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**Notice of San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Board of Directors Telephonic Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 4, 2021, 9:30 a.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87194486283?pwd=ZWFLMzdWdWR1B4MitemlCTk5XU2FIdz09>

Meeting ID: 871 9448 6283

Passcode: 583845

One tap mobile

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NOTE: 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, members of the Board of Directors, and Water Authority staff will be participating in this meeting remotely from multiple locations. This meeting will occur exclusively through Zoom. If members of the public have any problems using the call-in number during the meeting, please contact the Authority office at 209-826-9696.

NOTE FURTHER: Any member of the public may address the Board concerning any item on the agenda before or during consideration of that item, as appropriate.

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Board to Consider Additions or Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.
3. Opportunity for Public Comment – Any member of the public may address the Board concerning any matter not on the agenda, but within the Board's jurisdiction. Public comment is limited to no more than three minutes per person. For good cause, the Chair of the Board may waive this limitation.

Consent Calendar

Note: All matters listed on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by a single action of the Board of Directors, unless a Board Member requests separate consideration of the item. If such a request is made, the item may be heard as an action item at this meeting.

4. Board of Directors to Consider Approval of January 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes
5. Board of Directors to Consider Acceptance of Financial & Expenditures Reports
6. Board of Directors to Consider the Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation to Accept

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7. **Board of Directors to Consider Acceptance of Staff Reports:**
 - a. **O&M Budget to Actual**
 - b. **Operations & Maintenance**
 - c. **Science Program**
 - d. **Activity Agreements**
 - e. **Procurement Activity**

Action Items

8. **Board of Directors to Consider the Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation regarding Executive Compensation for Various Positions, Barajas/Gilmore**
9. **Board of Directors to Consider the Finance & Administration and Water Resources Committee Recommendations regarding Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, Barajas**
10. **Board of Directors to Consider the Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation regarding Water Year 2021 O&M Water Rates, Arroyave**
11. **Board of Directors to Consider the Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation regarding Modifications to Executive Director and General Counsel Performance Evaluation Process, Barajas**

Report Items

12. Presentation regarding Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project, Mizuno/Marguerite Patil
13. Update on Strategic Plan Implementation Progress, Barajas
14. Report on State and Federal Affairs, Petersen/Dennis Cardoza
15. Executive Director's Report, Barajas
 - a. Los Banos and Sacramento Office Space
 - b. San Luis Transmission Project
 - c. May include reports on activities related to 1) CVP/SWP water operations; 2) California storage projects; 3) regulation of the CVP/SWP; 4) existing or possible new State and Federal policies; 5) Water Authority activities; 6) COVID-19 response
16. Chief Operating Officer's Report, Arroyave
(May include reports on activities related to 1) OM&R; 2) Infrastructure Projects; 3) Water transfers, exchanges, and release program
17. Update on Water Operations and Forecasts, Boardman
18. Committee Reports:
 - a. Water Resources Committee Activities, Birmingham
 - b. Finance & Administration Committee Activities, Gilmore
 - c. O & M Technical Committee Activities, White
19. Outside Agency/Organization Reports:
 - a. State and Federal Contractors Water Agency
 - b. Family Farm Alliance
 - c. Farm Water Coalition
 - d. Association of California Water Agencies
 - e. San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint Effort
 - f. Central Valley Project Water Association
20. Board Member Reports
21. **CLOSED SESSION**

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 2 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – 2 potential cases

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Existing Litigation Pursuant to paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9

