

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS TELEPHONIC REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 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**

Dave Weisenberger, Alternate  
Bobby Pierce, Director - Vince Lucchesi, Alternate  
Anthea Hansen, Director  
Rick Gilmore, Director

**Division 2**

Ryan Ferguson, Alternate for Dan Errotabere  
William Bourdeau, Director  
John Bennett, Director  
Bill Diedrich, Director - Lon Martin, Alternate

**Division 3**

Dan McCurdy, Director  
Chris White, Director - Jarrett Martin, Alternate  
Cannon Michael, Director  
Ric Ortega, Director

**Division 4**

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate  
Gary Kremen, Director  
Jeff Cattaneo, Director  
Sara Singleton, Alternate for Joe 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  
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District  
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner LLP

Brandon Souza, Farm Water Coalition

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order 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 additions or corrections.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: a) February 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes, b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Staff 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: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Bennett, Diedrich, McCurdy, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

ACTION ITEMS

5. Agenda Item 7: Board of Directors to Consider Selection and Appointment of FY22 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board Officers.

Executive Director Federico Barajas provided a brief background. Barajas reported that staff is recommending that the Board appoint a Chair and Vice Chair, and that staff proposes that Federico Barajas continue to serve as Secretary. Director Gary Kremen made a motion to appoint Director Cannon Michael as Chair, Director William Bourdeau as Vice-Chair, and Director Rick Gilmore seconded the motion. Director Tom Birmingham asked to have the motion amended to also appoint Executive Director Federico Barajas as Secretary. Directors Kremen and Gilmore both agreed to amend their motions. Director Cannon Michael and Director William Bourdeau thanked the Board.

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On a motion of Director Gary Kremen, seconded by Director Rick Gilmore, the Board Selected and Appointed the FY22 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board Officers. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Bennett, Diedrich, McCurdy, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

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

- a. H.R. 644 (Calvert), Rebuild Act
- b. H.R. 737 (Valadao), Renew WIIN Act
- c. H.R. 866 (Calvert), Fish Act
- d. S.B. 559 (Hurtado), Department of Water Sources: Water Conveyance Systems:  
Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that included in the packet is a memo outlining the four pieces of legislation (3 Federal bills, 1 State bill listed above) that have been introduced over the last month that, if enacted, would provide tangible benefits to the Authority and its member agencies. Petersen reported that staff is recommending the Board of Directors adopt a “support” position on these pieces of legislation. Director Tom Birmingham noted that the Water Resources Committee concurred with staff’s recommendation.

On a motion of Director Tom Birmingham, seconded by Director Bill Diedrich, the Board adopted staff recommendation for positions on legislation. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Bennett, Diedrich, McCurdy, Jarrett Martin, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

7. **Agenda Item 9: Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendation to Board of Directors to Ratify Appointment of Federico Barajas to State and Federal Contractors Water Agency Board of Directors.**

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Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that Authority is entitled to fill three Director positions on the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA) Board of Directors. Barajas reported that currently, Rick Gilmore, Anthea Hansen, and Jon Rubin fill the three seats. Barajas reported that when Jon Rubin was appointed in 2018, he was serving as Interim Executive Director of the Authority. Barajas reported that based on past practice of having the Authority's Executive Director fill one of the three SFCWA Director positions, on February 2, 2021, he transmitted a letter to SFCWA announcing the replacement of Rubin with Barajas on the SFCWA Board. Barajas reported that the Water Resources Committee members recommend the Board ratify Barajas's appointment.

On a motion of Director Tom Birmingham, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the Board Ratified Appointment of Federico Barajas to State and Federal Contractors Water Agency Board of Directors. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Bennett, Diedrich, McCurdy, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

8. Agenda Item 10: Adopt Resolution including CEQA Exemption for and Authorizing Execution of Agreement to Purchase Release of Water By and Among the Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID), the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno reported that in 2021, there may be an opportunity for OID/SSJID to make available up to 100,000 acre-feet for an April/May Stanislaus River pulse flow release. Mizuno reported that under this proposal, the cost to be paid to OID/SSJID for the release of water will be \$250/AF, and the release is subject to approval by Reclamation and DWR. Mizuno reported that the water released would be shared by the Authority (50%) and DWR (50%). Mizuno reported that the Authority's share of the release would be made available to all member agencies that participate in the purchase of this water through a Letter Agreement with the Water Authority. Mizuno reported that Adopting the Resolution would allow Authority members to pursue low cost supplemental water in a year where the CVP water allocation is expected to be very low.

