

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
Wednesday, October 10, 2012

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 E. Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, October 10, 2012.

Board Members and Alternates Present

W. D. 'Bill' Knutson, Vice Chairman  
Henry Merle Kuiper  
James B. McDaniel  
John Palmer Powell, Jr.

Jack Seiler  
Bill D. Wright

Board Members and Alternate Absent

Dana B. Fisher, Jr. Chairman  
John V. Foley  
Terese Maria Ghio  
James Cleo Hanks  
John Pierre Menvielle

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee  
Department of Fish and Game

Jeanine Jones, Designee  
Department of Water Resources

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott  
Autumn Ashurst  
James M. Barrett  
James H. Bond  
John P. Carter  
J.C. Jay Chen  
Dave Fogerson  
Leslie M. Gallagher  
Christopher S. Harris  
William J. Hasencamp  
Kevin E. Kelley  
Lindia Y. Liu  
Jan P. Matusak

Glen D. Peterson  
David R. Pettijohn  
Halla Razak  
Tom J. Ryan  
Tina L. A. Shields  
Ed W. Smith  
Joanna Smith  
Gary E. Tavetian  
Tanya M. Trujillo  
Joseph A. Vanderhost  
Mark Van Vlack  
Fred A. Worthley  
Gerald R. Zimmerman

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Knutson announced the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Vice Chairman Knutson 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, Vice Chairman Knutson moved to the next agenda item.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Knutson requested the approval of the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Mr. Powell moved the August 15<sup>th</sup> minutes be approved. Mr. Kuiper seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

Vice Chairman Knutson requested the approval of the September 4<sup>th</sup> teleconference Special Meeting minutes. Mr. Kuiper moved the September 14<sup>th</sup> teleconference minutes be approved. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the September 4<sup>th</sup> teleconference Special Meeting minutes.

### Resolution in Memory of Mr. Steve Robbins

Vice Chairman Knutson reported that a resolution was prepared in memory of Mr. Steve Robbins for his many years of service and extensive contributions to the Board, California, and the Colorado River Basin. Mr. Powell moved the resolution be adopted. Mr. Jack Seiler seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the resolution in memory of Mr. Steve Robbins. Vice Chairman Knutson reported that a celebration of Mr. Steve Robbins' life was scheduled for Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m., at the Palm Springs Air Museum.

### Appreciation of Mr. Harris

Vice Chairman Knutson reported his appreciation for the excellent service Mr. Christopher S. Harris has provided to the Board as Acting Executive Director over the past two years. He's done an excellent job of keeping the Board members informed, running the Board meetings, and representing California on Colorado River issues. The Board applauded Mr. Harris.

## **AGENCY MANAGERS' MEETING**

Mr. Harris reported that the Agency Managers, including senior staff, are scheduled to meet following the Colorado River Authority meeting to formally meet the new Executive

Director, Ms. Tanya M. Trujillo, and discuss upcoming meetings with the Basin States, in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 15, and with Reclamation, also in Las Vegas on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS**

### Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that from October 1, 2011 to September 17, 2012, precipitation was 73 percent of normal, and that there was no snowpack water equivalent reported at this time. The forecasted April through July inflow into Lake Powell for Water Year 2012, as of September 17<sup>th</sup>, was 2.06 maf, or 29 percent of normal. The projected 2012 Water Year unregulated inflow into Lake Powell was about 4.91 maf, or about 45 percent of normal.

Mr. Harris reported that as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, the reservoir storage in Lake Powell was 13.93 million acre-feet (maf), or 57 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,621.6 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 13.14 maf, or 51 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 1,115.2 feet. Total System storage was 34.02 maf, or 56 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 38.68 maf of water in storage, or 65 percent of capacity. Total System storage is now 4.6 maf less than the storage at this time last year.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's estimated consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada is under its basic entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (i.e. 258,000 acre-feet); and for Arizona, the CU is projected to be slightly under its basic entitlement of 2.8 maf (i.e. 2.780 maf); and for California the CU is also projected to be just over its apportionment of 4.4 maf (i.e. 4.41 maf). For the year, the total projected CU in the Lower Basin is expected to be about 7.448 maf.

### State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Harris reported on the current precipitation conditions in California. Statewide precipitation was about 75 percent of average and the runoff was about 60 percent of average, but reservoir storage was about 95 percent of average for this time of year. The Sacramento River Index was 11.8 maf. In southern California, precipitation was about 50 percent of average, except in Blythe where the precipitation was 97 percent of average or about 3.69 inches.

Mr. Harris reported that the storage condition for the State Water Project (SWP), as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, was about 56 percent of capacity. Storage in Lake Oroville was about 1.98 maf, or 56 percent of capacity. Storage south of the Delta was about 1.0 maf, or 56 percent of capacity. Total storage for the SWP was about 3.09 maf, or 56 percent of capacity. SWP deliveries were at 65 percent of the Table A Entitlement.

