

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF
DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES FOR AUGUST 4, 2022

The Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority convened at approximately 9:30 a.m. at 842 6th Street in Los Banos, California, with Chair Cannon Michael presiding.

Directors and Alternate Directors in Attendance

Division 1

Dave Weisenberger, Director
Bobby Pierce, Director
Anthea Hansen, Director
Lea Emmons, Alternate for Rick Gilmore

Division 2

Ryan Ferguson, Director
William Bourdeau, Director
Ara Azhderian, Alternate for Beau Correia

Division 3

Dan McCurdy, Director (via ZOOM)
Chris White, Director - Jarrett Martin, Alternate
Cannon Michael, Director
Ric Ortega, Director

Division 4

John Varela, Director (via ZOOM)
Jeff Cattaneo, Director
Steve Wittry, Alternate for Joseph Tonascia

Division 5

Tom Birmingham, Director
Manny Amorelli, Director

Authority Representatives Present

Federico Barajas, Executive Director
Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer
Rebecca Akroyd, General Counsel
Rebecca Harms, Deputy General Counsel
Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Ray Tarka, Director of Finance
Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director
Jaime McNeil, Engineering Manager
Seth Harris, Water Operations Superintendent
Chauncey Lee, O&M Manager
Stewart Davis, IT Officer

Others in Attendance

Frances Mizuno, Mizuno Consulting

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Mike Wade, California Farm Water Coalition (via ZOOM)
 Tom Boardman, Westlands Water District (via ZOOM)
 Dana Jacobson, Valley Water
 Jerry Brown, Sites Project Authority
 John Wiersma, Henry Miller Reclamation District
 Joyce Machado, San Benito County Water District (via ZOOM)
 Steve Stadler, San Luis Water District (via ZOOM)
 Vince Gin, Valley Water (via ZOOM)
 Vince Lucchesi, Patterson Irrigation District (via ZOOM)

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

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

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

No additions or corrections.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

4. Agenda Items 4-7: Board to Consider: a) Draft July 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes b) Acceptance of the Financial & Expenditures Reports, c) Treasurer’s Report, d) Staff Reports.

On a motion of Director Ryan Ferguson, seconded by Alternate Director Lea Emmons, the Board accepted the July 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes, Financial Expenditures Reports, Treasurer’s Report, and Staff Reports. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Hansen, Emmons, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Azhderian, McCurdy, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Cattaneo, Wittry, Birmingham, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

ACTION ITEMS

5. Agenda Item 8: Board of Directors to Consider Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract, Execution of Construction Agreement for O’Neill Pumping-Generating Plant Power Transformer Rehabilitations, and Expenditure of up to \$3.56 million from the FY22 and FY23 EO&M Budgets; CEQA Exemption.

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave described the item, and reported that this item received a Board recommendation from both the Water Resources Committee and the Finance & Administration Committee on Monday. Arroyave briefly reviewed questions asked by the committees, and then introduced Engineering Manager Jaime McNeil.

McNeil reported that a 2019 condition assessment and value engineering study determined that the transformers are near the end of their useful life and are recommended for rehabilitation. McNeil reported that a hot oil reconditioning was completed in FY21 to ensure the transformers remained eligible for rehabilitation, and it was successful in prolonging the life of the transformers and provided time to properly design, solicit for, and complete the rehabilitation. McNeil reported that it is unknown how much time the transformer life was extended as a result of the hot oil reconditioning.

McNeil reported that on March 28, 2022, the Authority formally solicited proposals to provide all labor, equipment and services for the rehabilitation of four (4) single phase power transformers at the O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant. McNeil reported that the proposed resolution would authorize award of the contract and execution of a construction services agreement with NASS on substantially the same terms discussed with the Board, as well as such actions as may be required or authorized to effectuate that agreement. McNeil reported that authorizing execution of this construction agreement is for the rehabilitation of an existing facility and will not result in a direct change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change to the environment and will, therefore, be exempt from the provision of the California Environmental Quality Act per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(a)(b) and(d).

Water Operations Superintendent Seth Harris provided a brief overview of the operations plan, which was also reviewed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

After a brief discussion, Director Tom Birmingham made the motion, which was seconded by Director Dave Weisenberger, that the Board adopt the Resolution Authorizing Award of Contract, Execution of Construction Agreement for O'Neill Pumping-Generating Plant Power Transformer Rehabilitations, and Expenditure of up to \$3.56 million from the FY22 and FY23 EO&M Budgets; CEQA Exemption. The vote on the motion was as follows:

AYES:	Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Emmons, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Azhderian, McCurdy, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Cattaneo, Wittry, Birmingham, Amorelli
NAYS:	None
ABSTENTIONS:	None

6. Agenda Item 9: Board of Directors to Consider Adopting Resolution Authorizing Execution of First Amendment to the Long Term North to South Water Transfer Program Activity Agreement, and Authorizing Actions Related Thereto.

General Counsel Rebecca Akroyd reported that on October 4, 2012, the Authority adopted Resolution No. 2012-356, which authorized execution of the Long Term North to South Water Transfer Program Activity Agreement. Akroyd reported that eight Authority members are Activity Agreement Members. Akroyd reported that the Activity Agreement authorized preparation and defense of the Long-Term Water Transfers Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR), as well as annual coordination of water transfer activities. Akroyd reported that the Activity Agreement Members now desire to revise certain provisions governing the allocation and payment of litigation-related Activity Agreement Expenses. Akroyd reported that the revised allocation will take into consideration all transfers whether they are within the Authority Activity Agreement or by individual Activity Agreement Members that rely on the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR. Akroyd reported that in addition, the Activity Agreement Members desire to extend the term of the Activity Agreement by one year, to December 31, 2024, to have the term of the Activity Agreement be consistent with the term of the Long-Term Water Transfers EIS/EIR. Akroyd reported that upon adoption of the resolution, the Executive Director would execute the First Amendment to the Long Term North to South Water Transfer Program Activity Agreement. Akroyd reported that following execution by the eight Activity Agreement Members, the Water Authority would be authorized to implement the changes to the allocation of specified Activity Agreement Expenses, and to continue coordinating water transfer activities pursuant to the Activity Agreement through December 31, 2024. Akroyd reported that execution of the first amendment to the Long Term North to South Water Transfer Program Activity Agreement is an administrative and organizational action that will not result in a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect change to the environment, and thus is not a project as defined by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15378(b)(5).

On a motion of Director Tom Birmingham, seconded by Director Ryan Ferguson, the Board authorized execution of the First Amendment to the Long Term North to South Water Transfer Program Activity Agreement, and authorized actions related thereto. The vote on the motion was as follows:

- AYES: Weisenberger, Pierce, Hansen, Emmons, Ferguson, Bourdeau, Azhderian, McCurdy, White, Michael, Ortega, Varela, Cattaneo, Wittry, Birmingham, Amorelli
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

REPORT ITEMS

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

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that on June 7, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed revisions to its regulations for the designation of experimental populations of endangered and

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threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Petersen reported that Authority staff have drafted proposed comments and will be circulating to member agencies for coordination in advance of the comment deadline. Petersen reported that comments on the proposed rule are due by August 8, 2022.

Petersen reported that on July 26, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register to seek input to develop a proposed rule that would establish objectives, measurable performance standards, and criteria for use for species conservation banking consistent with the Endangered Species Act. Petersen reported that Authority staff is currently reviewing the proposed rule and comments are due on or before September 26.

