

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, January 12, 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, January 12, 2011.

Board Members Present

Dana Bart Fisher Jr., Chairman

John V. Foley
W. D. 'Bill' Knutson
Henry Merle Kuiper
James B. McDaniel

John Pierre Menvielle
Jeanine Jones, Designee
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternate Absent

Terese Marie Ghio
Franz W. De Klotz

David Elms, Designee
Department of Fish and Game

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott
James H. Bond
John Penn Carter
Ron Derma
David Fogerson
William J. Hasencamp
Mark L. Johnson
Richard Johnson
Michael L. King
Thomas E. Levy
Jan P. Matusak
Glen Peterson
Halla Razak
Steven B. Robbins
Jack Seiler

Tina L. A. Shields
Ed W. Smith
Mark Stuart
Catherine M. Stites
Deven N. Upadhyay
Joseph A. Vanderhorst
Bill D. Wright

Abbas Amirteymoori
J.C. Jay Chen
Christopher S. Harris
Michael W. Hughes
Mark Van Vlack
Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher, announced the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:12 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 November 10, and December 15, 2010, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Fisher requested the approval of the November 10th, and the December 15th, 2010 meeting minutes. Mr. Harris mentioned that comments were received from MWD and those comments were included in the handout materials. Mr. Kuiper moved the November 10th and December 15th, 2010, minutes be approved. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the November 10th and December 15th, 2010, meeting minutes.

Proposed Colorado River Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2011

Chairman Fisher requested approval of the Board meeting schedule for Calendar Year 2011. Mr. Knutson moved the Board meeting schedule for Calendar Year 2011 be approved. Mr. Kuiper seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the Board meeting schedule for Calendar Year 2011.

Governor's Appointments

Mr. Harris reported that Governor Brown appointed Mr. John Laird as Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency. Mr. Laird was a member of the State Assembly, and a short biographical brief of his career was included in the handout materials. Mr. Harris reported that Ms. Mary Nichols was retained to continue to head the Air Resources Board. Chairman Fisher mentioned that Mr. Laird is replacing Mr. Lester Snow as Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

Mr. Harris reported that Mr. Tom Strickland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish Wildlife and Parks, recently announced his resignation from the Administration, effective February 2011. Mr. Harris reported that Mr. Will Shafroth, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, was named as Acting Assistant Secretary. Chairman Fisher mentioned that Mr. Strickland had also been the acting Chief of Staff for the Secretary and asked if a replacement has also been named for the Chief of Staff position. Mr. Harris reported that Ms. Laura Daniel Davis, who'd been serving as Deputy Chief of Staff and Associate Deputy Secretary, was named to be the new Chief of Staff.

AGENCY MANAGERS' MEETING

Mr. Harris reported that the Agency Managers have not met since November 10, 2010.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that the precipitation for the December 2010 was for most of the Colorado River Basin at or above 150 percent of normal. Mr. Zimmerman added that the weather modification program has temporarily been suspended due to the abundant snow pack.

Mr. Harris reported that the precipitation from October 1st to January 10th was 140 percent of normal. The snowpack was 137 percent of normal. Reclamation's forecasts of unregulated inflow into Lake Powell were 9.5 maf for April through July 2011 or 120 percent of average; and water year from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 were 13.2 maf, about 110 percent of average.

Mr. Harris reported that as of January 10th, the storage in Lake Powell was 14.3 million acre-feet (maf), or 59 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,624.9 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 10.4 maf, or 40 percent of capacity, and water surface elevation of 1,086.9 feet. Total System storage was about 32.3 maf, or 54 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 33.1 maf in storage, or 55 percent of capacity.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's projected consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada to be below its entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (243,000 AF); and Arizona's projected CU to be 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

Mr. Mark Stuart, of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported that precipitation in Southern California is above normal, for instance in Los Angeles about two thirds of the annual precipitation was recorded as of the end of December. Statewide precipitation is about 200 percent of normal, runoff is about 160 percent of normal, reservoir storage is about 115 percent of normal and the Sacramento River Run-off is about 4.7 MAF. Mr. Stuart reported that DWR recently completed a snow survey and reported that in the Northern Sierras the snowpack is 169 percent of normal. In the Central Sierras, the snowpack was 180 percent of normal, and 261 percent of normal in the Southern Sierras. Mr. Stuart reported that Lake Oroville storage is up about 500,000 acre-feet from the November 2010 report. As of January 1st, 2011, the State Water Project (SWP) north of the Delta is about 2.3 MAF, or 63 percent of capacity, south of the Delta, the SWP storage is about 1.5 MAF, or 80 percent of capacity, overall the SWP storage is about 3.8 MAF or 68 percent of capacity.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that as of January 1st, MWD's combined reservoirs storage (Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake) was about 820,400 acre-feet, or 79 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley Reservoir storage was about 639,900 acre-feet, or about 79 percent of capacity. The storage in Lake Mathews was about 140,500 acre-feet, or about 77 percent of

capacity, and Lake Skinner storage was about 40,000 acre-feet, or about 91 percent of capacity. Mr. Foley reported with current delivery rates, the storage in Diamond Valley Lake is expected to reach 90 percent of capacity by March 2011. The recovery of the Diamond Valley Lake storage is a good sign and that storage reserves will likely meet the water demands on the system.

