



Meeting Minutes

Meeting of the California Water Commission
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
State of California, Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street, First Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814
Beginning at 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Quintero called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Executive Secretary Kimberly Muljat called the roll. Commission members Carol Baker, Joe Byrne, Joe Del Bosque, Maria Herrera, Cathy Keig, and Armando Quintero were present, constituting a quorum. Commission members Andy Ball and Danny Curtin were absent.

3. Closed Session

The Commission did not hold a closed session.

4. Approval of December 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Baker moved to approve the December 19, 2018 meeting minutes. All Commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

5. Executive Officer's Report

Executive Officer Joe Yun gave a presentation on the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) to the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) notified the Commission of the shift in the Salton Sea New River West Design-Build Project. Staff is working with the Chair and Vice Chair to update the Commission's Strategic Plan, including defining the relationship between the Commission and DWR. In February, staff from the Commission, DWR, State Water Resources Control Board, and Department of Fish and Wildlife will meet with WSIP applicants to discuss the process for developing required contracts for the administration of public benefits. Commission staff has executed WSIP early funding agreements with two applicants and is still working with the third applicant on the final agreement.

6. Commission Member Reports

There were no reports.

7. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

8. Action Item: Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Keig moved to re-elect Commissioner Quintero as Chair and Commissioner Baker as Vice Chair. Commissioner Byrne seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in favor.

9. State Water Project Dam Safety Update

Ted Craddock, DWR Assistant Deputy Director for the State Water Project (SWP), and David Sarkisian, Chief Dam Safety Engineer for the SWP, delivered a briefing on the State Water Project Dam Safety Program. DWR had an existing multi-layered approach to dam safety, but conducted reviews to determine areas for improvement following the Oroville spillways incident in 2017. In 2018, DWR developed a formal SWP Dam Safety Policy, which assigns responsibility and accountability, and establishes program elements. Mr. Sarkisian highlighted some of the program progress, showcasing enhanced training plans for engineers and increased outreach to local agencies on Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and emergency preparedness. In 2018 DWR also completed phase 1 spillway inspections and condition assessments and maintenance actions for seven major SWP dams. Planned efforts for 2019 include ongoing analysis of Oroville Dam safety, additional spillway inspections, and inundation mapping, EAP updates, and exercises.

Mr. Yun asked Mr. Craddock how many spillways are in the SWP. Mr. Sarkisian replied there are approximately 22 spillways within the SWP.

Commissioner Quintero inquired if monitoring technology includes remote cameras. Mr. Sarkisian stated that remote cameras are in place at Oroville Dam, and DWR is prioritizing installation of cameras at other dams. Commissioner Baker asked if the program encompasses related facilities, such as powerplants and forebay operations. Mr. Sarkisian stated that some appurtenant structures are included in inspections and are also included in operations and maintenance activities.

Commissioner Del Bosque asked if this program included San Luis Reservoir, which is a joint facility of the SWP and Central Valley Project. Mr. Sarkisian stated it is operated and maintained by DWR with assistance from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

10. AB 1755 Open Data Initiative

Christine McCready, Chief of DWR's Integrated Data and Analysis Branch, discussed AB 1755 and provided a brief background on the legislation's requirements. Open data generally refers to data placed in the public domain that can be freely used, modified, and shared. AB 1755 is an opportunity to integrate and increase access to water data collected by governmental agencies. DWR is working with several other state agencies to implement AB 1755. DWR and its partners have developed a strategic plan for implementation and initial minimum protocols to support early implementation. Several state agencies were already developing data portals, so DWR and its partners are aiming to encourage federation to allow different existing platforms to operate together. DWR compiled 20 use cases to help determine user demands and hosted data challenges to allow stakeholders to use the platforms and data, which can inspire new ideas. Ms.

McCready discussed the exploration of governance and funding for open and transparent water data.

Commissioner Baker asked if the information is anticipated to be used for writing regulations, policy making, and land use decisions. Ms. McCready stated there are many possibilities. Commissioner Baker asked what information generated from state contracts and grants will be included in the database, which may be relevant to the WSIP. Ms. McCready said her staff expects to support grant programs in use of the open data platform. David Harris, with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), explained the CNRA open data platform is open to all programs and partners related to CNRA. Amy Young stated that Commission staff will work with its state agency partners to identify monitoring and data requirements that will be included in the WSIP contracts for administration of public benefits.

The Commission took public comment. Dierdre De Jardins, with California Water Research, suggested that full historical data records should be accessible.

11. Groundwater Basin Boundary Modifications

Taryn Ravazzini, DWR Deputy Director for Special Initiatives, provided a brief introduction and background on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the basin boundary modification process. Dane Mathis, DWR Supervising Engineer Geologist, stated that the Commission's role is to hear and comment on the draft basin boundary modifications, though the Commission does not have an approval role. Mr. Mathis discussed the types of basin boundary modifications and the process of requests, public comments, and review. DWR approved 35 modifications, denied 4, and approved 4 with a portion denied. Mr. Mathis provided an overview of several notable requests and DWR's decisions and rationale, including three updated decisions.

Commissioner Quintero asked about the outcome of the basins that were denied. Mr. Mathis explained the 2018 boundary modification cycle is finished, and the opportunity for agencies to submit additional clarifying information has passed. Agencies will need to shift their focus to planning to meet the deadlines for completing Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

The Commission took public comment. Hanspeter Walter, with Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District, discussed his district's disagreement with DWR's denial of its basin boundary modification request and urged the Commission to look into the issue.

12. Consideration of Items for Next California Water Commission Meeting

Agenda items in February will include a briefing by the Climate Registry on the Water/Energy Nexus, discussion of the 2018 Annual Review of the SWP, a WSIP update, consideration of DWR's Division of Safety of Dams annual fee regulations, and consideration of a resolution addressing potential WSIP future funding.

12. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned at 12:10 p.m.