Petersen reported that on July 28, Democrats on the Senate Appropriations Committee debuted their annual spending bills to fund the government in fiscal 2023, proposing a more than 10 percent increase in non-defense spending and a nearly 9 percent boost in defense funding. Senate appropriators have yet to announce plans to mark up any of the 12 bills. Petersen reported that without a cross-party agreement on overall totals and controversial policy issues, staff believes that a continuing spending resolution that keeps the government running on static funding levels well beyond the October 1 start of the new fiscal year is the most likely outcome.

Petersen reported that on July 27, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senator Joe Manchin announced an agreement on legislation that may be advanced through a process known as budget reconciliation, which would allow the legislation to bypass the Senate filibuster under special rules. Petersen reported that the proposal would raise an estimated \$739 billion, with the revenue going to fund climate and health initiatives, as well as to reduce the budget deficit. Petersen reported that the deal, if enacted, includes \$369 billion in energy and climate change spending, would reduce the deficit by \$306 billion, would allow Medicare to negotiate the cost of some prescription drugs, provide three years of Affordable Care Act subsidies, and make changes to the tax code. Petersen reported that the bill is being submitted to the parliamentarian to ensure it complies with the rules for the reconciliation process. Petersen reported that all Democrats would need to back the legislation given unified Republican opposition in the 50-50 Senate. Petersen reported that Senator Kyrsten Sinema is a potential holdout, and is negotiating for changes to the tax provisions and for the inclusion in an additional \$5 billion in drought response funding.

Petersen reported that on July 28, the Senate approved, by a 92-2 vote, the Water Resources Development Act, water resources measure to help the United States address flooding and other issues under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers. Petersen reported that the Senate passed the House bill with a substitute amendment, so the chambers will need to go to a conference committee to resolve differences in the legislation. Petersen reported that the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 is the latest round of biannual bills authorizing new Army Corps of Engineers projects and making policy tweaks for the agency. Petersen reported that the latest measure would authorize roughly \$40 billion in

new flood protection, navigation and ecosystem projects.

Dennis Cardoza, and Bill Ball provided additional information.

Petersen reported that on July 27, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Draft Environment Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project. Petersen reported that the Draft EIR was prepared by DWR as the lead agency to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act by evaluating a range of alternatives to the proposed project and disclosing potential environmental effects of the proposed project and alternatives, and associated mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts. Petersen reported the documents are hosted on the Draft EIR website along with accompanying informational materials that provide more information about the proposed project and the public review process, including public hearing details and commenting opportunities. Petersen reported that the materials are available for a 90-day public comment period and closes on October 27, 2022.

Petersen reported that the State Water Resources Control Board staff will hold a public workshop to provide interested parties information regarding the proposed Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for Restoration Projects Statewide (proposed General Order) and supporting California Environmental Quality Act consolidated Program Environmental Impact Report.

Petersen reported that on August 2, the State Board issued a new update on curtailment status of water rights and claims in the Delta watershed. Petersen reported that Curtailments are expected to continue through the summer and early fall until significant precipitation occurs. Petersen reported that the next curtailment status update will be provided by email and web posting no later than August 9, 2022.

Kristin Olsen provided additional information.

Petersen reported that Authority hosted a tour for American River contractors of the Jones Pumping Plant and the Tracy Fish Collection Facility. Petersen reported that the American River contractors issued an invitation to Board members and staff to visit the American River to tour various projects.

8. Agenda Item II: Executive Director's Report.

- a. **Sites Project** – Executive Director Federico Barajas introduced Jerry Brown, General Manager for Sites Project. Brown provided a status update on the Sites Project and answered questions by the Board.
- b. **San Luis Transmission Project (STP)** – Executive Director Federico Barajas briefly reviewed the item and then introduced Frances Mizuno to provide a status update.

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Mizuno reported Golden State Energy has expressed interest in preparing a Plan B proposal to potentially fund the project.

- c. **Special Yuba Workshop** – Executive Director Federico Barajas informed the Board that there will be a special Board workshop in Yuba County August 30th and 31st. Barajas reported that more detailed information is forthcoming.
- d. **Authority 30th Anniversary**- Executive Director Federico Barajas reported October marks the 30th anniversary for the Authority. Barajas reported that more information will be coming regarding 30th anniversary celebration.
- e. **DMC Subsidence Correction Project Review** – Executive Director Federico Barajas reported that there is a Design, Estimating and Construction (DEC) review scheduled to start next week.

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

Chief Operating Officer Pablo Arroyave reported that hyacinth coordination calls have resumed, and are focusing in on another possible helicopter treatment in September or October.

Arroyave reported that staff received an adjustment from Yuba Water Agency on the gross amount of CI transfer water and that it was reduced by about 300 af.

Arroyave reported that the aging infrastructure application process is starting, and the Bureau of Reclamation has scheduled an informational session to occur next week. Arroyave reported that staff is in the process of scheduling a Special Board Workshop in mid-September.

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

Westlands Water District's Tom Boardman reported on Shasta storage conditions and briefly discussed Reclamation's carry over and refill projections for 2023. Folsom storage was also reported which included an explanation of Reclamation's near-term release schedule.

Current Delta conditions were explained which included export pumping rates and the pertinent standards limiting pumping.

The accounting balance under the Coordinated Operations Agreement was stated along with a brief report on the plans to balance the account between the SWP and CVP.

CVP San Luis storage was reported including an explanation of the amount of 2022 CVP Project water currently in SLR.

Responding to a question from Chairman Cannon Michael, Boardman stated that Shasta storage could drop below 1 MAF in future dry years with a sufficiently dry year sequence. Boardman also stated that Reclamation's current practice of bolstering Shasta storage has included supply shortages to senior water contractors.

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

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

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

- a. **State and Federal Contractors Water Agency (SFCWA)**

No report.

- b. **Family Farm Alliance (FFA)**

Report included in the packet.

- c. **Farm Water Coalition.**

Mike Wade described multiple media engagements due to the drought. Wade reported that they are working closely with the Valley ag coalition working on education material.

- d. **Association of California Water Agencies**

Director John Varela provided a brief update. Varela reported that the Fall ACWA Conference is schedule Nov29 - Dec 1 in Palm Springs.

- e. **Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that there is a Blueprint Board meeting schedule for August 18.

- f. **SJV CAP**

Water Policy Director Scott Petersen reported that the Term Sheet was developed, and is included in the Water Resources Committee packet.

- G. **CVPWA**

No report.

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

Alternate Director Ara Azhderian reported that Mike Stearns is retiring August 9.

14. **Agenda Items 17-18: Closed Session Report.**

Chair Cannon Michael adjourned the open session to address the items listed on the Closed Session Agenda at approximately 11:01 a.m. Upon return to open session at approximately 11:13 a.m., Chair Cannon Michael stated that no reportable actions were taken.

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15. *Agenda Item 19: Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)*

No reports.

16. *Agenda Item 20: Adjournment.*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:14 a.m.



MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Darlene Neves, Supervisor of Operational Accounting
Raymond Tarka, Director of Finance

SUBJECT: September 2022 BOD Meeting Report - Finance
Fiscal Year - March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023

DATE: September 15, 2022

Attached are the Financial & Expenditures Reports.