Mr. Wright, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that he was filling in for Mr. Foley who was recently unanimously reelected Chairman of the MWD on Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup>, for another two-year term. Mr. Wright also reported that as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, the combined reservoir storage of Lakes Skinner and Mathews, and Diamond Valley Lake was about 932,000 acre-feet or 90 percent of capacity. Storage in Diamond Valley Lake was about 731,600 acre-feet, or 90 percent of capacity. Storage in Lake Mathews was about

159,800, or 88 percent of capacity. Storage in Lake Skinner was about 40,600 acre-feet or 89 percent of capacity.

Mr. Wright reported that the Colorado River Aqueduct would be reduced to a one-pump flow, and that the other eight pumps would be shut down for maintenance, at each facility along the aqueduct.

### Colorado River Operations

#### *Reclamation's Appointment of Dr. Terry Fulp as Lower Colorado Regional Director*

Mr. Harris reported that on September 11, 2012, Reclamation Commissioner Connor appointed Dr. Terry Fulp as the Regional Director for the Lower Colorado Region. Mr. Harris reported that Mr. Fulp has been the Deputy Regional Director since 2008 and has periodically served as Acting Regional Director since the departure of Ms. Lorri Gray-Lee nearly a year ago. In addition, Dr. Fulp served as Reclamation's Area Manager for the Boulder Canyon Operations Office while the 2007 Interim Guidelines were developed and finalized. His modeling and hydrologic expertise were instrumental in guiding the development of the 2007 Interim Guidelines to completion.

#### *Final Arizona Water Bank Accounting of Southern Nevada Water Authority Interstate Account for Calendar Year 2011*

Mr. Harris reported that on August 30<sup>th</sup> the Arizona Water Bank Authority submitted to Reclamation its final verified accounting of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Interstate Account for calendar year 2011. The SNWA began 2011 with 600,651 acre-feet of storage credits. SNWA made no deposits or withdrawals from its account during 2011, and ended the year with 600,651 acre-feet of long-term storage credits in its interstate account.

#### *National Water Resources Association Annual Conference, San Diego, California*

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation Commissioner Connor plans to be available for short meetings with stakeholder groups at the National Water Resources Association annual conference. The conference runs from October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Hotel Del Coronado, San Diego, California. Appointments should have been scheduled through Reclamation's Lower Colorado Regional Office by September 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Final Consultation on the 2013 Annual Operating Plan*

Mr. Harris reported that the final consultation of the Draft 2013 Annual Operating Plan (2013 AOP) was held via webinar on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Upper Level Balancing Tier will govern releases from Lake Powell. Total releases from Glen Canyon Dam are set to be at least 8.23 maf. The Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Condition will govern releases from Lake Mead, and ICS may be created and delivered in 2013. No unused apportionment is anticipated for 2013. The Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy will also be in effect during calendar year 2013. The final draft of the 2013 AOP is available on Reclamation's Upper and Lower Colorado Region webpages ([http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/aop/AOP13\\_draft.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/aop/AOP13_draft.pdf)).

Mr. Harris reported that at the final consultation webinar, Reclamation provided a summary of Water Year 2012. Water Year 2012 was the third driest year on record for the Colorado River Basin. As of May 17<sup>th</sup>, the forecast April-July runoff into Lake Powell was 14 percent of average. The total ended up being 29 percent of average or 2.063 maf. Upper Basin precipitation during Water Year 2012 was approximately 80 percent of average. The 2012 water year started with System storage at about 64 percent of capacity and was projected to end with 60 percent of capacity. Current assessments are that Water Year 2012 ended with about 56 percent of capacity. In the lower-48 states, July was the hottest year on record and drought conditions existed in over 60 percent of the United States.

#### *Status of the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report*

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin Study Project Team met in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on September 19-20, 2012 and finalized the portfolio and modeling approach. The final report is now scheduled for release in late-November, to give time for a thorough review of the technical reports currently being finalized.

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin States are finalizing a white-paper that is intended to identify a set of commitments to future actions or activities following the completion of the Basin Study. The Basin States plan to begin the actions/activities that will capture the best elements of the Basin Study for implementation. The actions/activities could include: conservation and re-use projects; regional solutions such as water banking, weather modification, vegetation management, etc.; and desalination and importation. Some of these actions/activities are already being implemented individually on either a small scale or as pilot projects. The Basin States are exploring ways to work together on the next steps.

Mr. Harris reported that Interior Secretary Salazar recently awarded the Basin Study partnership the Department of the Interior's "Partners in Conservation" award. The award recognizes partnerships that promote conservation, protect natural and cultural resources, and use innovative approaches to resource management. The award ceremony was scheduled to be held at the Main Interior Building in Washington, D.C. on October 18, 2012. The Executive Director and some agency representatives are planning to attend the event as well as representatives from some of the other Basin states.

#### *Status of Reclamation's Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy and Procedures*

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region initiated a process to finalize its procedures associated with administering the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP). The IOPP is a key component of the 2003 "Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement". The IOPP Procedures have been through an extensive "fatal-flaw" review, and Reclamation hopes to finalize the Procedures by the end of 2012. Reclamation's guiding principles associated with finalizing the Procedures include: keeping the System whole; encouraging appropriate behavior; and ensuring that all users are treated fairly and equitably. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas, Nevada.