- A. Natural Resources Defense Council et al. v. Bernhardt et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:05-cv-01207-DAD-EPG (2005 DMC Contract Renewals)
- B. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Friends of the River, San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association, Inc., The Institute for Fisheries Resources, and Felix Smith v. Donald R. Glaser and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 2:11-CV-02980-KJM-CKD (PCFFA v Glaser or GBP Citizens Suit)
- C. SWRCB Water Rights Complaints: Modesto Irrigation District, State Water Contractors, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Interested Persons in SWRCB CDO Enforcement Proceedings and/or Petitions for Reconsideration: Pak & Young; Mussi et al. (WR Complaints)
- D. Delta Stewardship Council Cases, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 4758 (formerly San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Westlands Water District v. Delta Stewardship Council, et al., Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2013-80001500) (Delta Plan Litigation)
- E. City of Fresno, et al. v. United States, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 1:16-cv-01276-EDK (2014 Friant Breach of Contract)
- F. Monterey Coastkeeper, et al. v. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, et al., Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2018-80002853; Environmental Law Foundation v. State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 34-2018-80002851; Protectores del Agua Subterranea v. State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento Superior Court Case No. 34-2018-80002852 (Waste Discharge Requirement Cases)
- G. North Coast Rivers Alliance v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-80002898; Central Delta Water Agency v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-80002900; Friends of the River v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-80002901; California Water Impact Network v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-80002904 (Delta Plan Amendment Cases)
- H. North Coast Rivers Alliance, et al. v. San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, et al., Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 19CV-04989 (GBP Long-Term Storm Water Management Plan)
- I. Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, et al. v. Wilbur Ross, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00431-DAD-EPG (ROC on LTO BiOps)
- J. California Natural Resources Agency, et al. v. Wilbur Ross, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00426-DAD-EPG (ROC on LTO BiOps)
- K. CDWR Water Operation Cases, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. JCCP 5117 (formerly Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority et al. v. California Department of Water Resources et al., Fresno County Superior Court, Case No. 20CECG01303) (SWP EIR Challenge)
- L. AquAlliance et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, et al., U.S. District Court, E.D. Cal., Case No. 1:20-cv-00878-DAD-EPG (Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR)
- M. Winnemem Wintu Tribe et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board et al., Merced County Superior Court, Case No. 19CV-04989 (GBP Waste Discharge Requirements)
- N. SWRCB Administrative Hearing Office: County of San Joaquin Permit to Appropriate Water from the South Fork American River at the Freeport Regional Water Authority Facility on the Sacramento River, Pending Application A029657 (Permit Application Protest)

22. Return to Open Session

23. Report from Closed Session, if any Required by Government Code Section 54957.1

24. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

25. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Cheri Worthy or Felicia Luna at the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Office via telephone (209) 826-9696 or email [cheri.worthy@sldmwa.org or felicia.luna@sldmwa.org] at least 3 days before a regular meeting or 1 day before a special meeting/workshop.

This agenda has been prepared as required by the applicable laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, Government Code Section 54950 et seq. and has not been prepared with a view to informing an investment decision in any of the Authority's bonds, notes or other obligations. Any projections, plans or other forward-looking statements included in the information in this agenda are subject to a variety of uncertainties that could cause any actual plans or results to differ materially from any such statement. The information herein is not intended to be used by investors or potential investors in considering the purchase or sale of the Authority's bonds, notes or other obligations and investors and potential investors should rely only on information filed by the Authority on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's Electronic Municipal Market Access System for municipal securities disclosure maintained on the World Wide Web at <http://www.emma.msra.com>

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SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS TELEPHONIC ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING
MINUTES FOR JANUARY 14, 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
Vince Lucchesi, Alternate for Bobby Pierce
Anthea Hansen, Director - Kyle Perez, Alternate
Rick Gilmore, Director

Division 2

Ryan Ferguson, Alternate for Dan Errotabere
William Bourdeau, Director
Michael Linneman, Alternate for John Bennett
Bill Diedrich, Director

Division 3

Jeff Bryant, Alternate for Dan McCurdy
Chris White, Director - Jarrett Martin, Alternate
Cannon Michael, Director
Ellen Wehr, Alternate for Ric Ortega

Division 4

John Varela, Director - Aaron Baker, Alternate
Gary Kremen, Director - Richard Santos, Alternate
Jeff Cattaneo, Director

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
Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director
Laures Stiles, Director of HR & Admin

Others in Attendance

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Mike Wade, California Farm Water Coalition
Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District
Dennis Cardoza, Foley & Lardner LLP
Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
Stephanie Rayna, City of Tracy
Don Willard, Friant Water Authority
Lora Carpenter, Fieldman Rolapp & Associates
Doug Brown, Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth
Chris Park, CITI Group
Mica Heilmann, Land IQ

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order and roll was called.

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

No corrections.

3. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. **Agenda Items 4-6: Board to Consider: a) December 10 and December 17, 2020 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, Lucchesi, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Linneman, Diedrich, Bryant, White, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ACTION ITEMS

5. **Agenda Item 7: Board of Directors to Consider DHCCP Steering Committee Recommendation regarding Resolution Authorizing the Preparation and Distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement and the Preparation, Execution, and Delivery of an Official**

Statement with Respect to Refunding Revenue Bonds to Refund the Outstanding San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Refunding Revenue Bonds (DHCCP Development Project), Series 2013a, Authorizing the Execution of Certain Documents, and Authorizing Certain Other Actions in Connection Therewith.

