinfecting supplies & protective gear to continue our compliance with COVID-19 protocols
- Warehouse receiving, stocking, and distribution
- Fleet and property management
- NetSuite WAM invoicing/vendor bills/vendor credits
- Janitorial cleaning & disinfecting per COVID-19 guidelines
- Contract management/administration activities, including bi-weekly contract update meetings with WAM and Engineering Staff
- Developing/implementing purchasing/procurement and asset/inventory procedures/boilerplate templates
- Respond to emails/phone calls assisting various departmental staff as needed, as well as outside agencies and vendors
- Bi-weekly WAM staff meetings to discuss updates/issues
- Contract invoice payment reviews, invoice disputes as needed, invoice payments

Information Technology Department

The Information Technology Department worked on the following items this month:

- NetSuite
 - Online training, user and administration
 - Weekly Implementation Team meetings
 - Selected vendor for NetSuite support
- Continuing support for our "Work at Home" users
- Assist with FAC, WRC and BOD meetings with Zoom
- Desktop support calls.
- Email server upgrade preparations- vendor SOW
 - Hardware requirements and quotes
- Planning for server refresh
- Planning for laptop refresh
- Planning process to evaluate upgrading/replacing copiers
- Document Management – research, demonstration, revised quote request
- Additional document management vendors for demo and quotes
- Started development of updated companywide cyber-security training and awareness
 - Selected 9 training videos for all staff and management to view
- Research hybrid Zoom for August BOD, and FAC recommendation
- Upgraded Symantec anti-virus management console, pushed new version to users
- Install WiFi access point in warehouse office.
- Research security camera options for warehouse personnel to monitor gates

Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department worked on the following items this month:

General Administrative Activities:

- Recruitments:
 - Heavy Equipment Operator, Tracy (continued recruitment)
 - SCADA Engineer
 - Interviewing
 - Jr. Civil Engineer
 - Interviews, candidate selected (offer accepted). Start date 8/23/21
 - Maintenance Worker
 - Clearance received. Employment start date: 7/12/21
 - O&M Manager
 - HR Coordinator
- Background checks for PIV cards (continuing)
- New OSHA Regulations as it pertains to COVID – update IIPP

Trainings/ Conferences:

- Remain up to date with webinars to ensure compliance with new legislation as it pertains to COVID-19
- Harassment Prevention Training (staff being scheduled for bi-annual training)

Government Reporting:

- Merced County Public Health COVID Reporting
- Veterans 4212 Report (due 9/2021)
- EEO-4 reporting (deadline 10/2021)

Ongoing:

- FMLA notices/follow ups
- COBRA notices/follow ups
- Worker's Comp follow ups
- Monthly safety points distribution
- Health benefits eligibility/employee assistance
- Maintain OSHA logs for calendar year
- Wellness program

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EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL (DMC)

Bridge Abutment Repair at MP 92.73

Status: Project is on hold. The 6-inch pipe owned by PG&E that crosses under the bridge, adjacent to the abutment, is the main transmission line for the City of Dos Palos. All parties have agreed that it would be a safety hazard to conduct work with the gas line in place. SLDMWA & Reclamation prepared and mailed an official letter of non-compliance to PG&E on February 22. PG&E has reached out to the Authority and informed us that they are moving forward the design of the relocation. PG&E, USBR and WA staff met to discuss the potential alternatives and plan the next steps. All parties agreed on a plan to remove the existing pipeline from the bridge and HDD install a new pipeline under the canal. PG&E will coordinate with their consultant to begin preliminary design for WA review. Coordination efforts are ongoing; however, the bridge project shall remain on hold until gas line has been realigned.

DMC Subsidence Correction Project

Status: SLDMWA executed a \$817k Professional Services Agreement with Terracon on May 6th for the Phase 1 Geotechnical Exploration work after receiving board approval at the May board meeting. Fieldwork is complete, and Terracon is currently running laboratory tests on the soil samples. The draft report is scheduled to be delivered on August 3rd and project completion estimated at the end of August.

The SLDMWA is currently working with Reclamation on a Cooperative Agreement to allow the transfer of funds to the Authority. The scope of the Agreement encompasses preliminary work necessary prior to final design. The scope includes the current Geotechnical work being performed by Terracon, Cultural Records search, Congressional Feasibility Report, Environmental Compliance, and labor associated with managing the contracts and participating in the USBR DEC Review. Agreement is scheduled to be executed by 9/15/21.

Reclamation approved the pump submittal for the supply contract for the two additional pumps at the DMC/CA Intertie Pumping Plant (DCI). The installation of the government furnished items will be completed by Unico Services. Unico is scheduled to mobilize to DCI on September 27, 2021.

DMC Turnout Flowmeter Upgrade Program – Phase 2

Status: Phase 1 is complete. Phase 2 has started with the collection of current meter measurements. The SLDMWA will be pursuing a sole source purchase of the same type of McCrometer meters that were purchased in Phase 1.

DMC O&M Road Maintenance Program, Phase 1 of 10

Status: The DMC O&M Roadway Maintenance (Chipseal) Invitation for Bid contract was advertised and sent out to vendors on July 26, 2021. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Monday August 2, 2021 at 9:00 am at the Tracy Field Office in Bryon, CA. All bids are due back by August 11, 2021 before 2:00 pm in the Tracy Field Office. The job will be completed by October 1, 2021.

EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

C.W. "BILL" JONES PUMPING PLANT (JPP)

JPP Excitation Cabinet & Control Panel Refurbishment (FY2018 Project)

Status: Site visit completed in March by USBR Denver Office staff to evaluate the installation plans for the project. The 90% design is scheduled to be completed late August.

JPP Unit No. 5 Rewind

Status: Project is complete. The final invoice has been approved by Reclamation and partial payment was received in July. The final balance will be paid to the Authority in October.

JPP Unit No. 1 Rewind

Status: The stator core laminations have been installed and tested. The new ring bus is installed and tested, and the new windings are currently being installed. Water Authority and Reclamation engineers are evaluating excessive wear on the thrust shoes that was discovered during the unit disassembly and are developing a repair plan.

JPP Unit No. 4 Rewind

Status: Due to steel shortages and price increases in Europe, the Water Authority issued the Notice to Proceed and initial payment for the Unit 4 Rewind in June (early) to secure materials and ensure the project remained on schedule. Materials have been secured and no delays are expected with the Unit 4 rewind.