September 15, 2022

To: Pablo Arroyave, Chief Operating Officer

From: Bob Martin, Facilities O&M Director

Subject: O&M Report for August 2022

Operations Department

The C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) operated with 3 units for the entire month of August. The average rate of pumping for the JPP was 2,708 cfs during August.

Total pumping at the JPP for August was 166,526 acre-feet. The O'Neill Pump/Generating Plant (OPP) generated 2,274 acre-feet, and pumped 36,992 acre-feet during the month of August. Zero acre-feet was pumped at the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Plant (DCI) and zero acre-feet was reversed from the California Aqueduct to the DMC for the month of August.

The Federal share in the San Luis Reservoir at the end of August was 185,265 acre-feet as compared to 24,888 acre-feet for August 2021.

During August, releases from Friant Dam ranged from 249 to 290 cfs with zero AF entering the Mendota Pool. Flows past the Mendota Dam for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) were zero AF for August.

Canal Operations staff performed open channel and closed-pipe flow measurements, routine patrols, wasteway inspections, flow meter cleaning, bi-weekly meter readings, water samples, well soundings, meter retrofitting, and routine meter maintenance during the month of August. Coordination of flow measurement was conducted with consultants for the City of Turlock related to the Trihalomethane (THM) study for the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program (NVRWP) discharge. Coordinated flow measurement with USGS on the DMC was also performed during the month of August.

Control Operations switching/clearance placements performed this month:

- C-22-JP-19D JPP Unit 4 annual maintenance/rewind
- C-22-ON-26 OPP Unit 6 annual maintenance
- C-22-ON-34 OPP Unit 4 control shaft repair
- C-22-ON-35 OPP Unit 4 distributor shaft repair
- C-22-JPP-39 JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance
- C-22-JPP-39A JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance
- C-22-JPP-43 JPP Unit 5 accumulator
- C-22-DM-44 DMC MP 23.94R inspection
- C-22-DM-45 DMC MP 53.46R repair flow meter bracket

- C-22-DM-45 DMC MP 58.90 meter well repair
- C-22-ON-47 OPP Unit 6 annual maintenance
- C-22-ON-48 OPP Unit 3 annual maintenance
- C-22-JPP-49 JPP Unit 6 annual maintenance
- C-22-JPP-50 JPP Unit 6 suction elbow maintenance
- C-22-JPP-51 JPP Unit 5 slip Ring inspection
- C-22-JPP-49A JPP Unit 6 annual maintenance
- C-22-JPP-51A JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance
- C-22-JPP-52 JPP Unit 6 accumulator tank maintenance
- C-22-DCI-53 DCI discharge valve wiring

Plant Maintenance Department

The Plant Maintenance crews worked on the following projects this month:

Electrical/C&I Staff:

- JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance
- JPP Unit 3 annunciator pit repair
- JPP Unit 6 AC/DC lube oil repair
- JPP Unit 4 thrust bearing RTD
- JPP Unit 1 local control panel trip investigation and repair
- TFO Control Building office improvements
- JPP Unit 5 slip ring inspection and repair
- JPP Unit 1 cooling water MOV
- TFO IR inspection
- TFO Facilities portable electric hand tool testing
- TFO UPS battery PM
- DMC Check 1 upstream level detector repair
- JPP Discharge tube flowmeter replacement
- TFO station service Battery PM
- TFO phone service malfunction repair
- JPP Unit 5 AC/DC lube oil pumps
- JPP Breakroom HVAC remodel and installation
- Volta groundwater well rewire and repairs
- TFO entry and exit gate PM's (USBR and SLDMWA)

Mechanical Staff:

- JPP trash rack cleaning
- JPP Unit 4 rewind support
- JPP industrial water pump #1
- JPP Unit 1 MOV malfunction repair
- JPP Unit Kinney strainer repair
- JPP Unit 5 slip ring
- JPP Trash rack PM
- JPP Unit oil sample collection and analyzes
- JPP Unit 5 annual maintenance
- JPP Air wash system leak repair
- TFO Control Building office improvements
- JPP breakroom AC & ducting removal
- Sandblast & paint spray truck body

- JPP 80/20 ton crane PM
- JPP 21 ton bridge crane PM
- OPP Unit 3 annual maintenance
- OPP Unit 4 annual maintenance
- OPP Unit 6 annual maintenance
- OPP Unit 6 stuffing box water supply solenoid replacement
- OPP Unit 6 bottom bowl drain valve repairs
- OPP HVAC PM and repairs
- OPP Unit 3 RTD calibration
- DCI access door repairs

USBR Support Services

Water Authority crews performed the following work at USBR facilities this month:

- TFF trash rake gripper pin fabrication (12)
- DXC rodent inspection and bait station monitoring

Civil Maintenance Department

The Civil Maintenance crews worked on the following projects this month:

- DMC turnout gate replacement and inspection at MP 23.94R, 53.46R, and 58.90L
- Grading of DMC and VWW operating roads
- USBR assistance with rodent baiting program at Delta Cross Channel
- OPP mechanical maintenance support
- JPP mechanical maintenance support
- Install and paint new handrails on DMC turnout steps
- Garbage collection on DMC and wasteways
- Chemical and mechanical weed control on DMC and SLD
- Maintenance and repairs to float lines, signs, fences, guard rails and gates
- Prep and paint over graffiti on farm bridges and check structures
- Fill in voids behind liner and erosion repair along the DMC
- New employee Class A driver training
- TFO Drainage Improvement Project
- San Luis Drain drainage improvements
- Hauled motor control centers to Lindsey (FWA)
- Assisted with the annual crane recertification at JPP
- Completed construction of the new SCADA office

Engineering Department

The Engineering staff worked on the following O&M projects this month:

- OPP Unit 1 enclosure tube repair
- OPP Unit 3 breaker charging coil repair
- OPP Unit 4 distributor leak repair
- JPP spare shaft sleeve purchase (Special Project)
- TSY UZ11A switchgear building repairs
- DMC seepage monitoring @ MP 20.15L
- Survey & Engineering support for TFO Drainage Improvement Project
- Data management of well readings and creation of Warren Act well hydrographs

- JPP breakroom AC upgrade
- OPP cooling water strainer purchase (Special Project)
- JPP Unit 5 slip ring repairs
- DCI U3 & U4 pump installations engineering support and SCADA development
- OPP Unit 3 generator switchgear transfer switch repair
- JPP Accusonic flowmeter panel upgrades
- New SCADA office
- OPP SCADA hardware troubleshooting
- Check 1 level detector troubleshooting

2022 DMC Pumpback Project

- Finalized plans, and documented work completed
- Continued working to get final invoice

Land Management Activity Summary

The Engineering staff issued six (6) access permits this month:

- Access permit P2302009 was issued to the City of Patterson to collect soil and structural samples for the Rogers Road Bridge Project at Milepost 39.20 on the Delta-Mendota Canal right-of-way.
- Emergency access permit P2302016 was issued to Panoche Water District to repair the existing leaky underground pipeline located at Milepost 95.50 on the Delta-Mendota Canal.
- Access permit P2304017 was issued to Del Puerto Water District to temporarily store commodities on the Delta-Mendota Canal right-of-way from Milepost 48.96 to Milepost 65.37.
- Emergency access permit P2302018 was issued to Del Puerto Water District to remove existing motor and pump for repairs located at Milepost 58.90-L on the Delta-Mendota Canal.
- Access permit P2302020 was issued to Del Puerto Water District to draft water from the Delta Mendota Canal using water trucks located at Milepost 39.20-R.
- Access permit P2302021 was issued to Del Puerto Water District to abandon existing turnout at Milepost 40.45-L.

