

Minutes of Regular Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, April 11, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held in the Vineyard Room, of the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, 2155 East Convention center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, April 11, 2012.

Board Members and Alternate Present

Dana Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman

John V. Foley

W.D. 'Bill' Knutson

Henry Merle Kuiper

John Pierre Menvielle

David R. Pettijohn

John Palmer Powell, Jr.

Jeanine Jones, Designee

Department of Water Resources

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee

Department of Fish and Game

Board Members Absent

Terese Maria Ghio

James B. McDaniel

Others Present

Steven B. Abbott

Autumn Ashurst

James H. Bond

John Penn Carter

J.C. Jay Chen

Andrew Fisher

David Fogerson

Leslie Gallagher

Christopher S. Harris

William J. Hasencamp

Eric M. Katz

Thomas E. Levy

Lindia Y. Liu

Jan P. Matusak

Carrie Oliphant

Glen D. Peterson

Collin Powell

Halla Razak

Steven B. Robbins

Phil Rosenbrater

Jack Seiler

Tina L. A. Shields

Jesse P. Silva

Catherine M. Stites

Mark Van Vlack

Fred A. Worthly

Bill D. Wright

Gerald R. Zimmerman

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

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

ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Fisher asked if there was a motion to approve the March 14th minutes. Mr. Wright requested a correction on page three, paragraph three, last line. With the correction to page three made, Mr. Menvielle moved the minutes be approved. Seconded by Ms. Jones and unanimously carried, the March 14th minutes were approved.

PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS

Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that, October 1st to April 2nd precipitation in the Upper Basin was 79 percent of normal, compared with last month where it was 89 percent of normal. The snowpack was about 54 percent of normal, and last month it was 81 percent of normal. The projected April through July runoff, as of March 19th, was 4.8 maf, or 67 percent of normal. The anticipated 2012 water year runoff was 8.25 maf, or about 76 percent of normal.

Mr. Harris reported that as of April 2nd the storage in Lake Powell was 15.46 million acre-feet (maf), or 64 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,635.4 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 14.54 maf, or 56 percent of capacity, and water surface elevation was 1,129.4 feet. Total System storage was about 37.56 maf, or 62 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 31.49 maf in storage, or 53 percent of capacity.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's projected consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada was under its entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (i.e. 274,000 acre-feet); and for Arizona, the CU is projected to be slightly over its basic entitlement of 2.8 maf (i.e. 2.852 maf); and for California the CU is projected to be 4.249 maf. The total projected CU for the Lower Basin is estimated to be 7.375 maf.

State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Harris reported on the climate conditions within California. In the Los Angeles Basin precipitation is well below normal for this time of year, as is most of the southland. The snowpack in the northern part of the state is up to about 80 percent of normal. In the central part of the state the snowpack is about 51 percent of normal and in the southern part of the state the snowpack was about 39 percent of normal. The runoff is about 50 percent of normal. However, State Water Project (SWP) reservoir storage is at or above normal for this time of year. North of the Delta SWP storage was about 3.1 maf, or about 84 percent of

capacity. South of the Delta SWP storage was about 1.6 maf or 89 percent of capacity. The projected SWP deliveries of Table A entitlements was reduced from 60 percent to 50 percent. Ms. Jones added that the month of March was actually above average, but not enough to make up for the previous dry months. The northern Sierra came up the most and the southern Sierra is still dry. The Sacramento River is still dry and the San Joaquin River is still critically dry. The last statewide forecast for the year, the Bulletin 120 forecast, will be out May 8th. Currently statewide, precipitation is a little below the 50 percent of average, a dry year.

Mr. Foley, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that storage in Lake Skinner, Lake Mathews and Diamond Valley Lake, as of April 1, was 905,200 acre-feet, or 87 percent of capacity. Diamond Valley Lake was about 741,300 acre-feet, or 92 percent of capacity. Lake Mathews was about 127,200 acre-feet, or 70 percent of capacity, down a little as its source of water, the Colorado River Aqueduct, was shut down for maintenance. Lake Skinner was about 36,700 acre-feet, or 83 percent of capacity. There was a slight decrease in the storage curve from last month. Overall, MWD plans to divert approximately 708,000 acre-feet this year.

Mr. Pettijohn, of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), reported that as of April 3rd, the current precipitation conditions in the Eastern Sierra are only about half of what normally occurs. There's been a slight increase over last month but conditions are still very dry.

Colorado River Operations

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

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation and the Project Team sought and solicited public input and suggestions associated with potential options and strategies to help resolve future basinwide water supply and demand imbalances. Of a total of 139 options/strategies received, 21 options were submitted by members of the Project Team and 118 options were submitted by the public. Currently the Project Team is working on developing the "Project Types" and Categories" that each of the submitted options and strategies will then be included for further analysis and evaluations. The Project is still on schedule to have the final Basin Study Report published in July 2012.

Reclamation's Verification of MWD 2010 Creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus

Mr. Harris reported that, in a letter dated March 29th, Reclamation acknowledged MWD's creation of 100,864 acre-feet of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (EC ICS). On September 8, 2011, MWD submitted its 2010 Certification Report for EC ICS. The 100,864 acre-feet of EC ICS was created through the MWD funded PVID Forbearance and Fallowing Program. This amount does not reflect the one-time five percent 'cut' for the System pursuant to Section 3.B.2 of the 2007 Guidelines.

