

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, February 9, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Vineyard Room, at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, at 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, February 9, 2011.

Board Members Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman

John V. Foley

Terese Marie Ghio

W. D. 'Bill' Knutson

Henry Merle Kuiper

James B. McDaniel

John Pierre Menvielle

Jeanine Jones, Designee

Department of Water Resources

Board Members and/or Alternates Absent

Franz W. De Klotz

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee

Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott

Mark D. Beuhler

James H. Bond

John Penn Carter

David Fogerson

Leslie M. Gallagher

William J. Hasencamp

Mark L. Johnson

Michael L. King

Thomas E. Levy

Jan P. Matusak

Glen Peterson

Halla Razak

Steven B. Robbins

Tina L. A. Shields

Ed W. Smith

Catherine M. Stites

Bill D. Wright

Abbas Amirteymoori

J.C. Jay Chen

Christopher S. Harris

Lindia Y. Liu

Gary E. Tavetian

Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Fisher asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, Chairman Fisher moved to the next agenda item.

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fisher requested the approval of the January 12th meeting minutes. Mr. Knutson moved January 12th minutes be approved. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the January 12th meeting minutes.

Distribution of Board Meeting Notice/Agenda and Related Materials

Mr. Harris reported that the Board meeting notice/agenda and materials will continue to be mailed to the Board members and their alternates, but that beginning in March 2011, the Board meeting notice/agenda and materials will no longer be mailed to all other interested parties. Instead, the Board meeting notice/agenda and folder materials will be posted to the Board's website. Mr. Harris expected there to be an annual savings of three to four thousand dollars to the Board by posting the materials online.

AGENCY MANAGERS' MEETING

Mr. Harris reported that the agency managers have not met since the November 2010 Board meeting.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that precipitation from October 1st to January 31st was 128 percent of normal. The snow water equivalent was 123 percent of normal. Reclamation's projections of unregulated inflow into Lake Powell were 9.3 million acre-feet (maf) for April through July 2011, or 117 percent of average; and water year projections from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 were 13.0 maf, about 108 percent of average.

Mr. Harris reported that as of January 31st, the storage in Lake Powell was 13.8 maf, or 57 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,620.8 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 10.8 maf, or 42 percent of capacity, and water surface elevation was 1,091.7 feet. Total System storage was about 32.1 maf, or 54 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 33.1 maf in storage, or 55 percent of capacity. There was about one million acre-feet less in storage than this time last year.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's estimated consumptive use (CU) during calendar year 2010 for the State of Nevada to be below its entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (243,000 AF); and Arizona's estimated CU to be slightly below its entitlement of 2.8 maf (2.792 maf); and California is expected to be slightly below its basic entitlement of 4.4 maf (4.363 maf). In 2010, the Lower Basin CU was about 7.399 maf.

State and Local Water Reports

Ms. Jeanine Jones, of the California Department of Water Resources, reported the results from the February 1st snow surveys that were recently completed. She noted that January was an exceptionally dry month, however most of the current totals are still above average, especially in the central and southern Sierra, because of the extremely wet storms in the fall. Most of the basins are close to reaching the April 1st index. Ms. Jones reported that in the next week to ten days, the weather forecasts some wetness in the northern part of Sierra. A series of cold wet storms are expected in the northern Sierra, the early part of next week. The climate forecast is looking like a La Niña condition for the rest of the year, and that the reservoir conditions are looking much better than this time last year.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that as of February 1st, MWD's combined reservoir storage of Lakes Skinner, Mathews, and Diamond Valley, was about 878,600 acre-feet, or about 85 percent of capacity. As of February 1st, Lake Mathews had about 157,600 acre-feet, or 87 percent of capacity. Lake Skinner had about 41,500 acre-feet or about 94 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley Lake had about 679,400 acre-feet in storage, or about 84 percent of capacity. Mr. Foley reported that the system has improved considerably and hopefully will soon reach its maximum storage.