Chief Operating Office Pablo Arroyave reported that since the last DHCCP Steering Committee meeting in October, all districts except for Pacheco, Byron Bethany, and Laguna have executed resolutions authorizing participation in the refunding. Arroyave reported that Pacheco will be taking action tomorrow, and Byron Bethany and Laguna have chosen to pay off their portion. Arroyave reported that the DHCCP committee met on Monday, and recommended Board approval of the resolution. Arroyave then introduced Lora Carpenter from Fieldman Rolapp & Associates.

Lora Carpenter presented a PowerPoint presentation titled "Refunding of DHCCP Series 2013A Bonds". Carpenter reviewed the prepayment option/amounts, potential refunding-financial benefits, and the current financing schedule. Carpenter reported that the Preliminary Official Statement will be posted January 18, 2021, and if everything goes as planned the transaction will be closed January 28, 2021 along with successful pricing on January 21, 2021. Carpenter then introduced Doug Brown of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth. Doug Brown provided a brief review of the Preliminary Official Statement and the Resolution.

On a motion of Director Tom Birmingham, seconded by Director William Bourdeau, the Board approved the Resolution authorizing the preparation and distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement and the preparation, execution, and delivery of an Official Statement with respect to Refunding Revenue Bonds to Refund the Outstanding San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Refunding Revenue Bonds (DHCCP Development Project), Series 2013a, authorizing the execution of certain documents, and authorizing certain other actions in connection therewith. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Linneman, Diedrich, Bryant, White, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

6. Agenda Item 8: Board of Directors to Consider Water Resources Committee Recommendation Regarding Execution of Cost Share Agreement with State Water Contractors and Execution of Contract for up to \$21,000 from the Leg Ops Budget for Structured Decision Making Facilitation Support for Delta Coordination Group Activities.

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Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Water Resources Committee recommended this item for approval by the Board on Monday. Petersen provided a brief background on the Delta Coordination Group (DCG) that was formed by the Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources. Petersen reported that the DCG members have expressed that having a third-party facilitator with experience in Structured Decision Making (SDM) would benefit the product being produced by the DCG, and increase the transparency of the recommendations being provided by the DCG to the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources regarding potential Summer-Fall Habitat Actions for delta smelt. Petersen reported that staff has worked with the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation to identify a facilitator with SDM experience and has identified Dr. Jennie Hoffman, of Adaptation/Insight, as the preferred facilitator. Dr. Hoffman has experience working with Compass Resources, who is facilitating the Delta Smelt SDM process for the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP).

On a motion of Director Gary Kremen, seconded by Director Bill Diedrich, the Board approved execution of the Cost Share Agreement with the State Water Contractors and execution of a contract for up to \$21,000 from the Leg Ops Budget for structured decision making facilitation support for Delta Coordination Group Activities. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Linneman, Diedrich, Bryant, White, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

7. Agenda Item 9: Board of Directors to Consider Resolution Adopting the 2021 Regular Meeting Calendar for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors, Water Resources Committee, and Finance & Administration Committee.

Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that staff prepared an annual calendar for 2021 regular meetings of the Board of Directors, Water Resources Committee, and Finance & Administration Committee for the remainder of the calendar year 2021 for Board approval. Barajas reported that no changes were made since the calendar was presented to the Board in December.

On a motion of Director Tom Birmingham, seconded by Alternate Director Dave Weisenberger, the Board adopted the 2021 Regular Meeting Calendar for the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors, Water Resources Committee, and Finance & Administration Committee. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES: Weisenberger, Lucchesi, Hansen, Gilmore, Ferguson, Bourdeau,

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Linneman, Diedrich, Bryant, White, Michael, Wehr, Varela, Kremen, Cattaneo, Pucheu, Birmingham, Amorelli

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

REPORT ITEMS

8. Agenda Item 10: Presentation regarding Delta Fallowing Pilot Project.

Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno provided a brief background on this effort, reporting that in August 2017 the Authority entered into a letter of agreement with various parties to jointly participate and fund a pilot project to study the impacts of fallowing lands in the Delta. Mizuno reported that the Authority entered into a contract with Land IQ, and the Delta Watermaster's office entered into a contract with U.C. Davis, who jointly performed this study in 2018. Mizuno then introduced Mica Heilmann from Land IQ to present the outcomes of the study.

Mica Heilmann presented a PowerPoint presentation titled "Evapotranspiration of Fallow Fields in California Delta". The presentation focused on the 2018 water year. Mica Heilmann, and Seth Mulder described the study methodology and presented study results. Heilmann added that results of the study indicate that continued management of fallowed in-delta lands is necessary to receive beneficial results for water supply. Lindsay Kammeier from the Watermaster's office expressed a perspective that the results of the study indicate that there is limited utility for in-delta water transfers resulting from fallowed lands. Mizuno added that the study results indicate in order for fallowed lands to substantially reduce consumption of water, the lands must be continued to be managed in addition to fallowing.

