

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
Wednesday, November 14, 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 East Convention Center Way, Ontario, California, Wednesday, November 14, 2012.

Board Members and Alternates Present

Dana B. Fisher, Chairman  
Franz W. De Klotz  
W.D. "Bill" Knutson  
Henry Merle Kuiper  
David R. Pettijohn  
Bill D. Wright

Christopher G. Hayes, Designee  
Department of Fish and Game  
  
Jeanine Jones, Designee  
Department of Water Resources

Board Members and Alternate Absent

John V. Foley  
Terese Marie Ghio  
James Cleo Hanks

James B. McDaniel  
John Pierre Menvielle  
John Palmer Powell, Jr.

Others Present

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

Carrie Oliphant  
Glen D. Peterson  
Jack Seiler  
Peter S. Silva  
Ed W. Smith  
Mark Stuart  
Gary E. Tavetian  
Tanya M. Trujillo  
Micheal Yu  
Joseph A. Vanderhorst  
Mark Van Vlack  
Gerald R. Zimmerman

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fisher announced the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Chairman Fisher thanked Vice Chairman Knutson for officiating the October Board meeting.

## **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 October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Knutson moved the October 10<sup>th</sup> minutes be approved. Mr. Pettijohn seconded the motion. Unanimously carried, the Board approved the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

### Proposed 2012 Board Meeting Schedule

Executive Director, Ms. Tanya M. Trujillo reported that included in the Board folder is the proposed 2013 calendar year Board meeting schedule. The proposed 2013 meeting schedule is expected to be voted on by the Board at its meeting in December.

## **PROTECTION OF EXISTING RIGHTS**

### Colorado River Water Report

Mr. Harris reported that from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>, precipitation in the Basin was about 55 percent of normal. The observed April through July unregulated flow into Lake Powell for 2012 was 2.06 million acre-feet (maf), or 29 percent of capacity. The observed 2012 water year unregulated flow into Lake Powell was 4.91 maf, or 45 percent of capacity.

Mr. Harris reported that as of October 31<sup>st</sup> the reservoir storage in Lake Powell was 13.71 maf, or 56 percent of capacity. The water surface elevation was 3,619.5 feet. The storage in Lake Mead was 13.26 maf, or 51 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, there was 38.53 maf of water in storage, or 65 percent of capacity. Total System storage was about five million acre-feet less than this time last year.

Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation's estimated consumptive use (CU) for the State of Nevada is projected to be under its entitlement of 300,000 acre-feet (256,000 acre-feet); and Arizona's, CU is projected to be slightly over its basic entitlement of 2.8 maf (2.809 maf); and California's CU is also projected to be slightly over its basic mainstream apportionment of 4.4 maf (4.409 maf). The total projected CU in the Lower Basin is expected to be approximately 7.475 maf.

## State and Local Water Reports

Mr. Stuart of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Southern District reported that the water year has not yet begun in California. Storage in Lake Oroville was about 1.8 maf, or 51 percent of capacity. Last year at this time, Lake Oroville stored about 2.9 maf. Storage in San Luis Reservoir, south of the Delta, is about 300,000 acre-feet, or about 28 percent of capacity. Total SWP storage was 2.81 maf or 51 percent of capacity. Table A allocation is currently set at 65 percent.

Ms. Jeanine Jones added that on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, DWR is convening their annual winter outlook for the next water year. The panel of experts and researchers will convene to give their best estimate of the next winter season using the latest climate telemetry. Current forecast are 50/50 for a normal water year for 2013.

Mr. Wright, of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that the Colorado River Aqueduct is still operating at one-pump capacity, allowing maintenance to be performed on the other pumps. As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the storage in Diamond Valley Lake was about 733,300 acre-feet, or 91 percent of capacity. Storage in Lake Mathews was about 133,600 acre-feet, or 73 percent of capacity. Storage in Lake Skinner was 37,400 acre-feet, or 85 percent of capacity. Total storage of the three reservoirs was about 904,300 acre-feet or 87 percent of capacity. Total delivery to member agencies as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, was about 1.36 maf, or 85 percent of average (over the last ten years).

## Colorado River Operations

### *Revised Schedule of Calendar Year 2012 Water Delivery to Mexico*

Ms. Trujillo reported that on October 16<sup>th</sup> Reclamation acknowledged Mexico's request to change its water delivery schedule for 2012. The total delivery will be 1,367,771 acre-feet in Calendar Year 2012, with deferred delivery of 132,229 acre feet, pursuant to Minute 318, to be delivered in subsequent years.

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

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Lower Basin States met with Reclamation regarding the latest version of the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP) Procedures. Reclamation has scheduled a meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> to continue the discussion. Currently, Reclamation expects to finalize the IOPP Procedures by the end of 2012.