Director Tom Birmingham noted that OID/SSJID Boards have approved execution of the agreement, and upon action today by the Authority they will take it to the Bureau for review.

On a motion of Director William Bourdeau, seconded by Director Bill Diedrich, the Board authorized execution of Agreement to Purchase Release of Water By and Among the Oakdale Irrigation District, the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, and the California Department of Water Resources. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Bennett, Diedrich, McCurdy, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None

**6. Agenda Item 11: Board of Directors to Consider the Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Modifying the Debt Management Policy Adopted through Resolution No. 2019-437.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that March 7, 2019, the Water Authority adopted a Debt Management Policy (Resolution 2019-437). Arroyave reported that in the Water Authority's October 21, 2020 Special Board Meeting, Directors provided direction to staff to begin work on developing a policy that would govern the Board's financing of future extraordinary operation and maintenance projects and capital improvement projects. Arroyave reported that because the Debt Management Policy referenced above already includes provisions that govern the Authority's issuance of debt, the most efficient way to address the Board's direction is to propose modifications to the Debt Management Policy. Arroyave reported that Authority staff discussed possible areas of revision in the January and February 2021 Finance & Administration Committee Meetings, and requested proposed revisions from Committee members in advance of the March 2021 Committee and Board meetings. Arroyave highlighted main edits to the Debt Management Policy, including changes from the Finance & Administration Committee, and reported that staff recommends the Board adopt the proposed resolution modifying the Debt Management Policy adopted through Resolution No. 2019-437.

On a motion of Director John Varela, seconded by Director Rick Gilmore, the Board adopted Resolution modifying the Debt Management Policy adopted through Resolution No. 2019-437. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Bennett, McCurdy, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Singleton, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli  
NAYS: None

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ABSTENTIONS: None

## REPORT ITEMS

### 7. Agenda Item 12: Report on State and Federal Affairs.

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that Authority staff, along with member agency participants participated in Virtual Fly-Ins. Petersen reported that a number of meetings with key federal agency staff and Members of Congress and their staffs on priority topics for the Authority in the coming year. Petersen reported the specific topics that were addressed during the meetings were dry year hydrology, the importance of the 2019 Biological Opinions to flexible operations of the CVP and SWP, and the need for water infrastructure investment, with particular attention being devoted to Canal Subsidence Mitigation and various water storage projects, including B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and San Luis Reservoir Expansion, the expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir, and the construction of Pacheco Reservoir. Petersen reported that staff has some follow up to do and will continue to coordinate engagement with member agencies as opportunities develop.

Petersen reported that Congress has taken action on a number of President Biden key nominations for Cabinet positions and to date, has confirmed 13, held hearings on 8, 1 has not yet had a confirmation hearing and 1 has withdrawn from consideration.

Petersen reported that the Democrats employed the budget reconciliation process to pass a COVID relief package recommended by nine House committees before an earlier round of unemployment insurance benefits runs out on March 14. Petersen reported that the House passed the COVID stimulus package last Friday, setting the stage for a Senate vote on a package that will likely look much different. Petersen reported that the Senate Democratic leaders are working on the changes to the package that will be needed to get all 50 Senate Democrats and Independents on board.

Petersen reported that Democrat leaders in Congress have responded to President Joe Biden's plea last month for Congress to move quickly on a large infrastructure improvement plan. Petersen reported that Committees in both house of the Democrat-led Congress last week initiated hearings that were seen by many as the official start of the legislative process required to pass an infrastructure stimulus package by July 4, 2021.

Dennis Cardoza provided additional information on the Virtual Fly-In meetings, and the infrastructure stimulus package.