NOTE: staff returned to Item 10 later in the meeting, to read ZOOM Chat comments into the minutes. ZOOM Chat comments read as follows:

From don@waterwrights.net to Everyone: What's NDVI stand for please?

From Seth Mulder - Land IQ to Everyone: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index

From Cannon Michael to Everyone: The normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) is a simple graphical indicator that can be used to analyze remote sensing measurements, often from a space platform, assessing whether or not the target being observed contains live green vegetation.

From don@waterwrights.net to Everyone: bless you

From Seth Mulder - Land IQ to Everyone: Basically an index that provides relative plant vigor. Derived from aerial or satellite imager (imagery*)

From Cannon Michael to Everyone: This OpenET effort is interesting as well - <https://openetdata.org/>

From Seth Mulder - Land IQ to Everyone: The OpenET platform is interesting. I hear they plan to provide field level ET data as well at some point. I don't know if they have ground truthing stations to validate the results though.

From don@waterwrights.net to Everyone: Thanks

From David Weisenberger to Everyone: Remember the old Rodweeders on the farm, might be an inexpensive way to keep the weeds down.

From Bill Diedrich to Everyone: YES

ZOOM participants were encouraged to make any additional comments or questions orally, so that non-Zoom participants could also engage.

9. **Agenda Item II: Discussion Regarding Modification of Debt Management Policy and/or Development of O&M and Capital Improvement Financing Policy.**

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reviewed the memo provided to the Board regarding potential modifications to the Authority's Debt Management Policy. Akroyd reported that during the October 21, 2020 Special Board Meeting, Directors provided direction to staff to begin developing a policy that would govern the Board's financing of future extraordinary operation and maintenance projects and capital improvement projects. Akroyd reported that the current policy was adopted in March 2019 and includes policies and procedures for the issuance of debt. Akroyd reported that staff is of the opinion that this is a logical place to include additional guidance that would help the Board decide in the future whether to self-fund versus financing. After a brief discussion with Directors/Alternates Akroyd reported that the next step is to work with existing consultants to draft language for consideration by the Finance & Administration Committee and Board of Directors.

10. **Agenda Item 12: Report on State and Federal Affairs.**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported the incoming Biden Administration has made a number of key nominations for Cabinet positions. Petersen reported that the nominations of particular interest for the Authority made to date include Secretary of Interior, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Health and Human Services, California Attorney General, Office of Management and Budget, and Attorney General.

Dennis Cardoza provided information regarding Washington DC conditions, potential leadership changes regarding committees, and the elimination of pay-go offset for climate control legislation and COVID legislation.

11. **Agenda Item 13: Executive Director's Report.**

- a) **San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP)** – Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno reported that three good proposals were received, and are being reviewed by the Authority along with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Western Area Power Administration. Mizuno reported that they are also looking to hire outside consultant. Mizuno reported that the goal is make a recommendation to the Board in March or April.
- b) **Water Transfers** - Special Projects Administrator Frances Mizuno reported that the process for potential 2021 water transfers will start soon due to the dry hydrology. Mizuno

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reported that the Authority has drafted a Letter of Intent to potential Sellers to allow for the preparation and submittal of water transfer proposals to begin prior to execution of any Water Purchase Agreements with the Sellers. The draft of the letter has been sent to potential sellers and we have received responses and comments back.

- c) **B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project** – Chris Park with CDM presented a PowerPoint presentation with updates on the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project. Parks provided updates on Feasibility Report, final EIR and Supplemental EIS, Caltrans coordination, ESA consultation/CESA permitting/NHPA consultation, and the schedule. Two key milestones accomplished in December include: 1) the final EIS/EIR document was completed and posted to the Federal Register on December 18, 2020, and 2) the feasibility report was completed at the end of December and transmitted to the U.S. Congress.
- d) **New Board Member Orientation** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that staff is still working on scheduling new Board Member orientation.
- e) **Milliken RFP** - Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that four proposals were received and will be reviewed by representatives from the Museum, Exchange Contractors, and the Authority.
- f) **Sacramento Office** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that the Sacramento office location move is scheduled to take place the last week of this month.

12. **Agenda Item 14: Chief Operating Officer's Report.**

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that the NetSuite transition is almost complete. Arroyave thanked Authority staff and management that have spent considerable time on the transition.