JPP/OPP/DCI Fire Protection Systems Assessment

Status: No activity this month. Water Authority awarded a contract to FRA to perform a systems assessment in January 2021. The site surveys and exchange of documents are complete. Draft reports for each facility have been reviewed and sent to FRA for revisions.

JPP Wear Ring Purchase

Status: No activity this month.

O'NEILL PUMPING/GENERATING PLANT (OPP)

Main Transformers Rehabilitation/Replacement Project

Status: SLDMWA continued with the review of the specifications and cost estimates. Also worked on project description and justification for the request of additional budget based on updated cost estimates. Continued to provide as-built conditions to TSC.

Arc Flash Hazard Analysis, Facility Rating, & Protective Relays Reviews (Electrical Equipment Periodic Reviews)

Status: Report drafts are expected by the end of September from TSC. Provided additional info to the load list to TSC.

EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

Pump Bowl Modification (Design and USBR Approval)

Status: No activity this month.

Penstock Cathodic Protection System Replacement

Status: Letter of Agreement (LOA) has been executed with USBR Tracy Office for USBR Denver staff to review the design provided by JDH. TSC completed their review of the design and provided the SLDMWA with a list of questions and comments. SLDMWA is working with JDH on satisfying their comments. Upon approval of the design, a construction contract will be pursued.

UPS Battery Charging System Replacement

Status: No activity this month.

TRACY FACILITIES (TFO)

TFO Domestic Water Treatment Plant Replacement

Status: No activity this month. Engineering review of the water treatment plant data has begun. A topographic drawing was prepared to address the flooding issue of the existing treatment building and will include underground utility coordination. Underground utilities have been drawn up and drainage improvements will be designed in the next month.

MULTIPLE FACILITIES: TFO/LBFO/DCI

Arc Flash Hazard Analysis

Status: The Arc Flash Hazard Analysis is tentatively scheduled in June 2022.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: August 2, 2021

RE: Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities

BACKGROUND

This memorandum is provided to briefly summarize the current status of various agency processes regarding water policy activities, including but not limited to the (1) Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations ("ROC on LTO"), (2) State Water Resources Control Board Action, including the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan update, (3) San Joaquin River Restoration Program, (4) Delta Conveyance, (5) Delta Stewardship Council, and (6) Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley.

POLICY ITEMS

[Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project](#)

In August 2016, the Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) requested reinitiation of consultation with NOAA Fisheries, also known as National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) due to multiple years of drought, low populations of listed species, and new information developed as a result of ongoing collaborative science efforts over the last 10 years.

On Jan. 31, 2019, Reclamation transmitted its Biological Assessment to the Services. The purpose of this action is to continue the coordinated long-term operation of the CVP and SWP to optimize water supply delivery and power generation consistent with applicable laws, contractual obligations, and agreements; and to increase operational flexibility by focusing on nonoperational measures to avoid significant adverse effects to species.

The biological opinions carefully evaluated the impact of the proposed CVP and SWP water operations on imperiled species such as salmon, steelhead and Delta smelt. FWS and NMFS documented impacts and worked closely with Reclamation to modify its proposed operations to

minimize and offset those impacts, with the goals of providing water supply for project users and protecting the environment.

Both FWS and NMFS concluded that Reclamation's proposed operations will not jeopardize threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their critical habitat. These conclusions were reached for several reasons – most notably because of significant investments by many partners in science, habitat restoration, conservation facilities including hatcheries, as well as protective measures built into Reclamation's and DWR's proposed operations.

On Oct. 21, 2019, FWS and NMFS released their biological opinions on Reclamation's and DWR's new proposed coordinated operations of the CVP and SWP.

On Dec. 19, 2019, Reclamation released the final Environmental Impact Statement analyzing potential effects associated with long-term water operations for the CVP and SWP.

On Feb. 18, 2020, Reclamation approved a Record of Decision that completes its environmental review for the long-term water operations for the CVP and SWP, which incorporates new science to optimize water deliveries and power production while protecting endangered species and their critical habitats.

On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order: “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis”, with a fact sheet¹ attached that included a non-exclusive list of agency actions that heads of the relevant agencies will review in accordance with the Executive Order. Importantly, the NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinions on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project were both included in the list of agency actions for review. It's unclear what this agency review will analyze, but staff will be engaged.

Reclamation Manual

Documents out for Comment

Draft Directives and Standards

- [FIN 07-24 Assets Under Construction \(AUC\) Comments by 08/09/2021](#)

Draft Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques (FIST)

- There are currently no Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques out for review.

Draft Reclamation Safety and Health Standards (RSHS)

- There are currently no Safety and Health Standards out for review.

Draft Reclamation Design Standards

- There are currently no Design Standards out for review.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/20/fact-sheet-list-of-agency-actions-for-review/>

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Activity

Documents out for Comment

Draft Racial Equity Resolution

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board and, together with the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, Water Boards) will receive public comments on the draft proposed Resolution² Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, and Racial Injustice and Strengthening Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Access, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (Racial Equity Resolution). The draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution articulates the State Water Board's commitment to racial equity, expositing why this work is needed and offers a roadmap for how the State Water Board can (1) ensure its programs and policies preserve, protect, and restore California's water resources equitably for people of all races, and (2) create an equitable, diverse, and inclusive workplace where all employees feel they belong and their opportunities and professional outcomes are not predicted by their race.

The draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution is posted on the State Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/racial_equity/. You may request a paper copy of the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution by emailing: racialequity@waterboards.ca.gov.

Submission of Comments

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the draft proposed Racial Equity Resolution. All written comments must be received no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, August 2, 2021.

Restoration Projects Statewide Order

Written comments will be accepted by the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Water Board") on the proposed Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide (proposed General Order) and supporting California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). The proposed General Order and draft PEIR would apply statewide and establish a permit authorization process for specific types of restoration activities. The draft PEIR identifies potential significant impacts to agriculture and forestry resources; air quality and greenhouse gas emissions; biological resources (terrestrial); biological resources (aquatic); cultural resources; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; land use and planning; noise; transportation; tribal cultural resources; and utilities and service systems and public services.

Additionally, the State Water Board will hold a public workshop on the proposed General Order and supporting draft PEIR. A quorum of the Board will be present; however, the Board will not take any action at the public workshop. The public workshop will be:

² See Appendix A.

Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Video and Teleconference Only No Physical Meeting Location

(Authorized and in furtherance of Executive Orders N-08-21 and N-29-20) Video Broadcast:

<https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>

Submission of Comments

State Water Board will also accept written comments on the proposed General Order and draft PEIR. Written comments must be received no later than 12:00 noon on August 13, 2021.