Mr. McDaniel, of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), reported that as of February 1st, the Eastern Sierra Snow Survey results are similar to the rest of the state, January was flat, with almost no increase of snow during January. Fortunately, December was wetter than usual and the February snow surveys were reported, the overall snowpack was about 108 percent of the season average. If there is no unusual snow sublimation and the runoff remains good, DWP believes, that the season should finish with near average conditions. However, there are still a couple months to go, so the climate conditions could still improve for the eastern Sierra.

Colorado River Operations

Government Accounting Office's Report "A Better and Coordinated Understanding of Water Resources Could Help Mitigate the Impacts of Potential Oil Shale Development"

Mr. Harris reported that the federal Government Accounting Office (GAO) issued a report in October 2010 examining the potential impacts on local and regional water resources through development of oil shale resources in Colorado and Utah. The report indicates that between 40 gallons to as much as 500 gallons of water could be required for each barrel of oil extracted via standard processing techniques. The GAO report indicates that the growth of the industry in Colorado and Utah may be limited due to water supply availability. Water

supplies for this industry may be further limited due to: 1) increased demand in agriculture and municipal and industrial sectors; 2) the potential for reduced water supplies associated with climate change; 3) obligations under existing interstate compacts; and 4) current and future environmental requirements. The full GAO report can be accessed at the GAO's website at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1135.pdf>.

Western Governors' Association, Western States Water Council and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Workshop on 'Climate Impacts on Extreme Events'

Mr. Harris reported that the Western Governors' Association, Western States Water Council, and California DWR are cosponsoring a workshop on "Climate Impacts on Extreme Events". The purpose of the workshop is to discuss developing methodologies for addressing climate changes and relationships to increased severity of frequency of extreme or severe weather events. The workshop is scheduled for March 21-23, 2011, in San Diego, California. Mr. Harris reported that a registration form was included in the Board folder.

Basin States Discussion

Status of Binational Discussions and Negotiations with Mexico

Mr. Harris reported that in a January 28th letter, that Commissioner of Reclamation, Michael Conner, updated the current status of binational discussions with Mexico on the Colorado River. The Commissioner reiterated the Department of the Interior's (DOI) appreciation for all of the efforts of the Basin states in assisting in the discussions resulting in the execution of Minute 318 between Mexico and the U.S. and committed to continue seeking the input and support of the Basin states. The Commissioner's letter also indicated that DOI and the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) continue to be fully committed to working with Mexico in achieving a more comprehensive and long-term agreement on Colorado River issues. DOI and IBWC have also communicated with Mexican representatives that the comprehensive package must include discussions on mechanisms that would reduce deliveries to Mexico during periods of low-reservoir conditions in the U.S. caused by ongoing drought.

There was discussion on the negotiations resulting in Minute 318, regarding the relationship between the various levels of representation of both the U.S. and Mexico and how the concerns of both countries will be addressed by the continued efforts of the binational discussions.

Status of the Colorado River Basin Water Study Report Process

Mr. Harris reported that in late January, Reclamation released a draft of Technical Reports A, B, and D of the "Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study" (Basin Study). Technical Report C was expected to be available February 9th. These four technical reports comprise Interim Report No. 1, which covers Phases 1 and 2 of the Basin Study development process. Copies of the reports have been made available for review and comment by the California agencies participating in the process. The Board will bundle and

forward the collected comments to Reclamation's Project Team on February 8th. The Project Team met in San Diego, California, on January 24th and 25th, to discuss the interim report, review the schedule for remaining tasks, and identify next steps. Reclamation and the Project Team are scheduled to complete the Interim Report No. 1 by mid-March.

Mr. Harris reported that the Project Team also conducted brainstorming sessions: 1) looking at options and strategies associated with addressing imbalances in water supply and demand; 2) identifying opportunities for improving operational efficiencies; 3) initiating the development of a process for the identification and presentation of potential recommendations; and 4) initiating a process to develop "message points" to accompany the roll-out of the draft report.