### 8. Agenda Item 13: Executive Director's Report.

a) **March 2021 Board Workshop** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the San Luis Transmission Project/Bylaws Board of Directors Workshop will be held on March 24, 9-12:00.

b) **Volta Wastewater Groundwater Wells Update** – Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the agreement in place for O&M costs associated with Volta Wasteway groundwater wells between the San Luis Water District, Reclamation, the Authority, and Del Puerto Water District, expires at the end of March. Arroyave reported that Reclamation is working to extend that program and agreement for an additional 5-years, and the Authority plans to execute extensions in the next couple of weeks.

9. **Agenda Item 16: Chief Operating Officer's Report.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that Authority crews are in the process of reassembling Unit 5, and testing will occur during the week of March 15. Arroyave reported that at that point crews will begin the tear down of Unit 1.

Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno reported that due to the 75% allocation there are no Exchange Contractor transfers available at this point.

Mizuno reported that staff is in in the process of negotiating pricing for the North of the Delta transfers for up to 100,000 feet.

Mizuno reported that DWR provided an update on the Yuba transfer reporting that at this point we are looking at anywhere between 60-120,000 acre feet (af) of surface water that Yuba may provide. Mizuno reported that the first 60,000 af will be considered C1 water, and if it's a dry year the next 15,000 af will be C2 water, and a critical year 30,000 af would be considered C2 water, and the rest would be considered C3 water.

10. **Agenda Item 17: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts**

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported that the current dry period has affected northern reservoir storage in that both Shasta and Folsom are beginning to lose storage due to decreased reservoir inflows and increased releases. Releases from Shasta and Folsom releases have each increased by 250 cfs to help meet a controlling delta outflow standard per DI641. The outflow standard has also forced exports to reduce to minimum levels with Jones having to begin cycling its single unit over at least the next couple of days. It was reported that pumping may increase by next week when the next significant weather system is forecast to arrive.

Boardman briefly explained a chart showing that actual CVP San Luis storage is tracking

very near Reclamation's operations forecast that was used to support the recent allocation announcement. As such, Boardman stated that rate of refill for CVP San Luis will need to increase above Reclamation's conservative projection before allocation increases are possible.

Boardman responded to question from Director Hansen by stating the actual amount of rescheduled water is about 260 TAF and not 180 TAF as stated by Reclamation staff during an operations workshop held earlier in the week. Responding to a question from Chairman Michael, Boardman stated that the first Shasta temperature profile would be made early this month and that an initial version of a Shasta temperature operations plan may be publicly available later in March. In response to a question from the public, Boardman stated that an allocation increase may be possible by mid-April, but only if Jones pumping increases to at least 2-3 units during the next 30-45 days.

**11. Agenda Item 18: 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.

**12. Agenda Item 17: Outside Agency/Organization Reports.**

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)**  
Director Rick Gilmore reported that the next meeting is March 18, 2021, 11:30.
- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)**  
Report included in the packet.
- c. **Farm Water Coalition.**  
Brandon Souza reported on the Consumer Outreach and Public Education focusing on the digital tours of various agricultural areas. Souza also reported on the Collaboration and Coordination's efforts focusing on the Infrastructure Package Support Program.
- d. **Association of California Water Agencies**  
Director Bill Diedrich reported that the Ag Committee met, and provided a brief summary of the various presentations and updates.
- e. **San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Effort**  
No report.
- f. **CVPWA**  
Director Anthea Hansen reported the quarterly meeting is coming up soon. Hansen

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reported that the Financial Affairs meeting is March 19. Hansen reported that Water Policy Director Scott Petersen plans to start participating in the Financial Affairs committee.

13. Agenda Item 18: Board Member Reports.

None.

14. Agenda Items 19-23: Closed Session Report.

Bill Diedrich and John Bennett each announced that they were recusing themselves from closed session because of a conflict of interest associated with anticipated litigation under Government Code section 87100. Neither Director attended or participated in closed session.

Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 10:58 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 12:08 p.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd stated that no reportable actions were taken.