Arroyave reported that the Jones Pumping Plant Unit 5 rewind during rebuilding and testing experienced an unexpected electrical discharge on one of the coils, and Authority staff has been coordinating with Reclamation and NEC on the proper repair process.

Arroyave reported that staff has verified with Reclamation that there will not be any substantive changes to the February 2020 San Luis Reservoir Rescheduling Guidelines, and that final requests are due February 12, 2021.

13. **Agenda Item 15: Update on Water Operations and Forecasts**

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported Jones pumping remains at minimum levels due to limited delta inflow. Banks has been pumping more than the CVP during the past

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few weeks in efforts to minimize the cycling of pumping units at Jones. Since allowable export sharing is in accordance with the COA, Jones and Banks may soon be trading export pumping rates as part of COA accounting.

Accumulated precipitation for January at Shasta and for Northern California is at 40% and 22% of average, respectively. Boardman explained that, based on DWR's latest forecast, a Shasta Critical year will occur unless hydrology is above normal for the remainder of the winter and spring. Shasta and Folsom storage levels are trending slightly less than Reclamation's latest 90% exceedance forecast

Boardman reported that CVP exports fell short of even Reclamation's conservative projection during December and during the first half of January. As such, CVP San Luis is expected to fill to only 50% of capacity with continued dry conditions. With the return of average hydrology soon, the reservoir may refill to about 740 TAF or 77% of capacity. Boardman briefly discussed possible allocations under dry and median hydrology.

Responding to a question from the public, Boardman stated that conditions south of the delta are tracking noticeably worse than 90% exceedance conditions, but hydrology north of the delta is only slightly drier than the 90% forecast. Boardman also provided a clarification to a question from Director Diedrich that projections based on median conditions assume conditions improve to median hydrology for the remainder of the year. Boardman agreed with Director Bourdeau when Mr. Bourdeau rhetorically asked if the CVP should be storing more water in wet years to soften dry year impacts.

14. **Agenda Item 16: Committee Reports.**

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

15. **Agenda Item 17: 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 worked on a number of publications and

announcements this month on behalf of the Authority. Wade reported that they are working with Water Policy Director Scott Petersen and other Authority staff on a series of information sheets that overlay Authority member service area boundaries with legislative districts.

d. **Association of California Water Agencies**

Director Bill Diedrich announced Ryan Ferguson was appointed to Region 6 Board. Diedrich informed the Board that Jim McLeod was member of ACWA Board for twenty-two years.

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

No report.

f. **CVPWA**

Director Anthea Hansen reported that Larry Baumann retired, and the new Executive Director is Kevin Casberg. Hansen encouraged involvement with the CVPWA. Director Birmingham requested that the CVPWA be added to future agendas.

16. **Agenda Item 18: Board Member Reports.**

Chair Cannon Michael called for a moment of silence to remember long-time Director Jim McLeod. Director David Weisenberger shared a few memories of Jim McLeod, and also shared some of Jim's favorite quotes. Director Tom Birmingham, and Bill Diedrich also expressed their admiration, and respect for Jim McLeod. Also, at the beginning of the meeting Chair Cannon Michael announced the passing of Jim McLeod, and expressed his admiration.

Chair Cannon Michael reminded the Board that trainings are coming up to stay in compliance, and to send their certificates to Felicia Luna.

17. **Agenda Items 19-21: Closed Session Report.**

Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 12:05 p.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 1:07 p.m., General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd stated that no reportable actions were taken.

18. **Agenda Item 22: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2 (a) (3)**
No reports.

19. **Agenda Item 23: Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:08 p.m.

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February 4, 2021

To: Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

From: Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director

Subject: O&M Report for January 2021

Operations Department

The C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) operated at one unit from January 1st to the 20th. Pumping was increased to two units on the 20th due to improved Delta water quality.

As of January 26th, pumping for the month of January at the JPP was 54,329 acre-feet. The O'Neill Pump/Generating Plant (OPP) pumped 42,983 acre-feet and no water was generated. No water was conveyed through the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Plant (DCI).

The Federal share in San Luis Reservoir on January 25th was 394,703 acre-feet as compared to 544,516 acre-feet on January 25th, 2020.

As of January 26th, releases from Friant Dam ranged from 345 to 450 cfs and flows entering the Mendota Pool ranged from 101 to 162 cfs. Flows of 100 to 155 cfs were released passed Mendota Dam for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). On January 21st, the initial Restoration program allocation was released and reflects a Critical-Low year type.

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 January.