The Engineering staff were involved with the following land management projects this month:

- Development of Land Management requirements for adjacent developments
- Orestimba Creek Recharge Project
- City of Tracy commercial developments
- City of Patterson – Roger Road developments & Baldwin Ranch comments
- Nees Avenue Bridge Replacement
- Santa Nella County WD pipeline crossing review
- PGE pipeline replacement at MP92.73

Safety Department

The Safety Department worked on the following items this month:

- Provided Job Hazard Analysis support for the crews.
- Conduct Weekly Safety Tailgate talks with maintenance and operations crews.
- Sent out Weekly Safety Tailgate Topics – 8-1 Hazardous Materials/Waste, 8-2 Housekeeping and Fire Prevention, 8-3 NPFA 704 Placards, 8-4 DOT Emergency Guidebook, 8-5 Spill Response
- Provided safety message for August 2022 Newsletter – 8-2022 Drowning Prevention
- Conducted quarterly safety facility inspection
- Conducted semi-annual fall protection harness and lanyard inspections
- Conducted permit required confined space authorized employee training

Procurement and Work & Asset Management Department

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

- Continued training and support with Warehouse Inventory Control Clerk and Buyer
- WAM Manager started 3-way match testing in NetSuite
- Completed first training session with Affirma on the NetSuite Advanced Procurement Module, WAM Manager will begin further testing in September
- Hazardous waste pickup took place on 8/18/22
- Began developing FY24 department budget
- First round of dead stock evaluated and complete in the Warehouse
- Resolved issues with NetSuite pertaining to vendor bill credits
- Contracts/PO Agreements/LOA's Status Update:
 - F22-OPP-059 - OPP Main Transformer Rehabilitation. Rejected all change requests from NASS resulting in NASS withdrawing bid. SLDMWA and BOR staff held strategy meeting and determined to send back out for bid. Staff began working on Letter of Interest and will be posting to Public Purchase and other sites. Official RFP anticipated release date in January 2023
 - F23-LFO-008- 3-year agreement executed for NPDES Permit Consulting
 - F22-JPP-071- UZ11A Switchgear Bushing Box Replacement - Board approved single source on 2/10. Contract executed 4/14 with project ongoing and awaiting materials. Received update that parts are behind schedule and project will be delayed
 - F23-TFO-006 Landscape Maintenance- released RFQ to multiple vendors for 3 year (+ two 1 year options to renew) agreement. Only one quote/bid received at due date of 8/9. Negotiations in place due to price tripling as a result of prevailing wage requirement.
 - Began work on amendment and task order change orders for F19-19-011 Engineering Services Agreement. PO3690
 - Issued PO for former employee Steve Larsen for technical knowledge service on OPP Value Planning Study

Ongoing:

- Purchasing in support of the O&M crews, and maintaining/replenishing warehouse stock
- Warehouse receiving, stocking, and distribution
- Invoicing/vendor bills/vendor credits processing, invoice disputes

- Janitorial cleaning & disinfecting per COVID-19 guidelines
- Contract Management/Administration activities, including bi-weekly contract update meetings with Engineering staff
- Developing/implementing purchasing/procurement and asset/inventory procedures/boilerplate templates
- Bi-weekly WAM staff meetings to discuss updates/issues
- Contract invoice payment reviews, invoice disputes as needed, invoice payments
- Continuous testing for improvements to procedures in NetSuite as well as ongoing issues related to NetSuite constraints
- Development of Blanket Contracts and Blanket Purchase Orders/Agreements
- Reviewing/closing out old/open PO's in NetSuite

Information Technology Department

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

- NetSuite
 - User and Administration
 - Bi-Weekly Implementation Team meetings
- Assisted with monthly FAC, WRC and BOD meetings with Zoom
- Desktop support calls.
- Planning server refresh
- Planning laptop refresh
- Planning upgrading/replacing copiers
- Monitor Symantec Anti-Virus management console
- Security updates on servers
- Monitor firewall
 - Purchased replacement/upgrade firewall to deploy September 2022
- Update additional AV security settings
- Multi-Factor Authentication vendor SurePass
- Follow-up meeting with Active Directory threat defense vendor
- Additional meeting with Protective DNS vendor
- 2nd draft of Cyber Security Incidence Response Plan
- First draft Disaster Recovery Plan
- First draft Business Continuity Plan
- Cyber Security purchase requirements list developed. IT and SCADA
- In-house Cyber Security technical team selected and approved
- New phones for Sacramento Office Avaya – completed
- FirstNet deploying iPhones and iPad SIMS
- Completed mass hard drive data destruction to DOD standards for e-cycle process
- MDM IBM (MAAS360) training and deployment
- Reviewed Infagard dispatches – FBI Cyber Security group.
- Cyber Security training and webinars
- WAM servers, prepping for redeployment
- EO&M 10-year budget research, edit and complete for FY24
- Deployed new workstations to OPP
- Repair of failed Avaya phone system in Tracy
- Assist SCADA department with developing 10-year EO&M budget
- Closed Ring Central account

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- Research and updates to O&M FY24 Budget for IT (5110)
- Configure and deploy laptop to Water Operations for River Surveyor
- Configure and deploy 3 laptops to Electric Shop
- Email server repairs after crash

HR Department

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

General Administrative Activities:

- Active Recruitments:
 - Hydro Electric Electrician, Tracy (continued recruitment)
 - Mechanical (Plant) Engineer, Tracy (continued recruitment)
 - Relief Control Operator, Tracy (internal recruitment)
- Background checks for PIV cards (continuing)
- New hire orientations

Trainings:

- Remain up to date with COVID-19 compliance
 - Corona Virus 101 Training (new hires)
- Cyber Security Training (all staff)
- Sexual Harassment Prevention Training (all staff)
- Defensive Driving Training (all staff)

Government Reporting:

- Merced County Public Health COVID Reporting (as needed)
- Alameda County Public Health COVID Reporting (as needed)

Ongoing:

- COVID protocols
- FMLA notices/follow ups
- COBRA notices/follow ups
- Worker's Comp follow ups
- Monthly safety points distribution
- Health benefits eligibility/employee assistance
- Open Enrollment for health benefits
- Maintain OSHA logs for calendar year
- PIV cards (USBR)
- Wellness program

EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL (DMC)

Bridge Abutment Repair at MP 92.73 (FY21)

Status: The abutment repair is on hold until PG&E relocates the pipeline. 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, and PG&E will be removing the existing pipeline from the bridge and HDD install a new pipeline under the canal. Final plans have been completed by PG&E and SLDMWA is reviewing contractor submittals to issue an Access Permit. PG&E's contractor is planning to mobilize September 19th to begin installation. Once the new line is installed, the old pipeline will be removed from the MP92.73 bridge. The project is scheduled to conclude in November 2022. SLDMWA will be performing erosion and liner repairs under the bridge abutment once PG&E demobilizes. SLDMWA is planning for the repairs to occur in early 2023. The bridge was recently closed due to safety concerns and will remain closed until repairs are complete.