Reclamation's Approval of MWD's 2012 Plan for Creation of Extraordinary Conservation ICS

Mr. Harris reported that on July 25, 2011 MWD submitted its 2012 Plan for the Creation of Extraordinary Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS Plan). Reclamation approved MWD's proposal in a letter dated March 29, 2012. MWD's ICS Plan intends to create up to 200,000 acre-feet of EC ICS water during calendar year 2012 with a mix of: Palo Verde Irrigation District Forbearance and Fallowing Program up to 116,000 acre-feet; Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation Program, up to 105,000 acre-feet; and MWD funded Water Supply from Desalination of up to 56,300 acre-feet.

Basin States Discussions

Status of the Binational Discussions – U.S. and Mexico

Mr. Zimmerman reported that Mexico recently responded to the February 2012 draft U.S. Minute 319. Mexico responded with three documents that will need to be translated: 1) a downsized version of Draft Minute 319; 2) a joint engineers report; and 3) a background or rationale document. The documents were presented to the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) on April 10th and are currently being translated. Mr. Zimmerman reported that it appears that the U.S. salinity proposal has been accepted by Mexico. More discussion and negotiation is needed for other proposals, such as the ICMA, surplus and shortage sharing.

With respect to domestic documents, Mr. Zimmerman reported that the Basin states' Technical Team is working on forbearance and operational agreements. The Technical Team is also looking at Exhibit A to the forbearance agreement covering the proposed ICS Pilot Project and working on the Domestic Protocol for Minute 319, which will be signed by IBWC, Reclamation, Interior, and the seven Basin states.

Chairman Fisher reported that the timetable for negotiations with Mexico is looking at a September completion. Mr. Bond asked whether Mexican ICS agreement is similar to that of the Basin states. Mr. Zimmerman responded that the forbearance agreement will be patterned after the 2007 forbearance agreement, except for some nuances and language. In terms of domestic agreements, it will be an addition to the 2007 Basin States Forbearance Agreement.

Colorado River Environmental Activities

Status of the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement for Glen Canyon Dam

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin states are at work developing an alternative for analysis and evaluation in the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement for Glen Canyon Dam (LTEMP EIS). The Basin states, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), and several contract scientists have prepared a preliminary outline and schedule associated with development of a Basin states' LTEMP EIS Alternative. Currently, the states are proposing to have the alternative readied for submittal

by June 2012. The preliminary schedule for development of the Basin states' alternative was included in the Board folder. The Basin states, on March 22nd, formally requested an extension of time to prepare the Basin states' LTEMP EIS Alternative. On April 3rd, Reclamation and the National Park Service, as EIS co-leads, responded and informed the Basin states, via email, that alternatives will be accepted after the original April 11th deadline, since several other stakeholders have indicated an interest to submit alternatives as well. The Basin states and WAPA are holding a conference call on April 12th to continue working on developing a proposed Basin states' LTEMP EIS Alternative.

WATER QUALITY

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program Status

Mr. Harris reported that the Board has provided written testimony to various House and Senate committees and subcommittees in support of Fiscal Year 2013 funding for the activities associated with Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. The Board's letters in support for the federal agencies' budget requests including \$14.5 million for Reclamation's Basin-wide Salinity Control Program, \$18 million for USDA's EQIP Program, and \$5.2 million for BLM's salinity control effort in the Basin. Mr. Harris reported that MWD, the State of Wyoming, CAP, and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum on behalf of the seven Basin States also submitted written testimony. Mr. Harris reported that the federal agency budget requests supported by the testimony are consistent with the 2011 Triennial Review and the recommended three-year Plan of Implementation. The main point of the letters of support is that the federal budget requests are the minimum to keep the Program moving forward.

Status of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project

Mr. Harris reported that the Department of Energy (DOE) has moved approximately five million tons of the 16 million tons of mill tailings near the Colorado River at Moab, Utah. With the use of 'stimulus funds', the DOE was able to move the project ahead of schedule. The DOE ships one train load four days a week. Each train has 36 cars, with lidded containers, at about 5,000 tones per shipment, or 20,000 tones per week. With current funding levels shipments are expected to continue through 2025.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Fisher requested the Board recessed to hold an Executive Session at 10:42 a.m.

Chairman Fisher reconvened the Board meeting at 11:32 a.m. Chairman Fisher reported that during the Executive Session Mr. Zimmerman briefed the Board on the status of negotiation with Mexico on the issues of Minute 319.

OTHER BUSINESS

Status of Governor's Proposal to Eliminate the Colorado River Board

Mr. Tom Levy reported that Assembly Budget Subcommittee had voted to reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Colorado River Board (CRB) and approved the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget. April 11th, the State Senate will hold a subcommittee meeting to discuss and vote on the CRB issue. The Senate is expected to release the results of their Budget Subcommittee vote by April 12th.

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on June 13, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Holiday Inn Ontario Airport, 2155 E. 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. Knutson, seconded by Mr. Menvielle, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned 11:36 a.m. on April 11, 2012.

/S/

Christopher Harris
Acting Executive Director