## *California 2012 Benchmark Issue*

Mr. Harris reported that the 2001 Interim Surplus Guidelines (ISG) and 2007 Interim Guidelines contain a series of benchmark reporting dates (i.e. 2003, 2006, 2009, and 2012). Associated with each benchmark reporting date is a benchmark quantity. The Benchmark quantity is the combined total of California's agricultural water use plus 14,500 acre-feet of Present Perfected Right water uses. California's combined agricultural water use must be at or below the benchmark quantity in order for the benchmark to be met. The 2012 Benchmark quantity is 3.47 maf, and at this point California has not met the Benchmark. The ISG and 2007 Interim Guidelines require that California report its progress toward implementation of its Colorado River Water Use Plan during the AOP-development process. California formally notified the other Basin States and Reclamation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> AOP consultation meeting that it had not yet met the 2012 Benchmark. A meeting was scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>, in Las Vegas, Nevada, to initiate a process to discuss and address the issue. Mr. McDaniel asked if California had met the benchmark in 2003, 2006, and 2009. Mr. Harris reported that California had met the benchmarks in previous years, though in 2006 there was an allowance for schedule slippage associated with the lining of the All-American Canal. Mr. McDaniel asked what the consequences were of not meeting the 2012 Benchmark. Mr. Harris reported that it's possible that the Interim Surplus Guidelines could be suspended until such time as the benchmark could be met. There was discussion about scheduled transfers, Salton Sea mitigation, and meeting of the previous benchmarks over the last ten years or so.

### *Federal Register Notice of "Establishment of the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science"*

Mr. Harris reported that the Department of the Interior is establishing a Federal advisory committee on "Climate Change and Natural Resource Science". The committee will provide the Secretary with advice on matters and actions related to the establishment and operations of the U.S. Geological Survey National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center. The committee will obtain input from federal, state, tribal, local government, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and academic institutions. Nominations for members for the committee are being accepted by the U.S. Geological Survey through November 19<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the *Federal Register* notice was included in the Board folder.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Vice Chairman Knutson called the meeting into Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. to hear Mr. Zimmerman's report on the status of the Binational negotiations with Mexico.

Vice Chairman Knutson reconvened the meeting into open session at 11:51 a.m.

## WATER QUALITY

### Colorado River Environmental Activities

#### *Status of the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement for Glen Canyon Dam (LTEMP)*

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation and the National Park Service (NPS) are engaged in the LTEMP process. The LTEMP will include scientific knowledge gained through the Adaptive Management Program since the Record of Decision in 1996. Implementation of the LTEMP is expected to guide Glen Canyon Dam operations for the next 15-20 years. As reported at previous Board meetings the Basin States prepared a suggested alternative to be included in the LTEMP EIS. The Basin States Alternative was submitted to Reclamation and the NPS co-leads on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Basin States Alternative accomplishes the following: implements management actions to benefit key resources (i.e. humpback chub, and manages the trout, sediment resources, and benefit the aquatic food-base); uses scientific experimentation and research to further identify and develop future management actions (i.e. utilizes the principles of adaptive management); balances learning with improvements in key resources; addresses the full-range of possible future hydrologic and reservoir conditions; adheres to and conforms with the 2007 Interim guidelines; and recognizes and incorporates provisions of recently issued Findings of No Significant Impacts for the High-Flow Experimental Protocol and Non-Native Fish Control Environmental Assessments.

Mr. Harris reported that on September 28<sup>th</sup> the Basin States representatives met with Reclamation and NPS and answered technical questions associated with the Department of Interior's preliminary review of the Basin States Alternative. The Department of the Interior team thoroughly reviewed the Basin States Alternative and asked many detailed questions over the course of several hours. The Department of the Interior team complimented the Basin States for the extensive and detailed report on the Basin States Alternative. Reclamation and NPS anticipate issuance of the full suite of draft alternatives to be analyzed in the LTEMP EIS in early 2013.

#### *Status of the PG&E Topock Groundwater Remediation Project*

Mr. Harris reported that work continues at the PG&E Topock compressor station, near Needles, California, to clean up the hexavalent chromium contamination of the local groundwater aquifer. PG&E is working closely with the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) and the Department of the Interior's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance in developing and implementing a groundwater remediation plan. PG&E's current evaluation includes an arsenic treatment component within the plan. DTSC is reviewing PG&E's plans and has initiated a California Environmental Quality Act review of the soil remediation plan. Mr. Harris reported that he expects an update on the soil remediation plan to be reported at an upcoming Board meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### Next Board Meeting

Vice Chairman Knutson announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, at 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, Vice Chairman Knutson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kuiper moved the Board meeting be adjourned. Mr. Seiler seconded the motion, and with unanimous approval, the Board meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m. on October 10, 2012.

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Tanya M. Trujillo  
Executive Director