DMC Subsidence Correction Project

Status: SLDMWA is continuing to work closely with Reclamation on the DMC Subsidence Correction Project. CDM Smith was awarded the \$2.4M contract to complete the Feasibility Study, with the Notice to Proceed issued on February 10, 2022. The Feasibility Report is expected to be completed in approximately one year, with certain environmental permitting extending longer if needed. The Final Draft Report is scheduled to be completed by 3/6/2023. CDM subconsultants submitted the 1st Administrative Draft of the EA/IS and both SLDMWA and USBR provided numerous comments. CDM has held coordination meetings with commenters and is progressing the EA/IS to the 2nd Admin Draft. The 1st Admin Draft of the Feasibility Report has been issued with comments due on 9/20. SLDMWA staff participated in the USBR Design Estimating and Construction (DEC) review that included a site visit of the DMC, and kick off meeting, and debriefing meetings. The DEC team is made up of a series of subject matter experts relevant to the project whose intent is to review the details of the design considerations and identify fatal flaws, maintain USBR credibility, and to provide recommendations for additional analysis. Lastly, In support of the feasibility analysis SLDMWA continues to provide operational and maintenance information as requested by USBR. USBR was interested in conducting a trial lower DMC shutdown to inform the final design of any constraints and conduct a visual inspection of the canal invert however this task was delayed with the DEC review occurring this month. Staff will continue to work with USBR to determine if a shutdown is still needed and if the request can be accommodated from an operational perspective.

The DWR Funding Agreement was executed in April for \$3.3M to partially fund Final Design, which includes the future phases of the Geotechnical Investigation.

EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

The SLDMWA continues to provide support to Reclamation as they manage the construction contract with Unico Services to install the two additional pumps at the DMC/CA Intertie Pumping Plant (DCI). The completion of the project continues to be delayed due to supply chain issues in obtaining air valves and exploring all resources to be complete by mid October. SLDMWA attended a site visit to DCI with USBR and Unico to work out final details, and Unico should be submitting a final schedule soon.

DMC Turnout Flowmeter Upgrade Program – Phase 2 (FY22)

Status: SLDMWA is in contract with McCrometer for the purchase of 62 Water Specialty flowmeters equipped with telemetry through the SLDMWA single-source procedure. The contract was executed after the January 2022 Board meeting.. All 62 flowmeters have been received. Water Operations are working on the installation and monitoring of the newly recieved flowmeters. Phase 2 is considered to be completed from an Engineering and Project management standpoint.

DMC Turnout Flowmeter Upgrade Program – Phase 3

Status: Engineering staff is coordinating with Water Operations for the design data for the flowmeters required with this phase. These measurements will be supplied to McCrometer in order to obtain a final quote and a single-source contract will be pursued. Contract is expected to be executed in Fall 2022.

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

JPP Excitation System & Control Cabinet Modernization (FY18)

Status: SLDMWA is currently in contract with Reclamation through a Letter of Agreement. Reclamation will be providing the Technical Specifications, along with an Engineer's Estimate. The 60% design is currently being peer reviewed by USBR Denver Office (TSC) and is expected to be sent to the SLDMWA in mid September. The 90% plans and estimate is scheduled for completion in October. Recent design topics include the preferred equipment and software requirements for SCADA, hazardous materials management, and excitation cabinet and power transformer general equipment layout.

JPP Wear Ring Purchase (FY22)

Status: No activity

JPP Unit No. 4 Rewind

Status: The project is underway and on schedule. There have been some quality control issues with some of the stator coils during the install. All suspect coils have been removed and extensive testing is being done to ensure that the finished product will be of high quality. The stator rewind phase is complete and the stator core passed all required tests. NEC is currently installing the refurbished rotor poles onto the rotor. NEC is scheduled to be completed with their portion of the job on September 21.

EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

JPP Unit No. 3 Rewind

Status: The initial 40% payment to NEC has been made, and SLDMWA has been reimbursed by USBR for the payment. This allows NEC to purchase the materials to manufacture the stator laminations. Production of laminations is scheduled to start in October.

TSY Switchgear Building UZ11A Repairs (Unplanned Project)

Status: A ground fault incident that damaged the main feeder switchgear and bushing box in switchgear building UZ11A occurred in October 2021. SLDMWA electricians have made partial repairs and investigations have been performed by Reclamation's TSC and Powell (Powell is the company that designed and built the switchgear building). Building UZ11A is currently energized via adjacent switchgear building UZ8A (or UZ6A depending on circumstance). The contract for Powell to provide the repairs and replacement has been executed with the majority of submittals reviewed and approved. In August, Powell informed SLDMWA that they could not furnish the bushing box for September, and requested to reschedule the repairs. The cancellation for the outage (9/7 – 9/28) was sent to CVO and WAPA. The repairs and system outage is tentatively rescheduled for April 2023.

JPP Concrete Slab by Trashrake Dumpster (FY23)

Status: Project is currently in the planning and design phase. A geotechnical investigation was completed by Terracon to characterize the subgrade to ensure an optimum design is pursued. Staff is currently awaiting the final Geotechnical report in order to prepare the Technical Specifications formally solicit. Construction is tentatively scheduled to occur in Spring 2023.

O'NEILL PUMPING/GENERATING PLANT (OPP)

Main Transformers Rehabilitation/Replacement

Status: A Transformer Condition Assessment was performed by TSC in 2019. The transformers were in such poor condition that it was recommended that the transformers were to be refurbished or replaced. A Value Planning Study was conducted in 2020 and concluded to refurbish/rehabilitate the transformers in short term and plan to replace the transformers in the future. Emergency measures were also performed which included replacing (3) obsolete HV bushings (2019) and hot oil reconditioning of the in-service transformers (2020) to ensure transformers remained eligible for rehabilitating. Quarterly oil monitoring continues and the latest test results in August was acceptable. Next oil monitoring will be in late November.

SLDMWA formerly solicited for the rehabilitation of the transformers in March and received one proposal. SLDMWA and Reclamation worked closely to review the initial proposal and obtained Board approval in August to award the contract pending a satisfactorily revised proposal score and successful negotiations with the contractor. Ultimately, the contractor was unable to resolve the issues with the proposal and opted to withdraw their proposal on June 8. After accepting

EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

the withdrawal of the proposal, SLDMWA regrouped and evaluated the lessons learned and is now taking a more proactive approach to attract greater contractor interest that should lead to additional proposals. A formal request for Letters of Interest will be issued in September notifying Contractors of the upcoming RFP. The RFP is tentatively scheduled to be advertised in January 2023, with construction scheduled to occur April/May of 2024, pending favorable hydrologic conditions for the outage.

Arc Flash Hazard Analysis, Facility Rating, & Protective Relays Reviews (Electrical Equipment Periodic Reviews) (FY22)

Status: No activity this month. The Facility Rating Review has been received. The personal protective grounds were upgraded per recommendations from the Facility Rating Review. Performed an inspection of the unit busses. A report of the findings will be provided to TSC per recommendation. The Arc Flash Hazard Analysis final report has been received. The Protective Relays Review is still pending delivery of the final report.

OPP Pump Bowl Modification & Replacement (Design and USBR Approval)

Status: A value planning study has been scheduled for the week of September 19. Staff is currently preparing the design presentation that will be presented to the study team.

