

Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Meeting of the California Water Commission

Thursday, January 18, 2018

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 9:31 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Executive Officer Joe Yun called roll. Commission members Carol Baker, Daniel Curtin, Joe Del Bosque, Cathy Keig, and Armando Quintero were present, constituting a quorum. Commission members Andy Ball, Joseph Byrne, and Maria Herrera were absent.

3. Closed Session

The Commission did not hold a closed session.

4. Approval of December 2017 Minutes

Commissioner Baker moved to approve the December 13-14, 2017 meeting minutes. All members present voted to approve the minutes.

5. Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Yun deferred his report until agenda item 10.

6. Commission Member Reports

Commissioners had nothing to report.

7. Public Testimony

The following people expressed opposition to the Centennial Water Supply Project: Dianna Suarez, with Save Bear River; Otis Wollan, with the American River Watershed Institute; William Stockwin, Mayor of Colfax; Wanda Batchelor, representing the Nisenan Tribe; and Syd Brown, representing the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society.

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

Chair Quintero accepted nominations. Commissioner Keig nominated Commissioner Quintero for Chair and nominated Commissioner Baker for Vice Chair. Commissioner

Curtin seconded the nominations. All members present voted in favor of the nominations.

9. Overview of 2017 State Water Project Review

Jennifer Ruffolo, Assistant Executive Officer for the Commission, presented an outline of the Commission's annual report on the State Water Project (SWP). Every year the Commission submits its review of the SWP to the Legislature and the Director of Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2017 was an eventful year for the SWP with record precipitation and the Oroville spillways incident and response. On January 5, 2018, the independent forensic team investigating the Oroville spillways incident released its final report on the causes and contributing factors of the incident. Staff proposed the Commission extend the time frame for developing and adopting the 2017 report to allow sufficient time to develop the Commission's findings and recommendations, including those for the spillways incident.

Commissioner Quintero supported adopting the review on a longer time frame than previous years. Commissioner Keig commented that the Commission should make sure there is enough time to address the SWP as a whole, not just the Oroville spillways incident.

10. Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Update

Mr. Yun provided an update on the WSIP. Commission staff is preparing to release Public Benefit Ratio (PBR) reviews, which are reviewer adjustments to applicant PBRs and not a decision of the Commission. After the release of the reviews on February 1, applicants can appeal the changes made by the reviewers. The appeal process will allow applicants to provide clarification and additional information to support their applications and staff expects PBRs to change again after the appeals.

Commission staff invited applicants to meet with reviewers and all applicants accepted. Staff explained some of the issues reviewers have found and why some adjustments are being made. In addition, staff met with Non-Governmental Organizations to explain the PBR process. Staff also briefed some members of the legislature and legislative staffers on the WSIP process and what the PBR reviews mean.

In anticipation of the number of appeals staff expects to receive and the time required to respond to the appeals, staff has adjusted the WSIP implementation schedule. Mr. Yun provided an overview of the schedule for major WSIP milestones through Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations in July 2018.

The Commission took public comments. Maureen Martin, with Contra Costa Water District, thanked staff for meeting with applicants and requested that the Commission not extend the WSIP schedule any further. Jim Watson, with Sites Project Authority, commented on his desire to have more meetings with staff for clarification and requested that the component scores other than PBR be expedited.

Commissioner Del Bosque suggested the Commission host a workshop or meeting with all WSIP applicants to help them respond to their PBR reviews. Mr. Yun stated the Commission is still in the review process and most questions and comments are specific to each application. The PBR reviews will contain clarifying information from reviewers.

Mario Santoyo, with San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority, commented that the meetings with applicants were difficult due to limitations on questions that could be asked and stated that the PBR reviews need to provide specific information for applicants to successfully respond to reviewer adjustments. Kyle Jones, with Sierra Club California, stated that the Commission should ensure the public has ample opportunity to review documents and make comments.

11. Presentation of Annual Work Plan

Ms. Ruffolo provided an overview of the Commission's work plan for 2018. The Commission will primarily focus on the WSIP until it makes Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations in July. Other issues, such as approval of DWR regulations and coordination with the Delta Stewardship Council, will be taken up as needed.

The 2018 meeting dates are generally the third Wednesday of each month, except for the few meetings that will focus on WSIP decisions. Critical WSIP decisions will occur May 1-3, when final PBRs will be determined; June 27-29, when the other component scores will be decided; and July 24-26, when the Commission will make Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations.

12. Consideration of Items for Next California Water Commission Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2018. Agenda items will include a DWR briefing on regulations requiring inundation maps and emergency action plans for dams and discussion of the draft 2017 State Water Project review.

13. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.