Director Figuers called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

1. Public Comment - There were no comments from the public.

2. 2020 Chain of Lakes Use Update

Carol Mahoney, Integrated Water Resources Manager, introduced Amparo Flores, Ph.D., Integrated Planning Manager, who gave a presentation on the 2020 Chain of Lakes Use Update.

Dr. Flores stated that the Chain of Lakes will ultimately consist of about 10 Lakes, which will serve a variety of Zone 7’s Water Management activities and will help meet its mission of supplying a reliable source of high quality drinking water, enhancing groundwater recharge, and providing effective flood protection.

Dr. Flores added that based on the latest estimates, all of the lakes will be deeded to Zone 7 by the mining companies around 2050-2060. Dr. Flores stated that in 2014 staff completed a Preliminary Lake Use Evaluation for the Chain of Lakes and the study’s findings were adopted by the board. The goal for this study was to have a document that could be used to guide both internal and external planning efforts. The main goals were to identify the potential uses that have been suggested for the Chain of Lakes. The document was intended to provide a framework for evaluating specific project proposals and finally to communicate Zone 7’s intended uses of the lakes to other agencies and to the public.

Colleen Winey, Associate Geologist, stated that some of the reasons for the 2020 update were to revisit the thinking about potential uses for the lakes; to incorporate the new information and changed conditions that have occurred since 2014; to confirm the scoring criteria
accurately reflects each use; and to ensure that the uses are updated and valid in light of near-term planning efforts.

Ms. Winey said there are primary uses and secondary uses for the Chain of Lakes. The primary uses that support Zone 7’s mission were identified as a stormwater detention, groundwater recharge, and surface water storage and conveyance. Secondary uses were identified as recycled water storage, habitat/conservation, active recreation and public/education. There were only minor changes in suitable lake uses from the 2014 Evaluation mostly due to proposed changes in mining. The identified lake uses for the EPSP area did not change from the 2014 Evaluation.

Dr. Flores requested direction from the Committee on acceptance of updated findings and Presentation of findings to the full board at the next board meeting.

Director Palmer asked if the compatibility matrix chart that was in the 2014 Evaluation could be included in the new update. The Committee requested staff bring the updated findings to the full Board.


Sal Segura, Associate Engineer, presented the Preliminary Water Operations Plan for 2020. Mr. Segura stated that in April staff will come back to the Board and present the full five-year Water Supply Annual Sustainability Report to show how Zone 7 plans to operate in the next five years.

Mr. Segura stated that the Department of Water Resources does a monthly study to evaluate existing conditions. Mr. Segura presented a spectrum of possibilities from the 10% State Water Project allocation up to 60%.

Mr. Segura discussed the estimated water supply costs based on the various allocations ranging from $3.3 million to $5.2 million. He noted that receiving a lower or higher allocation from the average does not necessarily translate into lower costs, since less water means that funding will be needed to call back stored water from Kern County banks and a higher allocation means that Zone 7 would want to pay to have any excess water banked for future needs.

Director Figuers asked about the cost of groundwater pumping. Mr. Segura stated that groundwater pumping is captured as an operational cost which is tracked separately. This report captures the cost of bringing in imported water. Director Palmer asked for clarification on the first bullet where it says conveyance costs are included in SWP water costs. Mr. Segura responded that the bullet was there in error and will not be included in the report to the full Board. Director Palmer wanted to make a note that these costs do not include moving any of the water but just the actual cost of the water. Mr. Segura confirmed.

4. Verbal Reports - There were no verbal reports.

5. Adjournment

Director Figuers adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.