UPS Battery Charging System Replacement (FY22)

Status: Staff is evaluating whether or not to pursue this job separately from the transformer rehabilitation (April/May 2024). Initially it was planned to purchase the equipment 6 months prior to the start of the Main Transformer Rehabilitation project in order to take advantage of the planned outage, however plans may continue for an April 2023 installation.

OPP Station Service Backup Battery System Replacement (FY23)

Status: This project, along with the UPS Battery Charging System Replacement will be done concurrently. It was planned to purchase the equipment 6 months prior to the start of the Main Transformer Rehabilitation project in order to take advantage of the planned outage, however plans may continue for an April 2023 installation.

TRACY FACILITIES (TFO)

TFO Domestic Water Treatment Plant Replacement (FY20)

Status: No activity this month. Raw water quality test results were provided to package plant vendors for quotes. Vendor quotes received will be evaluated for completeness for future selection. Treatment Plant Drainage: SLDMWA Engineers proposed modifications to the drainage design to prevent ponding in and around the WTP building. Final design and review has been completed and construction by SLDMWA staff began on July 26th.

EXTRAORDINARY O&M & CAPITAL PROJECTS

MULTIPLE FACILITIES

TFO/LBFO/DCI Arc Flash Hazard Analysis (FY22)

Status: Received the project management plan from TSC in August 2021. The LOA process was completed this month, with Reclamation receiving the funds to begin work on the analysis. The budget account for TSC has been created. TSC has scheduled the site surveys for the week of 9/19 – 9/23.

SCADA System Evaluation (FY23)

Status: SCADA staff are currently moving into their new office and getting situated. Continuing site discovery and documentation of the existing SCADA System. The development of controls and SCADA standards is in process. Research is being conducted on how best (With major supply chain issues) to upgrade the system to current standards and then maintain the system with a newly developed 10-year plan. Communication is also underway to determine if an existing fiber line owned and operated by DWR could be utilized for SLD MWA communication. Staff is evaluating and developing operational technology (OT) cyber security needs and response plan. Work continues building a controlled area to evaluate and test new hardware and software implementations before going live. Negotiating with vendors on software licensing and hardware availability is ongoing.



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

DATE: September 12, 2022

RE: Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities

Background

This memorandum is provided to briefly summarize the current status of various agency processes regarding water policy activities, including but not limited to the (1) Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, including environmental compliance; (2) State Water Resources Control Board action; (3) San Joaquin River Restoration Program; (4) Delta conveyance; (5) Reclamation action; (6) Delta Stewardship Council action; (7) San Joaquin Valley Water Blueprint and San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Plan.

Policy Items

Reinitiation of Consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

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

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

The biological opinions carefully evaluated the impact of the proposed CVP and SWP water operations on imperiled species such as salmon, steelhead and Delta smelt. FWS and NMFS documented impacts and worked closely with Reclamation to modify its proposed operations to minimize and offset those impacts, with the goals of providing water supply for project users and protecting the environment.

Both FWS and NMFS concluded that Reclamation's proposed operations will not jeopardize threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their critical habitat. These conclusions were reached for

several reasons – most notably because of significant investments by many partners in science, habitat restoration, conservation facilities including hatcheries, as well as protective measures built into Reclamation's and DWR's proposed operations.

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

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

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

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

On September 30, 2021, Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant sent a letter to U.S. FWS Regional Director Paul Souza and NMFS Regional Administrator Barry Thom requesting reinitiation of consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP. Pursuant to 50 CFR § 402.16, Reclamation indicated that reinitiation is warranted based on anticipated modifications to the Proposed Action that may cause effects to listed species or designated critical habitats not analyzed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinions, dated October 21, 2019. To address the review of agency actions required by Executive Order 13990 and to voluntarily reconcile CVP operating criteria with operational requirements of the SWP under the California Endangered Species Act, Reclamation and DWR indicated that they anticipate a modified Proposed Action and associated biological effects analysis that would result in new Biological Opinions for the CVP and SWP.

Following this action, on October 20, 2021, the SLDMWA sent a letter to Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant requesting participation in the reinitiation of consultation pursuant to Section 4004 of the WIIN Act and in the NEPA process as either a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency.

On February 26, 2022, the Department of the Interior released a Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Hold Public Scoping Meetings on the 2021 Endangered Species Act Reinitiation of Section 7 Consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project². In response to this, on March 30, 2022, the SLDMWA submitted a comment letter highlighting actions for Reclamation to consider during preparation of the EIS.

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

² <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-02-28/pdf/2022-04160.pdf>

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During May 2022, Reclamation issued draft copies of the Knowledge Base Papers for the following management topics and requested supplementary material review and comments, to which the Authority submitted comment letters in June:

1. Spring-run Juvenile Production Estimate- Spring-run Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
2. Steelhead Juvenile Production Estimate-Steelhead Survival Knowledge Base Document, April 2022
3. Old and Middle River Reverse Flow Management – Smelt, Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead Migration and Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
4. Central Valley Tributary Habitat Restoration Effects on Salmonid Growth and Survival Knowledge Based Paper, March 2022
5. Delta Spring Outflow Management Smelt Growth and Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
6. Pulse Flow Effects on Salmonid Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
7. Summer and Fall Habitat Management Actions – Smelt Growth and Survival Knowledge Base Document, May 2022
8. Shasta Cold Water Pool Management – End of September Storage Knowledge Base Document, May 2022

Subsequent to the Knowledge Base Paper review, a Scoping Meeting was held, to which Water Authority staff provided comments, resulting in the release of a Scoping Report³ by Reclamation in June 2022. Currently, Reclamation is working to analyze and prepare Initial Alternatives.

Current Milestones

- September 2022 – Initial Alternatives Report
- December 2022 – Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Early 2023 – Public Draft EIS/Biological Assessment
- February 2024 – Record of Decision

Potential Initial Alternatives

Reclamation has indicated in a September meeting of Interested Parties that the following Alternatives are under consideration for the Initial Alternatives Report:

- No Action
- Six-Agency Alternative
- Potential NRDC, PCFFA, Bay Keeper Alternative
- Potential Water Agency Alternative
- Additional Alternative(s), if necessary

Exploratory Modeling

Concurrent with the development of the EIS and BA, Reclamation is conducting Exploratory Modeling to assist in the development of initial alternatives for the Biological Assessment. Recent discussions have

³ <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo/docs/lto-scoping-report-2022.pdf>

involved updates to the Shasta Operations Analysis, focused on the relationship between reservoir carryover and fish mortality.

Upcoming Coordination

- Reclamation will distribute/post the Initial Alternatives Report (IAR) for Interested Party consideration
- Reclamation does not intend to seek comments nor revise the IAR
- Agencies and Interested Parties may use the IAR to inform formulation of alternatives
- The public draft EIS will be the avenue for comments to Reclamation
- Cooperating agencies will receive an administrative draft of the EIS

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Activity

Water Unavailability Methodology and Revised Draft Emergency Curtailment Regulation

Background

On August 3, 2021, the State Water Board adopted an emergency regulation authorizing the curtailment of diversions when water is determined to be unavailable at a water right holder's or claimant's priority of right. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 876– 879.2.) The regulation was approved by the Office of Administrative Law and went into effect upon filing with the Secretary of State on August 19, 2021. The emergency regulation remains in effect for up to one year. The State Water Board plans to consider revision and re-adoption of this emergency regulation on July 20, 2022, in advance of the expiration date of the current regulation.