15. Agenda Item 24: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2 (a) (3)  
No reports.

16. Agenda Item 25: Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:09 p.m.

Sincerely,

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Federico Barajas, Secretary

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April 8, 2021

To: Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

From: Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director

Subject: O&M Report for March 2021

### **Operations Department**

The C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) operated at one unit for the month of March. Due to Delta outflow conditions (D-1641), pumping was reduced to zero for 24 hours on three, two-day periods resulting in an average of 400 cfs each day.

Total pumping for the month of March at the JPP was 43,639 acre-feet. The O'Neill Pump/Generating Plant (OPP) pumped 12,919 acre-feet and generated 8,863 acre-feet. No water was conveyed through the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Plant (DCI).

The Federal share in San Luis Reservoir on March 31<sup>st</sup> was 441,936 acre-feet as compared to 536,366 acre-feet on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

During the month of March, releases from Friant Dam ranged from 250 to 290 cfs and flows entering the Mendota Pool ranged from 24 to 58 cfs. Flows of 25 to 60 cfs were released passed Mendota Dam for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP).

Canal Operations staff members performed open channel and closed-pipe flow measurements, routine patrols, bi-weekly meter readings, water samples, well soundings, and meter maintenance during the month of March.

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

- OPP Unit 3; Repairs to speed head and vane actuation after speed head failure
- JPP Unit 5; Cooling water line repairs
- JPP Units 5 and 6; Butterfly valve (BFV) control block swap
- OPP Unit 4; Motor cooler leak repair
- JPP Unit 5; Unit rewind acceptance testing
- JPP Unit 1; Unit rewind

Reassembly of JPP Unit 5 complete. Acceptance testing performed the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup> and unit was made available for service.

### **Civil Maintenance Department**

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

- Grading and repair of DMC and Wasteway operating roads
- Install beach-belting in unlined section of DMC

- Fabricate and install rock guard on rear of Case tractor
- Level train rail for JPP rooftop gantry crane and reinstalled timbers
- Erosion repair and embankment rebuilding on DMC and Wasteways
- Chemical and mechanical weed control on DMC and SLD
- Installation of stairs and handrails to DMC turnout gates and meters
- Maintenance and repairs to float lines, signs, fences, and gates
- Garbage collection on DMC and Wasteways

### **Plant Maintenance Department**

#### **Electrical/C&I Staff:**

- JPP Unit 5 reassembly
- Repairs to outlets and lighting at Los Banos Admin Office (LBAO)
- Disconnect electrical components for removal of OPP Unit 3 motor/generator due to speed head failure and rebuild speed head
- Tracy 13.8kV switchgear protective relay updates and testing
- Replace OPP Unit 6 solenoid for siphon control air valve
- Recalibrate DMC Check 20 gate position encoder
- TAO electrical distribution breaker replacement
- Pre-teardown electrical readings on JPP Unit 1 (unit rewind)

#### **Mechanical Staff:**

- JPP Unit 5 rewind support and reassembly: Completed reassembly of unit
- Disassemble OPP Unit 3 due to speed head failure
- Repair leak on JPP industrial water line main header
- Replaced seal on JPP #1 industrial water pump
- Investigate JPP Unit 5 BFV failure to open. Drained discharge tube to relieve pressure behind BFV which allowed BFV to break loose and operate
- Install steps into 13.8 KV switchgear buildings
- Pre-teardown alignment checks on JPP Unit 1 (unit rewind)

### **USBR Support Services**

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

- Pump out sand and silt from TFCF secondary channel
- TFCF trash rake preventive maintenance and adjustments

### **Engineering Department**

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

- JPP Unit 5 rewind project
- JPP Air wash unit control and SOP revision
- JPP switchgear buildings relay settings update
- JPP Excitation slip ring brush holder upgrade to constant pressure type
- JPP Units 3 & 5 CT Upgrade
- JPP Units 3 & 4 Start Troubleshooting
- Anode replacement projects for DCI and OPP
- DMC subsidence mitigation project
- DMC bathymetric survey of problem areas
- DMC MP115.90 flowmeter evaluation
- Upper DMC communication upgrades

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- OPP Unit 3 forced outage investigations and repairs
- RO&M Exam reports and recommendations

### **Land Management Activity Summary**

The Engineering staff issued the following (2) access permits during the month of March:

- Access permit P2202003 was issued to Widren Water District to pressure test the existing underground pipeline for integrity at DMC Milepost 102.04.
- Emergency Permit P2202006 was issued to Panoche Water District to repair the underground pipeline eroding the Delta-Mendota Canal O&M roadway at milepost 95.50-L.