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

- JPP Unit 2; Exciter brush replacement and cleaning

Civil Maintenance Department

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

- Grading of DMC, SLD and Wasteway operating roads
- Install pipe fencing on Newman Wasteway crossings and various DMC crossings
- Replace disc blades on Civil Maintenance Tracy disc
- Fabricate staff gauge brackets
- Erosion repair and embankment rebuilding on Firebaugh Wasteway and cleaned concrete aprons
- 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

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Plant Maintenance Department

Electrical/C&I Staff:

- JPP Unit 5 thrust bearing RTD installation and main unit annual maintenance
- Electrical connections to new compressor and air dryer in Tracy Sandblast and Paint building
- Repairs to OPP annunciator alarm horn and phone bell relay
- Tracy 13.8kV switchgear protective relay updates and testing
- Preparation work for the JPP 100-ton crane festoon cable replacement

Mechanical Staff:

- Plumbing and air connections to new compressor and air dryer in Tracy Sandblast and Paint building
- Replace seal water line to OPP Unit 6
- Replace mechanical seal on West Volta Well
- Provide support to NEC for JPP Unit 5 rewind
- Refurbishment of JPP Unit 5 thrust bridge and set thrust bearings
- Repair cooling water pipe leaks on JPP Unit 6
- Refurbish JPP Unit 5 rotor brake plumbing

USBR Support Services

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

- Replace TFCF #1 Unwatering Pump
- Repair power conductors to TFCF debris sweep arm and debris conveyor distribution panel
- Assess TFCF debris sweep arm control valve block for required parts for rebuild
- Mechanical PM's on TFCF primary louver crane and holding tank hoist

On-going training for all NetSuite and Shepherd end-users on purchase order entry, service order (formerly 'work order') creation and management, and timekeeping entry.

Engineering Department

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

- JPP Unit 5 rewind project
- JPP flow control for the newly installed plant evaporative cooling unit
- JPP switchgear buildings relay settings update
- JPP Unit 5 Excitation armature repair
- JPP Excitation slip ring brush holder upgrade to constant pressure type
- OPP fall protection and confined space improvements
- OPP vane control accumulator tanks 5-year inspection
- Anode replacement projects for DCI and OPP
- DMC subsidence mitigation project
- DMC MP115.90 flowmeter evaluation
- Upper DMC communication upgrades
- Firebaugh Canal Water District MP109.45 turnout SCADA incorporation
- RO&M Exam reports and recommendations

Land Management Activity Summary

The Engineering staff did not issue any access permits during the month of January.

The Engineering staff were involved with the following land management projects during January:

- International Parkway bridge replacement (City of Tracy)
- Road resurfacing & bridge improvements at Hwy 152 (Caltrans)
- Corral Hollow bridge replacement
- Tracy Hills utility crossing at MP15.08
- PG&E pipeline crossing coating replacement at MP32.61
- Koster Road bridge guardrail modifications
- Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Expansion Project

Safety Department

The Safety Department worked on the following items this month:

- JHA support for the crews
- Schedule of annual hearing tests – Ryan Rogers & Richard Parra
- ~~Conduct Weekly Safety Tailgate talks with Maintenance and Operations crews~~
- Sent out Weekly Safety Tailgate Topics – CA/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Standard Requirements, SLDMWA's Injury Illness Prevention Plan & Code of Safe Work Practices, Workplace Violence Prevention, Stop Work Authority
- Provided Safety Message for Monthly Newsletter – Cold Weather Work
- Provided Safety Message to All SLDMWA employees – Driving in Fog
- Completed SLDMWA's COVID-19 Prevention Plan

Work & Asset Management Department

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

EAM/Financial Software Replacement Project

- The Water Authority went live with the NetSuite solution on 1/4/2021.
- End users are in the system creating service orders for repairs and preventive maintenance, purchase orders, vendor bills, and timesheets.
- Two successful payrolls have been run in NetSuite.
- The implementation team is developing searches and reports to assist the end users.
- Personalization and process walkthrough sessions were held for the SuitePeople HR implementation. Staff is working on the User Acceptance Testing.
- Development of projects and grants tracking is in process.
- 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.