On April 19, 2022, the State Water Board released draft proposed revisions to the emergency regulation and methodology revisions and solicited public input on both in writing by May 19, 2022, and orally at a public workshop on May 12, 2022. Based on those comments, updates to the methodology and draft emergency regulation were developed.

On July 20, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) revised and readopted an emergency curtailment and reporting regulation for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) watershed. The State Water Board has released a Notice of Proposed Emergency Rulemaking⁴ for the revised and readopted emergency regulation and has submitted the emergency regulation to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review and approval.

The finding of emergency, informative digest, and fiscal impact statement associated with the proposed emergency regulation are available on the Delta Drought webpage.

Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update

Background

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

⁴ Available at <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/delta/docs/2022/2022-proposed-rulemaking.pdf>

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amendment is focused on the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta eastside tributaries (including the Calaveras, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne rivers), Delta outflows, and interior Delta flows (“Phase II” or “Sacramento/Delta Plan Amendment”).

During the December 12, 2018 Water Board Meeting, the Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) and Department of Fish and Wildlife presented proposed “Voluntary Settlement Agreements” (“VSAs”) on behalf of Reclamation, DWR, and the public water agencies they serve to resolve conflicts over proposed amendments to the Bay-Delta Plan update.⁵ The State Water Board did not adopt the proposed VSAs in lieu of the proposed Phase 1 amendments, but as explained below, directed staff to consider the proposals as part of a future Delta-wide proposal.

Phase 1 Status: The State Water Board adopted a resolution⁶ to adopt amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and adopt the Final Substitute Environmental Document during its December 12, 2018 public meeting.

Most recently, on July 18, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP)⁷ and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Regulation to Implement Lower San Joaquin River Flows (LSJR) and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan).

The purpose of the NOP is: (1) to advise responsible and trustee agencies, Tribes, and interested organizations and persons, that the State Water Board or Board will be the lead agency and will prepare a draft EIR for a proposed regulation implementing the LSJR flow and southern Delta salinity components of the 2018 Bay-Delta Plan, and (2) to seek input on significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be addressed in the EIR. For responsible and trustee agencies, the State Water Board requests the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information related to your agency's area of statutory responsibility that must be include in the draft EIR.

In response to the release of the NOP, the Water Authority and member agencies provided scoping comments⁸.

Phase 2 Status: In the State Water Board’s resolution adopting the Phase 1 amendments, the Water Board directed staff to assist the Natural Resources Agency in completing a Delta watershed-wide agreement, including potential flow and non-flow measures for the Tuolumne River, and associated analyses no later than March 1, 2019. Staff were directed to incorporate the Delta watershed-wide

⁵ Available at <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Blogs/Voluntary-Settlement-Agreement-Meeting-Materials-Dec-12-2018-DWR-CDFW-CNRA.pdf>.

⁶ Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2018/rs2018_0059.pdf.

⁷ Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/notices/20220715-implementation-nop-and-scoping-dwr-baydelta.pdf

⁸ See Appendix

agreement as an alternative for a future, comprehensive Bay-Delta Plan update that addresses the reasonable protection of beneficial uses across the Delta watershed, with the goal that comprehensive amendments may be presented to the State Water Board for consideration as early as possible after December 1, 2019.

On March 1, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted documents⁹ to the State Water Board that reflect progress since December to flesh-out the previously submitted framework to improve conditions for fish through targeted river flows and a suite of habitat-enhancing projects including floodplain inundation and physical improvement of spawning and rearing areas.

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

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

On December 8, the State Water Resources Control Board heard an information item on upcoming actions to update and implement the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Sacramento San Joaquin Delta.

Schedule

Biological Goals

Past Activities

- January 2019 – Independent Science Advisory Panel: Concepts and Ideas for Developing Biological Goals for the Bay-Delta Plan
- September 2019 – Draft Initial Biological Goals for the LSJR for public comment

Current Activities

- Completion of revisions based on public comment to produce a draft Final Biological Goals Report

Future Activities

- Winter/Spring 2022 – Release draft Final Biological Goals Report
- Winter/Spring 2022 – Public Workshop & comment
- Summer 2022 – Board consideration of adoption

⁹ Available at http://resources.ca.gov/docs/voluntary-agreements/2019/Complete_March_1_VA_Submission_to_SWRCB.pdf

LSJR Flow/SD Salinity Implementation Next Steps Assuming Regulation Path (Phase 1)

Spring 2022 – Spring 2023

- Initiate CEQA process
- Draft environmental document and public comment
- Notice of draft regulation
- Final environmental document

Summer 2023

- State Water Board consideration of approval
- Notice of final regulation
- Submission to Office of Administrative Law

Sac/Delta Update: Key Milestones

- Early 2022: expected submittal of proposed voluntary agreement
- Winter – Summer 2022: development of Scientific Basis Report for any voluntary agreement, including public review and comment
- Fall 2022: Draft Staff Report public review and comment
- Winter 2023: Public workshop on Draft Staff Report
- Early Fall 2023: Response to comments and development of proposed final changes to the Bay-Delta Plan
- Late Fall 2023: Board consideration of adoption

Voluntary Agreements

On March 29, 2022, members of the Newsom Administration joined federal and local water leaders in announcing the signing of a memorandum of understanding¹⁰ that advances integrated efforts to improve ecosystem and fisheries health within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta. State and federal agencies also announced an agreement¹¹ specifically with the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors on an approach for 2022 water operations on the Sacramento River.

Both announcements represent a potential revival of progress toward what has been known as “Voluntary Agreements,” an approach the Authority believes is superior to a regulatory approach to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

The broader MOU outlines terms for an eight-year program that would provide substantial new flows for the environment to help recover salmon and other native fish. The terms also support the creation of new and restored habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide significant funding for environmental improvements and water purchases, according to a joint news release from the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). Local water agency managers signing the MOU

¹⁰ Available at <https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/NewsRoom/Voluntary-Agreement-Package-March-29-2022.pdf>

¹¹ Available at <https://calepa.ca.gov/2022/03/29/informational-statement-state-federal-agencies-and-sacramento-river-settlement-contractors-agree-on-approach-for-2022-water-operations-on-the-sacramento-river/>

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have committed to bringing the terms of the MOU to their boards of directors for their endorsement and to work to settle litigation over engaged species protections in the Delta.

On June 16, the SLDMWA, Friant Water Authority and Tehama Colusa Canal Authority signed onto the VA MOU.

Racial Equity Plan

After adopting the Racial Equity Resolution, in May, community partners and State Water Board management and staff came together for Visioning and Strategy retreats, as well as a series of Action Planning workshops to inform the development of a draft Racial Equity Action Plan by the State Water Board staff. Additionally, the State Water Board staff held additional workshops throughout California in July to receive additional public input into initial goals for the draft Racial Equity Action Plan. It is anticipated that the draft Racial Equity Action Plan will be released in the third quarter of 2022. The draft Action Plan is expected to set goals for the State Water Board to address racial inequities and identify metrics to measure progress.

Delta Conveyance

Draft Environmental Impact Report

On July 27, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Draft Environment Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project.

The release of the Draft EIR gives the public an opportunity to formally weigh in on a proposed infrastructure project. The proposal follows Governor Newsom's direction in 2019 to downsize previous concepts for improving Delta conveyance.

The preliminary design of the proposed project and alternatives outlined in the Draft EIR reflect the work of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA), a joint powers authority of local public water agencies participating in the project.