Draft Emergency Regulation: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed

The staff of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) is proposing an emergency regulation³ that, if adopted and approved, may affect the ability of water right holders in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) watershed to divert water. The notice includes information on how to participate in public discussion and provide comments regarding the proposed emergency regulation⁴. The notice also includes an update on water availability for pre-1914 appropriative and certain riparian water right claimants. The emergency regulation will be presented for review and possible adoption at the State Water Board's August 3, 2021 public meeting.

The proposed emergency regulation would require water right holders in the Delta watershed to curtail their diversions when the State Water Board determines, based on the best information available to the Board, that water is not available to serve certain priorities of water rights, based on the "Water Unavailability Methodology"⁵. The emergency regulation would also allow the Board to require water right holders to provide additional information related to their diversion and use of water.

Background

On May 10, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to drought in 41 counties, including those in the Delta watershed. On July 8, 2021, the Governor issued an expanded Proclamation of a State of Emergency for 9 additional counties and called upon Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent compared to the same period in 2020.

To ensure protection of water needed for health, safety, and the environment, the May 10, 2021 Proclamation directs the State Water Board to consider adoption of an emergency regulation to curtail water diversions in the Delta watershed when water is not available at water right holders' priority of right and to protect releases of previously stored water.

³ See Appendix B.

⁴ See Appendix C.

⁵

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/drought_tools_methods/delta_method.html

On June 15, 2021, the State Water Board sent Notices of Water Unavailability to all water right holders in the Delta watershed, alerting all post-1914 appropriative water right holders that the Board had determined, based on the best information available to the Board, that water was not available to serve their priorities. The June 15 notice also warned all pre-1914 appropriative and riparian water right claimants in the Delta watershed of impending water unavailability based on worsening drought conditions and the resulting likelihood of consideration of an emergency regulation to curtail water use throughout the Delta watershed.

On July 8, 2021, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Friant Water Authority, Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, and the State Water Contractors sent a letter⁶ to State Water Board Chairman Joaquin Esquivel expressing a need for action to protect stored water and to reduce unauthorized diversions of water in the Delta, in order to protect authorized beneficial uses of water.

On July 29, 2021, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority sent a letter⁷ to State Water Board Chairman Joaquin Esquivel expressing support for protecting stored water, the need to ensure due process in the protection of appropriately exercised water rights, and the need to consider a number of comments expressed by water users related to the Water Unavailability Methodology.

The draft emergency regulation is scheduled to be considered by the State Water Board at its August 3, 2021 meeting. If adopted by the State Water Board, the emergency regulation will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a public comment period, review, and requested approval. If approved, the emergency regulation would become effective upon submittal to the Secretary of State as early as mid to late August 2021. The emergency regulation would remain in effect for up to one year but could be repealed if hydrologic conditions improve, or readopted if drought conditions continue through next year.

[WATER UNAVAILABILITY FOR SENIOR WATER RIGHT CLAIMS](#)

The June 15, 2021 Notices of Water Unavailability applicable to all post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Delta watershed remain effective. In addition, updated information available to the Board, evaluated by State Water Board staff using the Water Unavailability Methodology, indicates that water supply is currently insufficient to support lawful diversions under most senior claims of right (claims identified in Initial Statements of Water Diversion and Use). Specifically, as of the date of this notice, State Water Board staff has indicated that water is not available for:

- All post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Delta watershed (inclusive of the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River watersheds);

⁶ See Appendix D.

⁷ See Appendix E.

- All pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the San Joaquin River watershed;
- All pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the Sacramento River watershed with a priority date of 1883 or later; and
- Some pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in specific Sacramento River tributary sub-watersheds with a priority date earlier than 1883.

According to State Water Board staff, these claims face water unavailability either due to limited local supplies or the need to bypass natural flows so that more senior rights downstream can be met.

All of the pre-1914 appropriative water right claims for which State Water Board staff has indicated that water is unavailable are identified on a List of Noticed Pre-1914 Appropriative Water Right Claims, which can be found under the Notices of Water Unavailability section on the Delta Watershed Drought Information webpage at: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/delta/>

Information evaluated using the Water Unavailability Methodology by State Water Board staff, indicates that, as of the date of this notice, water supply is insufficient to meet the demands of all riparian claims of right in the following watersheds and sub-watersheds:

- San Joaquin River watershed: In the months of July, August, and September 2021, demands under riparian water right claims will face a total deficit of approximately 197,000 acre-feet, 170,000 acre-feet, and 73,000 acre-feet, respectively. This amounts to a deficit of supply compared to riparian demand in the San Joaquin River watershed of approximately 82 percent in July, 91 percent in August, and 85 percent in September.
- Bear River sub-watershed: In the months of July and August 2021, demands under riparian water right claims will face a total deficit of approximately 79 acre-feet and 370 acre-feet, respectively. This amounts to a deficit of supply compared to riparian demand in the Bear River sub-watershed of approximately 9 percent in July and 42 percent in August.
- Upper American River sub-watershed: In the month of September 2021, demands under riparian water right claims will face a total deficit of approximately 687 acre-feet. This amounts to a deficit of supply compared to riparian demand in the Upper American River sub-watershed of approximately 100 percent in September.
- Putah Creek sub-watershed: In the month of July 2021, demands under riparian water right claims will face a total deficit of approximately 177 acre-feet. This amounts to a deficit of supply compared to riparian demand in the Putah Creek sub-watershed of approximately 7 percent in July.

In times of such supply shortage, State Water Board staff has indicated that riparian users are required to share the shortage on a correlative basis. Accordingly, riparian claims are not

individually listed. These numbers include projections through September 2021 and may be updated as new information becomes available.

The State Water Board is using its updated Water Unavailability Methodology for the Delta Watershed (Methodology) to identify which water rights in the Delta watershed face insufficient supplies to support diversion. For further information regarding the Methodology, please visit the Methodology webpage⁸.

FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS

If the State Water Board adopts and the Office of Administrative Law approves an emergency curtailment and reporting regulation, the emergency regulation will update the method of communicating with water right holders, including for when curtailments are imposed and lifted based on evolving water supply and demand conditions. Under the proposed emergency regulation, such communication will be exclusively by electronic means.

For further information regarding drought in the Delta watershed, you are strongly encouraged to subscribe to the Delta Drought list on the State Water Board's Email Lists webpage⁹.