Contracts in Process

- Fire Protection and Assessment-All Facilities, Professional Services Agreement executed 1/12/2021

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
- Oracle WAM invoicing
- Janitorial cleaning & disinfecting per COVID-19 guidelines
- Contract Management/Administration Activities

Information Technology Department

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

- Installation of new services/contracts with AT&T
 - Phase 1 complete (Router and circuit installation)
 - Phase 2 Installation of ASEoD complete and awaiting SDWAN
 - Phase 3 AT&T is responsible for performing configuration/programming for SDWAN installation
 - Phase 4 GO LIVE scheduled for February 1st
 - Phase 5 Port phone call paths to routers with ETA on February 19th
- Un-Wired bandwidth increase will coincide with Phase 4 with ETA on February 8th
- NetSuite
 - Upgrade planning meetings
 - Online training, User and Administration
 - January 4th, GO LIVE
 - Post GO LIVE support
- Continuing support for our "Work at Home" users
- Assist with January FAC, WRC and BOD meetings with Zoom
- Desktop support calls.
- Email server upgrade preparations
- Sacramento Office completed preparations for move on 1-29
- Planning for laptop refresh
- Began planning process to evaluate upgrading/replacing copiers
- Contacted document management vendor to look at potential of deployment
- Researched concurrent license install for new version of RX Logix software to be installed for C&I Technicians
- Adjustments to ZIX
- Symantec Enterprise Security – purchased / renewed licenses and installed
- Installed McCrometer Server awaiting McCrometer software installation and configuration

Human Resources Department

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

General Administrative Activities:

- Recruitments:
 - Special Programs Manager (re-advertised) Currently reviewing applicants
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (recruiting continued)
 - Contract Specialist (interviews completed), reviewing final candidates
- Compensation Survey – on-going support to Consultant
- Background checks for PIV cards (continuing)

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Trainings/Conferences:

- Stephanie, Leslie & Laures continue to view webinars for ensure compliance with new legislation as it pertains to COVID-19
- Stephanie, Leslie & Laures view weekly webinars hosted by JPIA for COVID-19
- HR worked with Safety Officer on the rollout of the Cal OSHA required COVID Prevention Plan.

Government Reporting:

- Handbook update to incorporate updates/changes to California Family Rights Act (CFRA) which took effect 1/1/2021.
- Necessary information submitted to Consultant (Biddle) in order to complete Affirmative Action Report for YE2020
- 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 drafted a letter on Reclamation's behalf and is currently under review. 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. Project shall remain on hold until gas line has been realigned.

DMC Subsidence Mitigation

Status: Reclamation's Value Planning Study Final Report was issued this month. The information in the report will be used to prepare the technical memorandum and appraisal level cost estimate for the project. TSC issued a formal design data request in December and SLDMWA began gathering the data this month. It is a significant amount of data to gather, and requires significant resources to accomplish. Reclamation provided a draft scope of work for Geotechnical work required on canal to support TSC. SLDMWA will begin putting together a formal RFP for the geotechnical work in February, while Reclamation concurrently works on the environmental clearance documents. Environmental clearance is expected to take at least 3 months. 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. Mobilization is scheduled to occur in September 2021, with completion scheduled by March 2022.

DMC Flowmeter Upgrade Program

Status: Meters are currently being manufactured by McCrometer. The first 12 meters are scheduled to be shipped January 29th, and will continue in groups of 10-15 meters approximately every 4 weeks thereafter.

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

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

Status: No activity this month. USBR Denver Office engineering staff continue to work on the design of the static system. USBR is expecting to deliver the 90% design to the Water Authority in March.

JPP Unit No. 5 Rewind

Status: During the final testing of the 228 installed stator coils, the coil in slot 58 shorted to ground. An inspection found a hairline crack in the coil insulation on the lead near the body of the coil. As a result, a repair method was developed by NEC and approved by Reclamation and SLDMWA. In addition, NEC tested the remaining coils to confirm no cracking existed in the coils. The test result confirmed that no cracking existed in the remaining coils. After the test results were accepted, NEC began the repair of the coil. The repair of the damaged coil and the additional testing caused a delay of 14 days. NEC will turn the unit over to the SLDMWA on Monday, February 1, 2021. SLDMWA will begin the reassembly of the unit on that date.

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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 scheduled to begin in February in Poland.

JPP/OPP/DCI Fire Protection Systems Assessment

Status: Water Authority awarded a contract to FRA to perform a systems assessment. FRA completed site visits at JPP and DCI this month and will complete OPP in early February. Report is expected to be delivered within 1 to 2 months.

O'NEILL PUMPING/GENERATING PLANT (OPP)

Design New Access Opening near Pump Bowl (1800332) FY2018 Project

Status: No Activity this month. The design phase of this project has been proposed for FY22 EO&M budget. SLDMWA plans to contract the design of new pump bowls through the original manufacturer, Fairbanks Morse. The new pump bowls will incorporate two cast in 'windows' for access hatches to provide safer, easier maintenance. The result of the design phase will be the approval of the design modification and the Technical Specifications necessary to manufacture the new bowls.