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

- Widren Water District well discharge project, well adjustment
- Corral Hollow Bridge Replacement
- Tracy Hills Utility Crossing at MP15.08
- Koster Road bridge guardrail modifications
- Corral Hollow Industrial Business Park SS/WTR Utility Crossing

### **Safety Department**

The Safety Department worked on the following items this month:

- JHA support for the crews
- Schedule of annual hearing tests
- Conduct Weekly Safety Tailgate talks with O&M crews
- Sent out Weekly Safety Tailgate Topics – 3-1 Carbon Monoxide Poisoning, 3-2 Working Alone, 3-3 Near Misses/Close Calls, 3-4 Lock Out Tag Out, 3-5 Preventing Work Related Valley Fever.
- Provided Safety Message for Monthly Newsletter – Smoke Alarms at Home
- Completed New Hire Safety Orientation for Jeramee Campbell

### **Work & Asset Management Department**

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

#### **EAM/Financial Software Replacement Project**

- End users are in the system entering data for Accounts Receivable, processing Accounts Payable, creating service orders, entering Timesheets creating and approving Purchase orders and processing inventory, both receiving and checkouts. We are all caught up on past due invoices/vendor bills and working on all current.
- The implementation team continues developing searches and reports to assist the end users and held the first NetSuite User's Group Meeting on 3/31.
- The implementation team is supporting the end users as they step through their daily work processes and continues working with the NetSuite, Shepherd, and PyanGo teams to fine-tune the system.
- NetSuite resolved two of the vendor bill issues (Dates prior to 1/1/2021 and incorrect 3-way match approval workflow)
- NetSuite is still working on the 3-way match for vendor bills
- Closing/Balancing out end of FY inventory- NetSuite vs. Physical

### Contracts in Process

- DMC Subsidence Correction Project Geotechnical Investigation RFP for Professional Services

### Ongoing:

- Purchasing in support of the O&M crews, to maintain warehouse stock, and locate & purchase disinfecting supplies & protective gear to comply with COVID-19 protocols
- Warehouse receiving, stocking, and distribution
- Fleet and property management
- NetSuite WAM invoicing/vendor bills
- Janitorial cleaning & disinfecting per COVID-19 guidelines
- Contract Management/Administration Activities
- Developing/implementing purchasing and procurement procedures and boilerplate templates

### Information Technology Department

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

- NetSuite
  - Upgrade planning meetings
  - Online training, User and Administration
  - Post GO LIVE support
  - Email boxes for all employees
- Continuing support for our "Work at Home" users
- Assist with March FAC, WRC and BOD meetings with Zoom
- Desktop support calls.
- Email server upgrade preparations
- Planning for laptop refresh
- Began planning process to evaluate upgrading/replacing copiers
- Contacted document management vendor for a demo of product
- Researched concurrent license install for new version of RX Logix software to be installed for C&I Technicians
- Installed McCrometer Server – Complete
- Received \$25K credits to data circuits and applied to invoices
- Configured and deployed workstations to "common areas" for employees to access NetSuite Employee Center.
- Document Management – research, demonstration, revised quote request

### Human Resources Department

#### General Administrative Activities:

- Recruitments:
  - Special Programs Manager (offer made, and accepted)
  - Heavy Equipment Operator (recruiting continued)
- Background checks for PIV cards (continuing)

Trainings/ Conferences:

- Continue to view webinars for ensure compliance with new legislation as it pertains to COVID-19
- Weekly webinars hosted by the JPIA and Litter Law re: COVID-19

Government Reporting:

- Handbook update to incorporate updates/changes to California Family Rights Act (CFRA) which took effect 1/1/2021 (on-going).
- Supplemental Paid Sick Leave (SPSL) SB95
- Annual queries with FMCSA for all Class A drivers

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

## **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 PGE on February 22. The letter informs PG&E that their gas line is impeding O&M of the bridge and canal liner and advised them that the terms of their agreement state that their facility can not interfere with Reclamation's facility. Coordination efforts will continue however the project shall remain on hold until gas line has been realigned.