Please note that, if adopted and approved, the draft emergency regulation will require water users to subscribe to the Delta Drought list or to frequently visit the Board's Delta Watershed Drought Information webpage for updates.

Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

The State Water Board is currently considering updates to its 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary ("Bay Delta Plan") in two phases (Plan amendments). The first Plan amendment is focused on San Joaquin River flows and southern Delta salinity ("Phase I" or "San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Salinity Plan Amendment"). The second Plan amendment is focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including the Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows ("Phase II" or "Sacramento/Delta Plan Amendment").

During the December 12, 2018 Water Board Meeting, the Department of Water Resources ("DWR") and Department of Fish and Wildlife presented proposed "Voluntary Settlement Agreements" ("VSAs") on behalf of Reclamation, DWR, and the public water agencies they serve to resolve conflicts over proposed amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan update.¹⁰ The State Water

⁸

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/drought_tools_methods/delta_method.html

⁹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html

¹⁰ Available at <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Blogs/Voluntary-Settlement-Agreement-Meeting-Materials-Dec-12-2018-DWR-CDFW-CNRA.pdf>.

Board did not adopt the proposed VSAs in lieu of the proposed Phase 1 amendments, but as explained below, directed staff to consider the proposals as part of a future Delta-wide proposal.

Phase 1 Status: The State Water Board adopted a resolution¹¹ to adopt amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and adopt the Final Substitute Environmental Document during its December 12, 2018 public meeting.

Phase 2 Status: In the State Water Board's resolution adopting the Phase 1 amendments, the Water Board directed staff to assist the Natural Resources Agency in completing a Delta watershed-wide agreement, including potential flow and non-flow measures for the Tuolumne River, and associated analyses no later than March 1, 2019. Staff were directed to incorporate the Delta watershed-wide agreement as an alternative for a future, comprehensive Bay-Delta Plan update that addresses the reasonable protection of beneficial uses across the Delta watershed, with the goal that comprehensive amendments may be presented to the State Water Board for consideration as early as possible after December 1, 2019. As the State Water Board further refines this update, there will be opportunity for public comment.

The effort has made progress since an initial framework was presented to the State Water Board on December 12, 2018.

On March 1, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted documents¹² to the State Water Board that reflect progress since December to flesh-out the previously submitted framework to improve conditions for fish through targeted river flows and a suite of habitat-enhancing projects including floodplain inundation and physical improvement of spawning and rearing areas.

Since the March 1 submittal, work has taken place to develop the package into a form that is able to be analyzed by State Water Board staff for legal and technical adequacy. On June 30, 2019, a status update with additional details was submitted to the Board for review. Additionally, on February 4, 2020, the State team released a framework for the Voluntary Agreements to reach "adequacy", as defined by the State team.

¹¹Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018_0059.pdf.

¹² Available at http://resources.ca.gov/docs/voluntary-agreements/2019/Complete_March_1_VA_Submission_to_SWRCB.pdf

Further work and analysis is needed to determine whether the agreements can meet environmental objectives required by law and identified in the State Water Board's update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

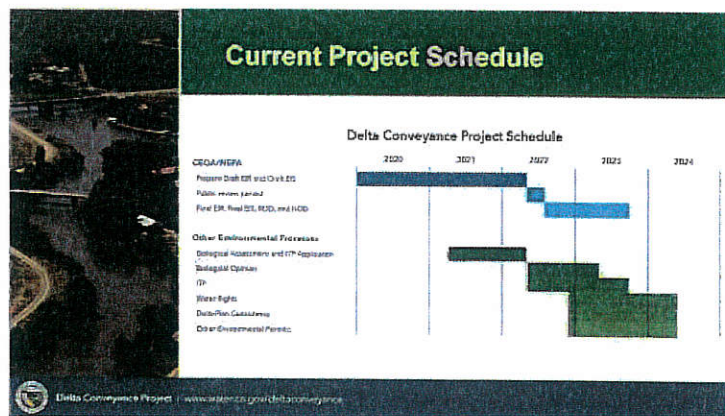
Delta Conveyance Project

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is hosting four informational webinars between July and September 2021 to provide background information related to preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project. The first webinar focused on State Water Project and Delta operations, and featured presentations on State Water Project operations and the models the Department will use to analyze the project.

Carrie Buckman, the Delta Conveyance Project Environmental Project Program Manager with the Department of Water Resources, reviewed the proposed project, the overall schedule, the planning processes, and future opportunities for public participation. Ms. Buckman noted that they are currently developing the draft EIR, so the impact analysis and mitigation have not yet been identified. So they will be focusing on the background of the topics and the methodology of how they will analyze things and will continue to share further details as they move towards a draft EIR.

The fundamental purpose of the Delta Conveyance Project is to modernize the aging State Water Project infrastructure in the Delta and restore and protect the reliability of SWP water deliveries in a cost-effective manner, consistent with the state's water resilience portfolio. As part of that, there are several specific objectives, including addressing sea level rise and climate change, minimizing water supply disruption due to seismic risk, protecting water supply reliability, and providing operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions.

Ms. Buckman presented the project schedule. Currently, the Department is developing a draft EIR under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Army Corps of Engineers, the federal lead agency, is preparing a draft environmental impact statement or EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act (or NEPA).



Although they are two separate documents, they are working on coordinating the public review for mid-2022. After the public review, they will finalize the documents and release decision documents later in 2023.

Ms. Buckman noted they are concurrently working on other environmental processes. They are starting the preliminary planning for developing a biological assessment and the incidental take

permit application, which are documents needed for compliance with the state and federal Endangered Species Acts; those are also expected in 2023. The Department will also be working toward obtaining a change in point of division for our water rights, certifying consistency with the Delta Plan, and securing other environmental permits in mid-2024.

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Activity

Background

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley¹³ (Blueprint) is a broad group of stakeholders, working to better understand shared goals for water solutions that support environmental stewardship with the needs of communities and industries throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The Blueprint has engaged with stakeholders to try and ensure that everyone has safe, reliable and affordable access to water for drinking, supporting their farms and communities and a thriving ecology.

The SJV faces significant impacts to its long-term economic, social, and environmental health if nothing is done to address water scarcity, as highlighted in Phase I of Dr. David Sunding's Economic Impact Assessment (EIA).

The Large Group and committees are pursuing the goals of Blueprint, including outreach, technical support and working in conjunction with other stakeholders.

2021 Strategy & Focus: The Blueprint is discussing the overall focus for 2021, its organizational structure, role with sub basins, project pursuits, fundraising and work with the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Partnership (SJVW CAP).