Main Transformers Rehabilitation/Replacement Project (2001247)

Status: TSC submitted the 90% Design and was reviewed by SLDMWA, CVO, and MP-250 this month. A five-day specification review is scheduled to occur the first week of February.

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. No activity on the Arc Flash Hazard Analysis and the Protective Relays Review.

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.

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Board Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: February 4, 2021

RE: Update on Science Program

SUMMARY

The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's ("Water Authority") current science commitments for Fiscal Year 21 (March 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021) may be considered in three categories. First, the Water Authority re-budgeted \$362,063 in the current budget to fund seven studies previously authorized to be funded. Second, the Water Authority began the year with approximately \$62,026 in funds remaining from the State and Federal Contractors Water Agency ("SFCWA") to fund three studies initially authorized by SFCWA and transferred to the Water Authority for funding and management. Third, the Water Authority has budgeted \$500,000 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 - \$362,063 in FY 21 Budget

Subject	Description of Work / Objective(s)	FY 21 Budget
Rice Fields Fish Food Study – Delta Fallowing Pilot Program	Study of flooded rice ground relative to food production for native fish. Goal to better understand aquatic food web productivity on managed floodplains	\$31,290
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	\$10,000

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	consumptive use associated with temporary crop idling on lands within the legal Delta.	
Establishing Environmental Baselines for the Shallow Shoals of Tule Red Bathymetry, Water Quality, and Macroinvertebrate Densities	Study of Tule Red tidal restoration project that is expected to provide food resources and rearing habitat to contribute to the recovery of native fish and wildlife. Goal to gather baseline data needed to better understand the effects of the tidal marsh restoration process on the Project intertidal mudflat and subtidal (together shallow shoals) areas.	\$45,274
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.	\$30,785
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. The Water Authority has shared the facilitation costs informally with State Water Contractors, but moving forward facilitation costs are anticipated to be provided by Reclamation, with water contractors funding studies.	\$75,000

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

Subject	Description of Work / Objective(s)	SFCWA Funds Remaining
Analysis of Phytoplankton Blooms and Ambient	Study of phytoplankton abundances and biogeochemical rates and review of	\$0

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Phytoplankton Populations in the Delta	Phytoplankton bloom events data. Goal to analyze existing data to improve understanding of controls on phytoplankton blooms in the north Delta, and to assess the relationship of those blooms to zooplankton population abundances and growth rates.	
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
Rice Fields Fish Food Study – Delta Following Pilot Program	Study of flooded rice ground relative to food production for native fish. Goal to better understand aquatic food web productivity on managed floodplains	\$0

3. New Science - \$500,000 in FY 21 Budget

Subject	Description of Work / Objective(s)	FY 21 Budget
Science Studies/Efforts		\$500,000
Joint Funding for Structured Decision Making support for Delta Coordination Group for summer fall habitat actions for delta smelt	This funding would support facilitation support for the Delta Coordination Group to conduct Structured Decision Making (SDM) using the ProACT model for delta smelt summer-fall habitat actions, as described in the 2019 Biological Opinions. 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 agriculture.	\$21,000
Joint Funding of CSAMP Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making Scientific Support	Funds support development of additional biological support for the Delta Smelt Structured Decision Making process, specifically Identification and exploration of key effect pathways for impacts to each delta smelt life stage.	\$25,000
Joint Funding for Initiation of Delta Channel Maintenance Planning Effort	Funds support development of and establish criteria for silt removal operations and mitigation measures for a long-term channel maintenance program in the South Delta	\$50,000
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	\$75,000

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	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 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
Joint Funding to Enhance Decision-Support Predictions for Management Actions to Benefit Delta Smelt	This work is to develop a path forward to enhance decision-support predictions for management actions to benefit Delta Smelt. This contract would support management of a series of engagements with experts and CSAMP members to identify and explore potential approaches for the structure and function of an advanced decision-support model that would incorporate system productivity and other factors that could benefit Delta Smelt. SLDMWA funding would be used to augment funding being provided by the Delta Science Program and the State Water contractors to cover Dr. Denise Reed's time to organize and facilitate engagements, including an expert workgroup, and to prepare a draft white paper documenting the outcomes from the effort.	\$4,000
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley 501(c)(3) Education Fund, Socioeconomic Impact Study Phase 2	Completion of Phase 2 of the 8-county study, using IMPLAN, to describe the economic and socio-economic impacts of water supply deficit in the Valley and to provide economic analysis support for various policy options promulgated by the Technical Committee to address the imbalance	\$15,000

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

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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

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.

February 4, 2021

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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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