

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Meeting of the California Water Commission

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

State of California, Resources Building

1416 Ninth Street, First Floor Auditorium

Sacramento, CA 95814

Beginning at 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Acting Executive Officer Taryn Ravazzini called roll. Commission members Carol Baker, Andy Ball, Joe Byrne, Daniel Curtin, Joe Del Bosque, Maria Herrera, Dave Orth, and Armando Quintero were present, constituting a quorum. Commission member Paula Daniels arrived during agenda item 8.

3. Approval of September 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the September 16, 2016 meeting minutes. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Executive Officer's Report

Taryn Ravazzini explained that she was serving as Acting Executive Officer while Rachel Ballanti was on leave and gave the Executive Officer's report. The Commission is seeking a permanent Executive Officer and has posted an announcement for the position online. On October 20, 2016, Commission staff will host a Webinar Meeting on the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) for California Tribal governments. There will also be a workshop in March 2017 for potential applicants, including Tribes, interested in learning more about applying for WSIP funding.

5. Commission Member Reports

Commissioner Baker met with representatives from the Association of California Water Agencies to discuss the WSIP. Commissioner Orth participated in a conversation with a representative of the Environmental Defense Fund. Commissioner Byrne attended the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy's Roundtable Conference on California's Water. Commissioner Quintero participated in a conference on water history where he spoke about the WSIP and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Commissioners Baker, Orth, and Del Bosque met separately with representatives from Grasslands Water District. Commissioners Byrne, Baker, Orth, and Quintero met separately with representatives from Defenders of Wildlife.

6. Public Testimony

There were no public comments at this time.

9. Briefing on DWR's 2016 Final Basin Boundary Modifications

This item was taken out of order.

DWR staff gave the presentation. At the July Commission meeting, DWR staff briefed the Commission on DWR's 2016 draft basin boundary modifications. Upon publication of the draft modifications, staff received feedback and appeals from several local agencies requesting reconsideration. After holding detailed discussions with those local agencies, staff revised three of their initial decisions. In total, 39 requests were approved, 12 were denied, and 3 were ruled to be incomplete. A list of all of DWR's basin boundary decisions has been posted on their website and will also be used to update Bulletin 118.

7. Update on Public Comments Received on the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Revised Draft Regulations and Briefing on Concepts for Staff Recommended Changes

8. Action Item: Commission Direction on Recommended Concepts and Outstanding Issues Related to the WSIP Regulations

Agenda items 7 and 8 were all addressed in a continuous discussion between the Commission and staff.

On September 2, the Commission released the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Revised Draft Regulations. This began a public comment period which ended October 3. Staff received 41 letters containing over 160 comments from local, state, and federal agencies, organizations, private companies, individuals, non-governmental organizations, and Tribal governments. The majority of the comments focused on mitigation and compliance obligations, climate change, and the application process.

Staff provided an overview of the six topics that received the most feedback from the public during the recently closed comment period. Staff provided detailed descriptions of the comments received and provided their recommendations. Following each topic was a Commission discussion and an opportunity for public comment.

The topics discussed were:

- Application Process
- Management of Public Benefits
- Project Evaluation and Scoring
- Commission Decision Making Process and Public Involvement
- Climate Change
- Mitigation and Compliance Obligations

Sixteen members of the public provided public comment. Several speakers made comments on more than one topic. In order to capture complete testimony given by members of the public, a court reporter transcribed agenda items 6-10. The transcript is available at https://cwc.ca.gov/Documents/2016/10_October/October2016_MeetingTranscript_Final.pdf.

The Commission directed staff to proceed with the current recommendations. They also encouraged them to find ways to simplify some of the language and find ways to streamline parts of the application process that were perceived to be overly complicated or onerous.

10. Consideration of Items for the Next California Water Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, November 10. It will be an informational meeting that will provide an opportunity for public discussion of WSIP regulation topics such as management of public benefits, public participation, project scoring, compliance obligations, and program requirements.

At the November 15 Commission meeting, staff will request direction from the Commission to proceed with a public comment period on the WSIP Draft Regulations. DWR staff will provide presentations on DWR's Water Loss Regulations, state legislation relevant to DWR and the Commission, Tribal Engagement, and Best Management Practices under SGMA.

Commissioner Byrne adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m.