Governance: The Blueprint is in the process of hiring a new project management team to replace Vista Consulting, with the goal of bringing on the new manager on in August. It is also updating its governance structure to better reflect its current participants, contributors, and its approach of a "coalition of the willing" while allowing for a streamlined review and action process. Exploring the expansion of the number of directors to the 501c4 to include adequate representation of the Central Valley.

Outreach & Engagement: SJV Blueprint is in the process of bringing on a dedicated team to engage with local community stakeholders in coordination with GSAs and other organizations to discuss the SJV Blueprint: new water sources, new conveyance, land repurposing, expanded beneficial use: groundwater recharge, wetland & riparian habitats.

- Near Term Investments for an Effective Drought Response – Letter to Gov. Newsom
- Land Repurposing – State Legislation

Technical Committee: A scope of work and cost estimate from ESA is being developed to ensure inclusion of east and west interests for a regulatory and permitting path forward for the

¹³ <https://www.waterblueprintca.com>

Blueprint. This would be a detailed plan listing of all permits needed, the approvals, the reports and documents essential to prepare and obtain from the Federal and/or State Agencies for the solutions provided. Blueprint will continue to engage with the Water Commission to inform them of its progress and has submitted a comment letter that highlighted State grants to construct infrastructure, balanced approach to water resources, low interest loans for farmers unable to farm and focus on inter-regional conveyance and habitat restoration.

The technical committee is working with sub basins (recently Madera and Tulare) and respective working groups on solution sets to be added to the EIA to illustrate reduced economic impacts. A critical part will be project proponents' evaluation and development of these activities in coordination with the Blueprint. These solution sets will ideally have input and support from the coalition of interest groups formally engaging in the SJV Collaborative Action Program.

SJV Water Collaborative Action Program (SJVWCAP): Stanford University working in coordination with the Blueprint, Central Valley Community Foundation, Fresno State, NGOs and 60+ stakeholders are drafting a mutual convening to create a collaborative solution to the water issues we face in the SJV. The Planning group is establishing working groups to draft an inter-caucus Problem Statement and Solution Set. Blueprint committed \$50,000 to the SJVWCAP.

DAC Drinking Water Feasibility Study – FKC: A funding application was submitted and includes participants FWA, FSU, Self Help, Sustainable Conservation and Leadership Council to study a five-county area within the Millerton Place of Use boundary related to surface water supply, recharge and drinking water supplies. DWR is continuing to work with the Blueprint group and has indicated funding for the study.

WaterSmart: The Water Blueprint was not selected by Reclamation for the 2021 WaterSmart Water Management Options Pilot (WMOP) Program. An application was submitted on February 17th and focused on increased conjunctive management and groundwater recharge. Blueprint obtained support letters from districts, water agencies, municipalities and elected. A debrief is being scheduled.

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APPENDIX A

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**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-****CONDEMNING RACISM, XENOPHOBIA, AND RACIAL INJUSTICE AND
STRENGTHENING COMMITMENT TO RACIAL EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION,
ACCESS, AND ANTI-RACISM****WHEREAS:**

1. As part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), the shared mission of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), collectively Water Boards, is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. In relation to this mission, the Water Boards accept responsibility for confronting structural and institutional racism and advancing racial equity. According to the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), racial equity occurs when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes, and outcomes for all groups are improved.
2. Historically, government agencies used race to establish structures and systems that continue to deliver disparate outcomes, including wealth, health, and environmental inequities. Because race intersects with many, if not all, other marginalized identities, prioritizing and addressing racial inequities improves outcomes for other marginalized communities.
3. CalEPA's 2021 Pollution and Prejudice Story map demonstrates that historically redlined neighborhoods are "generally associated with worse environmental conditions and greater population vulnerability to the effects of pollution today." In addition, Black, Indigenous, and people of color are overrepresented in the neighborhoods that are the most environmentally degraded and are still experiencing severe racial wealth gaps caused by redlining and other land-use practices.
4. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's (OEHHA's) CalEnviroScreen mapping tool identifies communities that are disproportionately impacted by a combination of environmental stressors and socioeconomic disadvantages. The tool's 2021 update reveals that the top 10 percent of least-polluted neighborhoods are 72 percent white, while the top 10 percent of most-polluted neighborhoods are 89 percent Black, Indigenous, and people of color.
5. In contrast, State of California workforce census data from 2020 show that 43% of the state's population is white, yet about 56% of the Water Boards' workforce and 68% of the Water Boards' management is white. Only 42% of the Water Boards' workforce and 32% of its management are Black, Indigenous, and people of color compared to 63% of the state's population.

6. Contaminated water sources disproportionately burden low-income communities and Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities throughout California, further exacerbating persistent inequities, which can be seen in data collected by the Human Right to Water Framework and Data Tool 1.0 (released January 2021).
7. In September 2012, with the enactment of Water Code section 106.3, California became the first state in the nation to legislatively recognize the human right to water. It states, in part, "...every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes."
8. In February 2016, to advance the implementation of Water Code section 106.3, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2016-0010](#), "The Human Right to Water as a Core Value and Directing Its Implementation in Water Board Programs and Activities." Resolution No. 2016-0010 includes direction for the Water Boards' staff to work with stakeholders to improve the State Water Board's administration of its programs and projects to realize the human right to water.
9. From 2016 to 2019, the North Coast, Central Coast, Central Valley, and Santa Ana Regional Water Boards adopted similar resolutions, further elevating and emphasizing the importance of the human right to water in the Water Boards' work and the need to improve administration of the Water Boards' programs and projects to realize the human right to water.
10. In March 2017, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2017-0012](#), "Comprehensive Response to Climate Change," directing a proactive approach to climate change in all State Water Board actions, including drinking water regulation, water quality protection, diversification of regional water supplies, and financial assistance. The effects of climate change—including extreme changes in water cycle patterns, flooding, sea level rise, and heat—are expected to become more severe every year, leading to threatened access to safe and affordable water, increased demand for limited water and wastewater infrastructure funding, and increased risk of cumulative, negative health and economic outcomes for all communities. Climate change impacts disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, people of color and unsheltered communities.
11. From 2017 to 2018, the San Diego, Los Angeles, and Lahontan Regional Water Boards adopted similar resolutions to direct staff to address the impacts of climate change. In addition to specific climate change resolutions, the San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles and Central Valley Regional Water Boards have developed and implemented climate change action plans.
12. In recent years, California has passed critical legislation and bonds, administered and implemented by the Water Boards, to fund projects that remediate the harm, or threat of harm, to human health, safety, and the environment caused by existing or threatened surface water and groundwater contamination. These include, among others, Senate Bill (SB) 445 (2014), establishing the Site Cleanup Subaccount Program; the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014

(Proposition 1); the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68); and SB 828 (2016), establishing the Drinking Water for Schools Grant Program. Many of these programs set aside or target specific funding for projects in disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities, thereby further advancing environmental and economic justice and the realization of safe, clean water for all.