### *Reclamation's Water SMART Program Funding Opportunities*

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Department of the Interior has issued its three-year progress report for the Water SMART program. Ms. Trujillo reported that Title XVI Project and Water Efficiency Grant funding opportunities are available. Applications for Title XVI Project funding are due December 12<sup>th</sup>, and Applications for Water Efficiency Grant are due January 17, 2013. Ms. Trujillo reported that since 2010, California has received funding of about \$2.3 million under the Water Efficiency Grant programs, to support projects totaling about ten million dollars. Under

the Advanced Water Treatment category, California has also received about \$2.3 million for projects totaling about \$17 million. Ms. Trujillo encouraged interested member agencies to apply for funds to support projects in their service areas.

### Colorado River Environmental and Water Quality Issues

#### *Glen Canyon Dam Proposed High Flow Experiment, November 18-25, 2012*

Ms. Trujillo reported that a High-Flow Experiment (HFE) release from Glen Canyon Dam is scheduled to begin on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The HFE release is estimated to redistribute between 500,000 and 700,000 metric tons of sediment accumulated in the Marble Canyon reach of the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey are planning to conduct studies during and following the HFE release to study the deposition and movement of sediment. The HFE will begin by ramping flows up to a peak flow, then decreasing until returning to the base flow. The HFE release is intended to increase the scientific understanding of the Colorado River and improve the management of the natural resources below Glen Canyon Dam. Data collected and analyzed will be utilized in the ongoing Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program.

#### *Status of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program*

Ms. Trujillo reported that Mr. Harris attended the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) Steering Committee meeting that met in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The Steering Committee: 1) approved the Program's Fiscal Year 2013 budget of about \$34.5 million; 2) approved the Fiscal Year 2013 Work Plan; and 3) reviewed the draft Five-Year Research and Monitoring Report for the period 2013-2017.

The LCR MSCP also received accolades for the completion of three of the original Conservation Measure Tasks. The federal Fish and Wildlife Service signed off on these completed tasks. The completed LCR MSCP Conservation Measures included: 1) acquisition and protection of 240 acres of flat-tailed horned lizard habitat; 2) completion of riparian habitat monitoring for cottonwood/willow below Parker Dam associated with the 2001 Biological Opinion for Lower Colorado River operations; and 3) rerouting and construction of the Topock Marsh inlet canal and pump station project on Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. All three were significant achievements and were accomplished approximately five years ahead of the original schedule.

#### *Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Council Meetings*

Ms. Trujillo reported that she and Ms. Liu attended the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Council meeting on November 7-9, in Phoenix, Arizona. The discussions included the status of the review of options for the Paradox Valley Salinity Control Unit. There is growing concern about the potential failure of the high-pressure deep-injection well at the Paradox Unit. The next Workgroup meeting is scheduled to be in February 11-13, 2013, in San Diego, California, and the next Forum and Council meetings are scheduled to be in May 16-17, 2013 in Grand Junction, Colorado, coinciding with celebrations associated with the completion of the Grand Valley salinity control project in the Upper Basin.

## *Update on the Moab Uranium Mill-Tailings Removal Project*

Ms. Trujillo reported that Ms. Lindia Liu provided an update through the Board materials on the Moab Uranium Mill-Tailings Removal Project. About 36 percent, or 5.6 million tons, of the estimated total of 16 million tons of radioactive mill-tailings have been removed and relocated. The final repository site for the material is about 30 miles north of Moab, near Crescent Junction, Utah. The completion of the removal project is scheduled to occur between 2025 and 2029, with a total cost of approximately \$1.0 billion.

## Basin States Discussions

Ms. Trujillo reported that the Board would be going into Executive Session to discuss the status of the Minute 319 negotiations with Mexico. She also reported that the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study Report is expected to be completed by late-November, and that final reviews of the documents were being conducted. The Basin States are currently preparing a document outlining potential “Next Steps” to address the projected water supply and demand imbalances described in the Basin Study Report.

Chairman Fisher called the meeting into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m.

Chairman Fisher reconvened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Chairman Fisher reported that the Board discussed the status of the negotiations with Mexico relative to the conclusion of Minute 319, and the necessary domestic documents associated with Minute No. 319.

Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to approve the Resolution of the Colorado River Board of California regarding Minute No. 319 to the 1944 Mexico Treaty.

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Knutson, seconded by Mr. Kuiper, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Resolution of the Colorado River Board of California and Minute No. 319 to the 1944 Mexico Treaty.

Chairman Fisher asked the Board to approve a Memorandum of Agreement associated with the implementation of Minute No. 319.

MOTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Kuiper, seconded by Mr. Knutson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement on the Implementation of Minute No. 319.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Knutson reported that Mr. James Bond, who has served as an alternate on the Board for more than ten years, is retiring and that this would be his last meeting. Mr. Dave Fogerson, who has attended the Board meetings on behalf of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), is also retiring and that this is his last Board meeting as well. The Board and the audience recognized the service of the gentlemen from SDCWA.

Next Board Meeting

Chairman Fisher announced that the next meeting of the Colorado River Board will be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 3:00 p.m., at Caesars Palace Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, in conjunction with the annual conference of Colorado River Water Users Association.

There being no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Fisher asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Knutson moved the Board meeting be adjourned. Mr. Kuiper seconded the motion. With unanimous approval, the Board meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. on November 14, 2012.

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Tanya M. Trujillo  
Executive Director