The Draft EIR was prepared by DWR as the lead agency to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act by evaluating a range of alternatives to the proposed project and disclosing potential environmental effects of the proposed project and alternatives, and associated mitigation measures for potentially significant impacts. No decisions will be made on whether to approve the project until the conclusion of the environmental review process, after consideration of public comments submitted on the Draft EIR and issuances of a Final EIR. At that time, DWR will determine whether to approve the proposed project an alternative or no project.

The documents are hosted on the Draft EIR website¹² along with accompanying informational materials that provide more information about the proposed project and the public review process, including public hearing details and commenting opportunities. The materials are available for a 90-day public comment period and closes on October 27, 2022.

¹² <https://www.deltaconveyanceproject.com>

Additionally, the Department will hold virtual public hearings on the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, September 22, 2022, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Reclamation Manual

Documents out for Comment

Draft Policy

- There are currently no Draft Policies out for review.

Draft Directives and Standards

- There are currently no Draft Directives and Standards out for review.

Draft Facilities Instructions, Standards, and Techniques (FIST)

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

Draft Reclamation Safety and Health Standards (RSHS)

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

Draft Reclamation Design Standards

- There are currently no Design Standards out for review.

Delta Stewardship Council

Delta Levees Investment Strategy

On August 26, the Delta Stewardship Council announced that it is proposing a regulatory amendment to implement the Council's Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS). This amendment would assign a priority of very-high, high, or other to each island or tract located within the legal boundaries of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Additionally, under the proposed amendment, the California Department of Water Resources would fund levee improvement projects at very-high priority islands or tracts before funding levee improvement projects at high or other priority islands or tracts. If available funds are sufficient to fully fund levee improvements at the very-high priority islands or tracts, then levee improvements on high priority islands or tracts may be provided, and after those projects have been fully funded, then levee improvement projects at other priority islands or tracts may be funded.

The proposed amendment would also require the DWR to submit an annual report to the Council including information describing Delta levee investments relative to the priorities.

The Council will accept public comments beginning on August 26, 2022, and concluding on October 13, 2022. Electronic comments are preferred and can be sent to oa1_amendRRP1@deltacouncil.ca.gov.

Comments will also be heard during a public hearing at the Council's October 27, 2022, meeting. An agenda will be available on the Council's meetings [web page](#) at least ten days before the meeting that confirms the time at which this agenda item will be considered.

Staffing

On September 1, the Stewardship Council announced the promotion of Henry DeBey to be the Deputy Executive Officer for Science. Prior to being promoted to deputy executive officer for science from the Council's collaborative science and peer review unit, Henry held positions at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. He has a Master of Science in environmental science from Yale University and a Bachelor of Science in geography and environmental studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. Henry is passionate about science communication and working with diverse stakeholders to tackle science governance challenges.

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Activity

Background

The Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint) is a non-profit group of stakeholders, working to better understand our shared goals for water solutions that support environmental stewardship with the needs of communities and industries throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Strategic Priorities

The Blueprint's new board of 20 directors developed the following strategic priorities for 2022-2025, deliverables, actions, and timelines. The priorities focus on the following: Advocacy, Groundwater Quality and Disadvantaged Communities, Land Use Changes & Environmental Planning, Outreach & Communications, SGMA Implementation, Water Supply Goals, Governance, Operations & Finance.

The Blueprint Board has also identified quantifiable objectives, timelines for action and systems of accountability.

Mission Statement: "Unifying the San Joaquin Valley's voice to advance an accessible, reliable solution for a balanced water future for all."

Vision Statement: "The Water Blueprint serves as the united voice to champion water resource policies and projects to maximize accessible, affordable, and reliable supplies for sustainable and productive farms and ranches, healthy communities, and thriving ecosystems in the San Joaquin Valley."

Committees

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is reviewing the Governor's recently unveiled California's Water Supply Strategy to identify the results of implementation and opportunities to further the Blueprint mission.

Executive/Budget/Personnel

An executive director application and job listing is being circulated to solicit applicants.

Advocacy

The Blueprint participated in invitation only roundtables with DOI Secretary Haaland, Commissioner Touton, Regional Director Conant, CA Secretary Crowfoot, CA Secretary Ross, Director Nemeth and a roundtable with Blueprint Board and USDA Under-Secretary for Rural Development Torres-Small and other department leadership. The Blueprint provided the enclosed flyer to assist with highlighting the Blueprint and its efforts.

Drinking Water Feasibility Study

A draft drinking water feasibility study proposal has been prepared by Fresno State/California Water Institute covers 5 counties within the San Joaquin Valley to identify 20 spots that are technically and financially feasible for groundwater recharge that have multiple benefits and specifically DACs with no other options but groundwater. State Contractors and SLDMWA are working with the participants to expand the study area and assist with finding funding. Current sponsors are Fresno State, FWA, Self Help, Sustainable Conservation and Leadership Council and are discussing funding opportunities with Senator Feinstein's office and DWR. Friant Contractors/managers have shared projects they are pursuing and ability to identify tangible and/or direct benefits to drinking water supplies.

San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (SJVV CAP)

The CAP is focused on coming to an agreement on a term sheet with an initial list of desired outcomes and potential solutions to water issues in the San Joaquin Valley. The Plenary group could not come to an agreement on the previous Phase I framework and decision document that was produced and is now focused on trying to come to an agreement on the CAP Term Sheet to move the collaborative effort forward into Phase II. Authority staff is coordinating with member agencies on comments to the draft Term Sheet, which is under discussion.

APPENDIX



XII. B.

Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Sierra Nevada Region
114 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, California 95630-4710
September 7, 2022

Mr. Ernest A. Conant
Regional Director
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Mr. Frederico Barajas
Executive Director
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
842 6th Street
Los Banos, CA 93635

Dear Mr. Conant and Mr. Barajas:

This letter is to officially notify the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) that Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) will not be moving forward with executing the agreements necessary to implement the San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP). This decision has been made due to the lack of funding and repayment options for the SLTP.

WAPA will immediately cease any further project work and will commence with project close out in accordance with the terms of Local Agreement 13-SNR-01699 (LA 01699). Additionally, WAPA will work with SLDMWA to remove this project from the WAPA queue.

In accordance with LA 01699 and the Consolidated Operations and Maintenance Agreement (COMA) 03-SNR-00560 Exhibit C:

- a. WAPA will take immediate steps to stop SLTP project work and will not enter any new obligations after the date of this letter.
- b. WAPA will provide to Reclamation an estimate of all costs related to work stoppage within sixty (60) days of the date of this letter.
- c. Reclamation shall pay all costs incurred by WAPA associated with stoppage of SLTP project work, as well as any penalties incurred.
- d. WAPA shall provide the final Intra-Governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) to Reclamation for final payment within 90 days after all financial obligations have been met.
- e. WAPA may retain all planning sources in the event another entity chooses to re-establish this project.

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WAPA plans to hold in abeyance all engineering design work and project development files for the potential of future use.

Thank you to both of you and your staff for the time and effort that has been invested over the last ten years to try and bring the SLTP to fruition.

Sincerely,

**Sonja A.
Anderson** Digitally signed by
Sonja A. Anderson
Date: 2022.09.07
08:23:49 -07'00'
Sonja A. Anderson
Senior Vice President and
Sierra Nevada Regional Manager

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