13. In 2019, California enacted SB 200, establishing the \$130 million per year Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. In conjunction with SB 200, the State Water Board created the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Program to advance the human right to water. The SAFER Program encompasses regulatory, funding, and public engagement strategies to work toward long-term solutions for the estimated 1 million Californians without access to safe drinking water, thereby advancing environmental and economic justice.
14. In 2021, the State Water Board released the 2021 SAFER Drinking Water Needs Assessment, which (1) identifies California small water systems and domestic wells that are failing, or at risk of failing, to provide access to safe drinking water; (2) estimates the cost of interim and long-term solutions for these systems; and (3) determines the statewide funding gap and affordability challenges that may be barriers to implementing these solutions. There are approximately 345 systems that fail to meet the goals of the human right to water. In addition, the needs assessment identified 617 at-risk public water systems, 611 at-risk state small water systems, and 80,000 at-risk domestic wells. It also identified 13 federally regulated tribal water systems that failed to meet the goals of the human right to water and 22 at-risk tribal water systems.
15. Since 2018, the Water Boards have been participating in GARE, an international network of governmental organizations working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. The GARE network utilizes a racial equity model of change described as iterative stages of normalizing, organizing, and operationalizing.
16. Since 2019, the Water Boards' staff have been actively engaged in CalEPA's racial equity team, which is implementing the agency's "Plan to Achieve Racial Equity." Approximately 40 of the Water Boards' staff are participating across five sub-teams that are each focused on a specific outcome: (1) improve access to data and information on racial equity; (2) improve communication with communities and partners; (3) improve language access; (4) advance racial equity trainings for the CalEPA workforce; and (5) improve workforce hiring, retention, and promotion practices to advance racial equity within the environmental protection role that each board, department, and office shares with CalEPA.

17. In 2019, the Water Boards released the document, "Immediate Hiring Practices Action Plan for Advancing Workforce Diversity at the Water Boards" in alignment with CalEPA's "Practices to Advance Racial Equity in Workforce Planning." Both documents were developed to articulate the benefits of a diverse workforce and to identify practices to advance racial equity. The Water Boards' plan directs hiring managers and supervisors to take specific short-term actions to improve workforce diversity while a more holistic plan is being developed.
18. In April and May 2020, CalEPA collaborated with GARE to survey staff of all CalEPA boards, departments, and offices, including the Water Boards, to establish baseline progress toward efforts to advance racial equity. Responses reveal that within the Water Boards' workforce, the Water Boards are beginning to normalize conversations about racial equity by establishing the shared language, set of facts, and approaches required to advance racial equity. In addition, the summary report of the Water Boards' staff responses indicates that more work is needed to further normalize racial equity, and it includes a specific recommendation for the Water Boards to center racial equity work on the perspectives and experiences of Black staff. Overall, the survey responses strongly support the need for additional training and tools for advancing racial equity and for stronger communication with staff.
19. During its August 18, 2020 meeting, the State Water Board directed staff to implement a racial equity initiative. Executive Director Sobeck established the Racial Equity Steering Committee and Working Group to advance the initiative. The Racial Equity Steering Committee's charge is to ensure leadership remains committed to furthering racial equity and to direct the Working Group's progress on implementing the following priorities: (1) establish a foundation of internal and external engagement that values listening and collaboration to drive action; (2) draft a resolution on racial equity to be considered for adoption by the State Water Board and also leveraged by the Regional Water Boards to adopt their own resolutions; and (3) develop racial equity strategies and action plans to drive the Water Boards' efforts to institutionalize racial equity.
20. In November and December 2020, the Racial Equity Steering Committee and Working Group hosted four public listening sessions to solicit input on the challenges that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are facing and how the Water Boards can better facilitate equitable participation from these communities in their decision-making and policy development processes. Feedback from participants included several common themes, such as: a general distrust of government; feeling excluded from decision-making processes that ultimately affect them; not feeling heard when presenting issues to the Water Boards or that participation results in a change; a desire for more evidence that state government is committed to providing safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities; and concern that the Water Boards' decision-makers and staff do not reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.
21. In March 2021, the Racial Equity Steering Committee and Working Group hosted listening sessions for the Water Boards' staff to learn how the Water Boards can foster a workplace where all staff feel they belong and can contribute, and where

the impacts of institutional racism are being recognized, addressed, and dismantled. To encourage honest, open discussion, each session was facilitated by professional racial equity consultants. Several common themes emerged during the sessions, such as: a general lack of opportunities to increase diversity and promote inclusion within the workforce; a need for mandatory training for all the Water Boards' staff in the areas of racial equity, racism, implicit bias, and cultural competence; the importance of allocating resources to support racial equity efforts; and the need to bring a racial equity lens to the Water Boards' decision-making processes, including more meaningful opportunities for community involvement.

22. Although the Water Boards' racial equity and environmental justice work began prior to 2020, the national and worldwide backlash against racism toward Black people and related Black Lives Matter protests of 2020 accelerated and informed the Water Board's decision to develop an initiative, resolution, and subsequent action plan to address racial inequities within the Water Boards and through the Water Boards' work.
23. Historically, the Water Boards' programs were established over a structural framework that perpetuated inequities based on race. These inequities persist, and prior to this resolution, the Water Boards had not explicitly acknowledged the role racism has played in creating inequities in affordability and access to clean and safe water and in the allocation and protection of water resources. Toward reconciliation, the State Water Board now acknowledges:
 - a. White supremacy is a systemically and institutionally perpetuated system of exploitation and oppression of nations and peoples of color by white people for the purpose of maintaining and defending a system of wealth, power, and privilege. In the United States, white supremacy led to the genocide and forced relocation of Indigenous people to facilitate white resettlement and the enslavement of Black people for white economic gain. White supremacy has been served by many other government policies targeting people of color, including for example, race-focused immigration restrictions, the internment of Japanese Americans, exclusionary housing policies, and lack of investment in communities of color.
 - b. White supremacist ideologies have driven many governmental policies for centuries and have created persistent racial inequities and deeply entrenched systems of oppression. The impacts of federal, state, and local decision-making and policies made decades ago continue to impose challenges for Black, Indigenous, and people of color, who still grapple with the lasting effects of historical racial inequities stemming from those governmental decisions and policies.
 - c. The colonization, displacement, and murder of Indigenous people in the United States have contributed to the loss of watershed management practices that supported Indigenous people's traditional ways of life.