#### **DMC Subsidence Mitigation**

Status: The USBR Denver Office (TSC) issued a formal design data request in December and SLDMWA continues to gather data this month, with delivery of the final data expected early April. SLDMWA retained service for high resolution bathymetry to confirm liner anomalies noted in the USBR 2018 bathymetry data. The data gathered will assist Reclamation in their project estimates and design activities. Reclamation provided a scope of work (SOW) for Geotechnical exploration required on canal to support TSC. SLDMWA has finalized the SOW and is nearing completion of the formal RFP, while Reclamation concurrently works on the environmental clearance documents. It is anticipated the bid results will be presented at May Board meeting in order to award contract for Geotechnical work. Reclamation approved the pump submittal for the supply contract for the two additional pumps at the Intertie Pumping Plant. The installation of the government furnished items will be completed by UNICO Services. Valves are scheduled for delivery early April. Mobilization is scheduled to occur in September 2021, with completion scheduled by March 2022.

#### **DMC Turnout Flowmeter Upgrade Program**

Status: Meters are currently being manufactured by McCrometer and delivered in small batches. All meters are expected to have been received and installed by the end of May.

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

Status: No activity this month.

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

#### **JPP Excitation Cabinet & Control Panel Refurbishment (1800333) FY2018 Project**

Status: Site visit completed in March by TSC Denver to evaluate the installation of the project. The designer stated the 90% design is delayed and will provide an update in early April.

#### **JPP Unit No. 5 Rewind**

Status: Jones Unit 5 has been reassembled, performance testing by the contractor is complete. An existing vibration issue of the unit was investigated by Reclamation, and SLDMWA will continue to work with Reclamation to develop a monitoring and assessment program. The unit vibration is a pre-existing mechanical issue and is not associated with the rewind.

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## **EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS**

### JPP Unit No. 1 Rewind

Status: The Notice to Proceed was sent to National Electric Coil (NEC) in November. The agreement with DHR Hydro Services was executed in November to perform the project management of the NEC contract. Production of the stator core laminations is currently underway in Poland. Production of stator coils is scheduled to begin in Texas during April. SLDMWA staff have begun the teardown of the unit.

### JPP/OPP/DCI Fire Protection Systems Assessment

Status: Water Authority awarded a contract to FRA to perform a systems assessment in January 2021. The site surveys and exchange of documents are complete. Final reports for each facility are expected to be completed by April 2021.

### JPP Wear Ring Purchase

Status: No activity this month.

## **O'NEILL PUMPING/GENERATING PLANT (OPP)**

### Main Transformers Rehabilitation/Replacement Project (2001247)

Status: Wiring verification was performed and updated drawings were provided to TSC. Further site inspection is needed to complete requests from TSC.

### Arc Flash Hazard Analysis, Facility Rating, & Protective Relays Reviews (Electrical Equipment Periodic Reviews) (2001994)

Status: The draft for the Facility Rating Review is currently in peer review. TSC has started work on the Arc Flash Hazard Analysis and the Protective Relays Review. Currently awaiting a project update from TSC engineer.

### Pump Bowl Modification (Design and USBR Approval)

Status: No Activity this month.

### Penstock Cathodic Protection System Replacement

Status: Design of system has been provided by consultant. Currently working with Reclamation on their review of the consultant's design.

### UPS Battery Charging System Replacement

Status: No Activity this month.

## **TRACY FACILITIES (TFO)**

### TFO Domestic Water Treatment Plant Replacement (2000158)

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. This project is anticipated to be active in April.

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

Status: No activity.

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## STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Board Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: April 8, 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.