Mr. McDaniel, of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), reported that eastern Sierra climate conditions as of January 4, 2011 were tracking with the wettest year on record. However, about every seven years, the year starts out wetter than normal and ends up being about an average year. Mr. McDaniel reported that some of the snow pillows have recorded about 100 percent of the April 1st snowpack. After the February snow survey these numbers could be higher as the snow pillows may need to be recalibrated as the snow pillows can become stuck when too much snow falls too quickly.

Colorado River Operations

Secretary Salazar's Speech to the Colorado River Water Users Association 2010

Mr. Harris reported that on December 17th, Secretary Salazar addressed the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference. His speech included: Operation and management of the Colorado River system; Encouraged continued use of collaboration and consensus-driven process; Summarized progress on the Basins' many on-going environmental programs; and Continued challenges associated with implementation of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. His speech also addressed high priority issues such as dealing with Native American land and water uses in the Basin, and binational discussions with Mexico. Mr. Harris added that a copy of Secretary Salazar's comments were included in the Board folder.

Minute 318 Finalized

Mr. Harris reported that on December 20, 2010, the U.S. and Mexico announced agreement on Minute 318. Minute 318 addressed the need for Mexico to delay delivery of water due to damage from the April 2010 earthquake in the Mexicali Valley and allows Mexico to adjust its delivery schedule downward during the period from 2010 through 2013 by a total of up to 260,000 acre-feet, and any water not delivered would be retained in Lake Mead. The withheld water would be made available to Mexico in subsequent years after repairs have been made to its delivery infrastructure in the Mexicali Valley. News releases from the Department of the Interior and the International Boundary and Water Commission were included in the Board folder.

Minute 318 also acknowledges binational intent to continue working to develop a comprehensive deal in a subsequent minute addressing: Creation and delivery of Intentionally Created Mexican Apportionment (ICMA); Potential conversion of ICMA to Intentionally Created Surplus; Surplus and shortage sharing; and Pursuit of new water supplies and environmental projects.

Agency Intentionally Created Surplus Creation Plan Approvals for Calendar Year 2011

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation approved Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) and MWD's plans to create extraordinary conservation intentionally created surplus (EC ICS) water supplies. Reclamation approved IID's plan to create up to 25,000 acre-feet of EC ICS during 2011. Reclamation approved MWD's plan to create up to 200,000 acre-feet of EC ICS in 2011. Reclamation approved the Southern Nevada Water Authority's 2011 plan to create up to 37,000 acre-feet of Tributary Conservation ICS and up to 7,000 acre-feet of Imported ICS.

Reclamation's Response Letter Regarding Genesis Solar Energy Project

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation responded to a letter dated November 4, 2010, from the attorney representing the California Union for Reliable Energy (CURE) regarding the Genesis Solar Energy Project and the project's potential use of Colorado River water. Reclamation's response recounted the Article V Decree Accounting process to quantify diversions and uses, the accounting and reporting requirements of the Consolidation Decree in *Arizona v. California* and Article V of the 1922 Colorado River Compact. Reclamation's response also mentioned the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) accounting surface boundary and method used to determine if a well located outside of the Colorado River floodplain is pumping water that would eventually be replaced by water from the Colorado River if the water level in a well falls below the USGS accounting surface.

Ms. Catherine Stites, of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, added that a lawsuit was filed January 11, 2011 by an Indian Organization challenging five of the solar energy projects under several statutes. One of their concerns are potential disturbances to native artifacts such as the Kokopelli geo-glyphs in the Blythe area. CURE may join in the lawsuit.

Basin States Discussions

Arizona Water Banking Authority and Southern Nevada Water Authority Revised Agreement

Mr. Harris reported that the Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA) and the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), on December 9, 2010 entered into an agreement to make operational adjustments to the "Second Amended Agreement for Interstate Banking". With the new agreement the AWBA is to forego additional banking of Colorado River water, on behalf of SNWA through calendar year 2014. The SNWA is to forego the creation of any additional Intentionally Created Unused Apportionment (ICUA) during the same period. The agreement is in response to the declining water surface elevation of Lake Mead and the potential for continued drought conditions in the Basin.

Basin States/Department of the Interior Regional Directors Meeting, December 17th, Las Vegas, Nevada

Chairman Fisher reported that the Basin States representatives met with the Department of the Interior Regional Directors (i.e., Reclamation's Upper and Lower Colorado Regions, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, USGS, and the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service) during the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference. The meeting was to continue to develop the lines of communication between the Basin States and the Interior agencies on issues of mutual interest in the Colorado River System. A follow-up conference call is being scheduled for January 21st to continue discussions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, 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. Foley, seconded by Mr. Menvielle, and unanimously carried, the Board meeting was adjourned 10:52 a.m. on January 12, 2011.

/S/

Christopher S. Harris
Acting Executive Director