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Watersheds are now largely managed in the context of the large-scale diversion of water for municipal, industrial, agricultural, and commercial beneficial uses to the detriment of traditional, local uses and the Indigenous people that depend on them.

- d. The historical seizures of land from Black, Indigenous, and people of color have had, and continue to have, long-standing impacts that extend beyond the loss of the land itself. These impacts include the loss of the associated water rights and other natural resources of value, lack of access to affordable and reliable governmental services, and forced relocation to areas with fewer or lower quality resources.
 - e. California government has played a role in historically and institutionally perpetuating racial inequities that Black, Indigenous and people of color continue to face. In California, race is a predictor of access to, and the quality of, the governmental services a person receives, including access to safe, clean water for drinking, and affordable services to support sanitation, and wastewater collection, treatment, and reuse. In fact, race is the strongest predictor of water and sanitation access.
 - f. To better represent and serve California's communities, the Water Boards must address the connection between water management and systemic and institutional racism.
24. On a community scale, race is strongly correlated with more severe pollution burdens. However, none of the Water Boards' policies, programs, or plans specifically consider or address racial inequities. As a government agency with a role in ensuring access to clean, safe, and affordable water for all Californians, the State Water Board recognizes the need to acknowledge racial inequity and to take action to address racial inequity within the agency and as part of the programs the Water Boards' carry out for the communities we serve.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board:

- 1. Condemns acts of racism, xenophobia, white supremacy, and institutional and systemic racism; adopts racial equity, diversity, and inclusion as core values; and acknowledges the role of government agencies — including the Water Boards — in redressing racial inequities and dismantling institutional and systemic racism.
- 2. Commits to making racial equity, diversity, inclusion, and environmental justice central to our work as we implement our mission so that the access the State Water Board creates, and outcomes it influences, are not determined by a person's race and the benefits are shared equitably by all people.

3. Commits to centering its work and decision-making on Black, Indigenous, and people of color who are disproportionately represented in the most vulnerable communities and in unsheltered populations, while ensuring the full benefits of the Water Boards' programs for all people.
4. Reaffirms our commitment to upholding California's human right to water law, upholding the State Water Board's human right to water resolution, and demonstrating that every human being in California, including Black, Indigenous, and people of color, deserves safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitation purposes.
5. Reaffirms our commitment to ensuring cleanup of contaminated soil, soil vapor and groundwater; control of wastes discharged to land and surface water; and restoration of impaired surface waters to protect public health and environmental quality in all communities, particularly communities of color disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution.
6. Commits to expanding implementation of the State Water Board's Climate Change Resolution to address the effects of sea-level rise and extreme hydrologic conditions, from drought to flooding, on Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities.
7. Directs staff to create a proposal by January 2022 to establish an Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to achieve a workplace, workforce, and work outcomes that reflect racial equity.
8. Directs staff to normalize conversations about racial equity and foster a workforce that competently integrates racial equity into our work by (1) developing and implementing training curricula for racial equity, diversity, inclusion, and environmental justice; (2) incorporating racial equity concepts into existing mandatory Water Boards training courses; (3) educating staff about Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) laws and the Water Boards' EEO Office's process for preventing and responding to complaints of discrimination, harassment, bullying, or retaliation; (4) developing policies that will lead to a racially equitable and diverse workforce by ensuring the Water Boards' Immediate Hiring Practices Action Plan addresses recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion, succession planning, mentorship, STEM outreach to schools, and leadership development; and (5) partnering with other organizations to expand opportunities for community capacity building.
9. Directs staff to develop strategies for effectively reaching and engaging with Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities; involving Tribes, stakeholders, and other interested parties in our decision-making processes; providing accessible, open and transparent opportunities for people to participate in our public meetings, hearings, and workshops; improving our communications by addressing barriers to public participation, including language, digital, and time-of-day access; and meeting people in their communities and spaces to seek out their perspectives.

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10. Directs staff to develop and implement a Racial Equity Action Plan that articulates a vision for racial equity and outlines specific actions the State Water Board will take to dismantle systems that perpetuate racial inequities while establishing new, resilient systems.
 - a. The plan shall include goals, objectives, actions, timelines, and metrics; incorporate all State Water Board divisions, offices, and programs; and address all aspects of our work, including, those detailed above in this resolution, as well as water quality control plans, policies, permits, enforcement, compliance assurance, contracting, funding, procurement, site remediation, monitoring, and water rights administration.
 - b. Staff shall advance a framework of transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement for our racial equity work by establishing metrics and using quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to measure and evaluate the Water Boards' progress toward implementing those metrics; equitizing our systems, practices, and policies; and diversifying the Water Boards' workforce.
 - c. Staff shall include a framework for analyzing how decisions and staff recommendations to the board may impact Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities.
 - d. Staff shall present the action plan to the Board no later than one year after adopting this resolution and report on implementation progress annually thereafter.
 - e. Staff shall provide updates on implementing the plan at least quarterly as part of the Executive Director's Report.
11. Encourages the nine Regional Water Boards to adopt this resolution, or a similar resolution that condemns racism, xenophobia, and racial injustice; affirms a commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism; and otherwise prioritizes this important work.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the State Water Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on [Instruction: Insert date].

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board



STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Board Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: August 5, 2021

RE: Update on Science Program

SUMMARY

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's ("Water Authority") current science commitments for Fiscal Year 22 (March 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022) may be considered in three categories. First, the Water Authority re-budgeted \$245,252 in the current budget to fund eight activities and/or studies previously authorized to be funded. Second, the Water Authority began the year with approximately \$4,628 in funds remaining from the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency ("SFCWA") to fund one study initially authorized by SFCWA and transferred to the Water Authority for funding and management. Third, the Water Authority has budgeted \$450,000 in the current budget for science studies. More detail regarding the various science commitments is provided below. In total, the Water Authority started the current fiscal year with approximately \$924,089 available to fund science, of which \$644,089 has been obligated.

