



## **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

State of California, Resources Building  
1416 Ninth Street, First Floor Auditorium  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Anthony Saracino called to order the meeting of the California Water Commission at 1:03 p.m. Mr. Saracino asked the members of the Commission to introduce themselves.

### **2. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and a quorum established. The following members were present: Andrew Ball, Joe Byrne, Joe Del Bosque, Dave Cogdill, Kim Delfino, Paul Kelley, Luther Hintz, and Anthony Saracino. No members were absent.

### **3. Approval of minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 16 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Interim Executive Officer's Update on various administrative issues**

Sue Sims, Interim Executive Officer, advised the Commission that a letter from the Commission regarding federal appropriations could be completed by the end of April and recommended that the Federal Appropriations Committee work on that letter; mentioned that the Chilean Water Commission was currently in the building touring DWR and may stop by; introduced Scott Morgan, DWR Staff Counsel, who attended the meeting in place of Spencer Kenner who could not attend; and mentioned that Vice-Chair Paul Kelley would be speaking to the Delta Stewardship Council at their March 24 meeting.

### **5. Report on Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center Tour, scheduled March 10**

Mr. Cogdill and Mr. Hintz reported on their recent trip to the Irrigation Training and Research Center. Mr. Cogdill called the trip extremely informative and shared information regarding irrigation practices. Mr. Hintz also found the tour informative and mentioned that conservation of agricultural water does not always mean more water for other uses, but in some cases, where runoff cannot be reused, conservation does increase water available. Mr. Curtin expressed an interest in scheduling another trip in the future for members who were unable to attend.

## **6. Legislative Update**

Kasey Schimke, DWR Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, provided an update on bills which had been introduced since the last meeting, including SB 571, Wolk. An overview of the proposed bill was presented to the Commission at their February meeting. Members requested more information regarding this bill and specific analyses including an analysis of how this bill would affect the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2012, and an analysis by DWR Legal Counsel or the Legislative Analyst's Office. Mr. Ball said the Commission should review all bills affecting water, and pay particular attention to bills affecting the State Water Project. Mr. Byrne suggested that the Rules and Regulations Committee take on this task.

## **7. Discussion of Commission authority to develop methods for quantifying public benefits of water storage and related activities underway at DWR**

Scott Morgan, DWR Staff Counsel, referenced a memo, written by Commission Counsel Spencer Kenner, and reaffirmed that there is no impediment to the Commission moving forward with looking at the technical issues necessary to inform future work on regulations as the Department has broad authority to work on these issues, and the Commission has broad authority to advise the Department on any issues within its jurisdiction. He also referenced a letter from DWR Director Mark Cowin to the Commission in which he indicates DWR's support for the Commission beginning this work.

## **9. Update on California Water Plan Update 2013 and coordination with CWC activities related to methods for quantifying public benefits for storage (item was heard out of order)**

Kamyar Guivetchi, Acting Chief of DWR's Division of Integrated Water Management presented an overview of the California Water Plan Update 2013 process and its various Advisory Committees. He introduced Paul Massera, the Project Manager for Update 2013 and he suggested Paul provide a more in-depth briefing on Update 2013 at a future meeting. He also introduced Lisa Beutler, Senior Consultant with MWH in charge of Water Plan Outreach. He invited and encouraged the Commission to leverage the venues for public outreach that have already been established for the Water Plan Update 2013 when working on quantification of public benefits of storage projects and noted that the participants in these groups would be happy to deal with this content.

## **8. Discussion with Department of Fish and Game and State Water Resources Control Board related to quantification of public benefits**

Scott Cantrell, Acting Chief of the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Water Branch, represented the DFG in a discussion of quantification of public benefits. He expressed DFG's commitment to working on this issue. Vicky Whitney, Deputy Director at the State Water Resources Control Board, expressed the Board's commitment to work on this issue. Both committed to meet the statutory obligations in SBX7-2, the Safe, Clean, and

Reliable Drinking Water Act of 2012, to provide the Commission priorities for the ranking of various public benefits.

**12. Action Item: Review of draft letter from the Commission to the Legislature and Administration on State Water Project operational issues and challenges (*this item was heard out of order*)**

DWR Director Mark Cowin spoke to the Commission regarding the State Water Project (SWP) and outlined the steps that DWR has taken towards resolving the recruitment and retention issues for SWP trades and crafts positions. He answered Commission questions and informed the Commission that Secretary Laird is fully aware of these issues. He expressed his support for the Commission sending the draft letter to Secretary Laird and DPA Director Yank. The Commission made two edits to the letter: 1) the letter must address collective bargaining, and 2) information related to contracting costs was clarified. A motion was made and seconded to approve the letter as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Consideration of task order for consultant for quantification of public benefits of storage projects**

Ajay Goyal, Chief of DWR's Statewide Infrastructure Investigations Branch, presented an outline of a proposed task order to a current DWR contract with CH2M Hill to assist the Commission with work on the quantification of the public benefits. The proposed task order would require the contractor to assist the Commission with identifying available tools and methods, provide input on how the various tools can be applied to different types of benefits and projects, and provide input on the development of language for regulations and guidelines. The Commission directed Ms. Sims to proceed with executing the task order, but requested more information be brought back to the Commission including a more detailed timeline, more specific tasks, and finalized funding.

**11. Briefing by the Contra Costa Water District on Los Vaqueros dam expansion project**

Marguerite Naillon, Los Vaqueros Expansion Project Manager for Contra Costa Water District presented an overview of the expansion project including the existing project, the reservoir expansion concept, impacts and mitigation, and benefits.

**13. Action Item: Proposed committee assignments**

Chair Saracino made suggested assignments to each of the four previously decided committees: State Water Project, Rules and Regulations, Public Benefits of Storage, and Federal Appropriations. A motion was made and seconded to approve the committee assignments as proposed. Motion passed unanimously.

**14. Consideration of items for next California Water Commission meeting**

Ms. Sims suggested the following items for the next Commission meeting: regulations for Agricultural Water Measurement (Emergency and Permanent), a report on the task order for a consultant including scope of work, timeline, and funding issues, a budget

and/or legislative update depending on need, an update on the results of DWR's meeting with DPA on SWP issues, feedback from the Delta Stewardship Council after Vice-Chair Kelley's presentation, and any letters of support for flood appropriations.

**15. Public comments**

There were no public comments made.

**16. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Saracino at 3:51 p.m.

Further information regarding this meeting is available at [www.cwc.ca.gov](http://www.cwc.ca.gov). This meeting is also available for public viewing through a recorded webcast at the following URL:  
<http://cawater.rmxpres.com/webcast/data/dwr03162011/msh.htm>