Colorado River Environmental Issues

Reclamation's Draft Environmental Assessment "Development and Implementation of a Protocol for High-Flow Experimental Releases from Glen Canyon Dam, Arizona, 2011 through 2020"

Mr. Harris reported that on January 14th, Reclamation issued a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) associated with the proposed development and implementation of a Protocol for High-Flow Experimental Releases from Glen Canyon Dam for the period 2011 through 2020. The purpose of the High-Flow Releases Protocol are two-fold: 1) develop and implement a protocol that determines when and under what conditions to conduct experimental high volume releases from Glen Canyon Dam; and 2) evaluate the parameters of high-flow releases in conserving sediment to benefit downstream resources in Glen, Marble, and Grand Canyons.

Mr. Harris reported that on January 28th, Reclamation released its DEA for Non-Native Fish Control Downstream of Glen Canyon Dam. The purpose of the Non-Native Fish Control DEA was to analyze actions to minimize the negative impacts of competition and predation on humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) in the Grand Canyon. Comments may be provided to Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Office by February 28th. Both DEAs can be accessed via Reclamation's website at <http://www.usbr.gov/uc>.

Mr. Harris reported that on February 1st, the seven Basin states sent a letter to Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Director requesting an extension of the public comment and review period for the High-Flow Release DEA. The states believe that it will take additional time to review both DEAs and related materials in order to ensure the preparation of comments. Reclamation has indicated that it will accept comments on both DEAs and related materials through February 28th. Mr. Harris added that at the February 8th Basin states meeting, the states have decided to submit a joint seven-state comment letter by February 28th.

Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan

Mr. Harris reported that the Department of the Interior and Reclamation have initiated a public scoping process associated with preparation of the proposed 10-year “Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan” (LTEMP). The LTEMP is intended to guide management decision-making and project implementation in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. Mr. Harris reported that DOI and Reclamation intend to fold into the LTEMP the results and synthesis of previous actions performed under the existing Record of Decision for Glen Canyon Dam (GCD) operations, as well as the proposed actions being evaluated in the High-Flow Releases Protocol and Non-Native Fish Environmental Assessments.

WATER QUALITY

Status of Chromium VI Contamination Cleanup at PG&E Topock Site

Mr. Amireteymoori reported that the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) had prepared a draft Statement of Basis and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) associated with groundwater remediation at the PG&E Topock Gas Compressor Station. The DTSC’s Final EIR documents its rationale for the preferred remedial alternative. The preferred plan was Alternative E “In-situ Treatment with Freshwater Flushing.” The selected alternative was the one recommended by PG&E in the final December 2009 Corrective Measure Study/Feasibility Study Document. Based on the Final EIR, DTSC has notified PG&E that it has selected the preferred remedial alternative for the Corrective Measures for the Groundwater Clean-up at the Topock site. Mr. Amireteymoori also reported that on January 26, 2011, DOI issued its “Groundwater Record of Decision” for the project and endorsed the preferred alternative.

Status of Perchlorate Remediation at Las Vegas Wash

Mr. Amireteymoori reported that the facilities constructed by Tronox for perchlorate removal at Las Vegas Wash continue to perform as expected. He added that Tronox is expected to emerge from bankruptcy soon. Mr. Amireteymoori reported that AMPAC is currently installing another well field to capture groundwater that contains higher concentration of perchlorate. The Nevada Environmental Response Trust (Trust) will be the “responsible party” for environmental liabilities associated with the Tronox site. The Trust will bear the responsibility for the continued remediation activities at the site. Tronox will still operate and will be leasing portions of the site from the Trust.

There was discussion on the cleanup effort while the companies struggle with financial difficulties. There was additional discussion on the Minimum Contaminate Level (MCL) and possible changes in regulatory MCLs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, at 2155 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California.

There being no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon the motion of Mr. Kuiper, seconded by Mr. Menvielle, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 11:14 a.m. on February 9, 2011.

Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director