1. Previous Commitments - \$245,252 in FY 22 Budget

Subject	Description of Work / Objective(s)	FY 22 Budget
Delta Coordination Group Summer Fall Habitat Action Structured Decision Making Facilitation Support	Funds support facilitation and assistance with Delta Coordination Group Structured Decision Making for Delta Coordination Group recommendations to Reclamation and DWR related to Summer Fall Habitat Actions in the Biological Opinions and State Incidental Take Permit	\$21,000
Joint Funding of Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Phase 3	This funding would support management and technical analyses required to conduct Phase 3 for the CSAMP Delta Smelt Structure Decision Making (SDM) project. Technical analyses would include modeling and the application of other analytical tools to evaluate the consequences of proposed management actions for Delta Smelt as well as the evaluation of potential consequences to other resource values including water supply and	\$30,000

	agriculture. Phase 3 is scheduled to occur from September 2020 to September 2021.	
Joint Funding for Hanson Environmental as CAMT Technical Support	This funding would support continued CAMT participation by Dr. Charles Hanson through a contract with the State Water Contractors. Dr. Hanson assists in the development of various workplans and products, including Charters, presentations, whitepapers, and other materials to support collaborative science.	\$30,000
Development of eDNA monitoring tool for detection of Delta Smelt	Goal to develop an accepted eDNA monitoring tool for species detection in tidally mixed aquatic ecosystems in the Delta, and to advance eDNA aquatic monitoring towards a state-of-science that can be applied in the context of scientific, policy, and regulatory decision-making	\$63,000
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Fallowing Pilot Evapotranspiration Monitoring Program	Study between April 1, 2018 and September 30, 2018 of consumptive use on between 2,000 and 4,000 acres in the legal Delta during the 2018 irrigation season. Goal to identify a method of reliable measurement of the reduction in consumptive use associated with temporary crop idling on lands within the legal Delta.	\$7,000
Interior Delta Export Effects Study	Study of specific data gaps related to export operation effects on juveniles salmonids. Goal to fill information gaps on juvenile salmonid survival in the south Delta to update salmonid loss models, optimize survival for salmonids near salvage facilities, and support water reliability through enhanced coordinated operations. Last year, the Study didn't receive its anticipated Proposition 1 grant to go to scale, so Authority funding provided for the study to continue and provide capacity for a grant application for the recent Proposition 1 grant funding notification, which was recently awarded.	\$25,000
Delta Smelt Incidental Take Limit Research	Funds support the evaluation of differences in salvage between pre- and post-BiOp conditions and the determination of how much variance in salvage can be explained by each of the predictor variables. Support provided to ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc., through a cost share with SWC.	\$14,252
CAMT Facilitation	Funds support facilitation and assistance with CAMT and CSAMP meetings. Main contracts with Essex Partnership (Bruce DiGennaro) and Hansen Environmental (Chuck Hansen) held by SWC.	\$55,000

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2. SFCWA-Funded Studies Being Managed by the Water Authority - \$4,628 Remaining

Subject	Description of Work / Objective(s)	SFCWA Funds Remaining
Measuring Impact of Control of yellow Starthistle in the Northern Sac. Valley and Superior California on Watershed Runoff and Groundwater Levels	Study of the water benefits of yellow Starthistle (YST) control. If there appears to be replicable water supply benefit from YST removal, will prepare plan of recommended YST removal in California that results in increased runoff and/or improved groundwater levels.	\$4,628

3. New Science - \$450,000 in FY 22 Budget

Subject	Description of Work / Objective(s)	FY 22 Budget
Science Studies/Efforts		\$450,000
None Approved to date	None approved to date	--

FUTURE SCIENCE PROGRAM DIRECTION

The recently released federal Biological Opinions require annual scientific review of the Reasonable and Prudent Measures scientific panel review in years 4 and 8 of the implementation of the Biological Opinions.

It is anticipated that increased engagement on scientific studies to prepare sufficient scientific bodies of knowledge on the adaptive management provisions of the new biological opinions will be necessary from public water agencies in order to adequately prepare for the 4- and 8-year scientific review of the implementation of the new Biological Opinions. Staff is coordinating with CSAMP/CAMT, as well as Reclamation, NOAA Fisheries and U.S. FWS to determine anticipated annual scientific investments necessary to prepare for the scientific panels.

Authority staff is planning to focus on key areas for the 2021 and future budgets, in order to assist in the development of a more coordinated science strategy between public water agencies and state and federal agencies who fund the scientific enterprise. Specifically, these recommended areas are:

- Technical Support for Authority Engagement in Regulatory Processes
- Steelhead Monitoring and Protection
- Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Scientific Expertise
- CSAMP/CAMT Support
- Delta Coordination Group Support
- Development of Voluntary Agreement Science Plan

- Permit Streamlining

Technical Support for Authority Engagement in Regulatory Processes

The Authority has need of additional biological expertise to provide comments and a higher level of engagement with regulatory entities, including the State Water Resources Control Board, NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and others. Specifically, Authority staff is proposing to issue an RFQ for scientific and biological support services and to establish contracting authority with a number of consultants for on-demand services centered on the areas of expertise of the respective consultant and staffing availability.

Steelhead Monitoring and Protection

The status of steelhead population trends continues to pose a threat to water supply reliability for south-of-Delta Central Valley Project contractors. Significant data gaps exist in the scientific body of knowledge regarding steelhead, including a method for estimating population levels and continued support of the I/E ratio in state level regulatory proposals. Steelhead species receive less funding than other scientific research, indicating an opportunity where the Authority could add value to the scientific enterprise. Specifically, there is a need for better data analysis and synthesis for steelhead.

Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Scientific Expertise

Compass Resources, who manages the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making process, has identified a need for a biologist for biological resource support, including literature searches that would better inform the SDM process. The Authority and the State Water Contractors are jointly funding this expertise.

CSAMP/CAMT Support

The Authority has remained engaged in CSAMP/CAMT and has jointly funded facilitation support, technical support and scientific studies related to management actions associated with project operations.

Delta Coordination Group Support

Authority staff is a member of the Delta Coordination Group (DCG), a group formed this year pursuant to Reclamation's Proposed Action and the Incidental Take Permit for the Coordinated Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. The DCG is charged with providing recommendations to Reclamation/DWR pertaining to Summer-Fall Habitat Actions for delta smelt.

Development of Voluntary Agreement Science Plan

The Authority has previously funded facilitation of the Governance, Science and Adaptive Management Working Group and staff is proposing to continue that commitment through contributing funds for the development of the Science Plan for implementation of the Voluntary Agreements.

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