

ZONE 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SUMMARY NOTES OF THE WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

September 28, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Directors present: Sandy Figuers
Dennis Gambs
Sarah Palmer

Staff present: Valerie Pryor, General Manager
Osborn Solitei, Treasurer/Assistant General Manager – Finance
Colter Andersen, Production Manager
Carol Mahoney, Integrated Water Resources Manager
Gurpal Deol, Water Quality Manager
Amparo Flores, Integrated Planning Manager
Alexandra Bradley, Communications Specialist
Donna Fabian, Executive Assistant

Director Palmer called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda

Merlin Newton, Sr., spoke about concerns he has on the proposed industrial solar plants over the May School Groundwater Basin. He mentioned that he also wrote a letter to President Sanwong and Vice-President Ramirez Holmes.

2. Potential Impacts of Wildfires on Zone 7 Water Agency Operations

Gurpal Deol, Water Quality Manager, gave a presentation on the potential water quality impacts of wildfires on Zone 7 operations. Mr. Deol stated that wildfires can have both short- and long-term impacts on water quality. One concern is ash. The turbidity coming from the ash is hard to remove because it is very light weight and hard to settle.

Mr. Deol stated that Zone 7's Water Quality Monitoring Program is pretty comprehensive. We focus on the analytes that we can do in-house. Our monitoring frequency far exceeds any regulatory requirements. The most important from the water quality aspect is the online monitoring because it is happening all the time. So if there is any concern we get an immediate trigger and then we can take some follow-up actions. From the online monitoring we are looking at turbidity, pH, electronic conductivity EC and disinfectant residuals.

Mr. Deol stated that there was no damage to Zone 7 facilities from the 2020 fires. Zone 7 treatment plants are equipped with robust treatment processes that can handle any anticipated source water quality changes. Operational costs might increase due to potential increases in chemical dosages and sludge production. The customers are not anticipated to see any changes to their tap water quality.

Director Gambbs stated that the local fires would be of more concern since the Arroyo Valle fire gets diluted with Feather River and Sacramento water. But he wants to hear what Zone 7 feels is our biggest area of concern.

Mr. Deol responded that we draw water from quite below the surface of Lake Del Valle and we are getting some dilution, one from the reservoir and the second from the State Water Project.

Colter Andersen, Production Manager, added that Operations is very confident in our ability to treat the water whether it's local or coming from Lake Oroville. With the new technology we have at Del Valle, we're not worried about anything that's coming into Lake Del Valle. We also have a very good relationship with DWR. So if we do see any water quality problems coming from the raw side, we have an action team that works with them and would be able to mitigate any raw water quality concerns.

Director Palmer asked if we have any idea about what the cost estimates might be in terms of treatment with say the increase in turbidity and sedimentation.

Valerie Pryor, General Manager, said we wouldn't have that information at this time as we don't know what if any issues would be. If it's a dry winter and there's no runoff, then there's no issues, but in order of magnitude, it would not be a budget issue.

3. Delta Conveyance Project Status and Potential Next Steps

Amparo Flores, PhD, Integrated Planning Manager, gave a project overview, status update, and review of the potential next steps for the Delta Conveyance Project. Dr. Flores stated that the Delta Conveyance Project is the alternative conveyance in the delta that's needed to deliver State Water Project supplies in case there are problems delivering water through the delta due to earthquakes or sea level rise. Dr. Flores stated that the current proposed project is a single tunnel up to 6,000 cubic feet per second. Although the Department of Water Resources, which manages and owns and operates the State Water Project, is still in the process of screening the alternatives that will be included in the formal environmental review process.

Dr. Flores stated that having this project that will give us the option of diverting water upstream of the delta which will help improve the liability of the State Water Project against climate change impacts, seismic issues, and improving the reliability overall of the State Water Project.

Other many possible future risk scenarios and the benefits could range from 100,000 acre feet per year to 1,000,000 acre feet per year on average. That's about 2.5% to 25% Table A allocation. So of our contracted amount we may get up to 25% higher allocation with the project.

Dr. Flores gave an overview of the potential schedule for Zone 7 this coming fall. Dr. Flores stated that staff are thinking of going to the Board in November. There will be three key potential actions that would need to be taken at that time according to the schedule. That includes the decision to participate in funding for the environmental planning costs for the project over the next four years. A review of the Agreement in Principle to amend the State

Water Project so that the Delta Conveyance Project can be incorporated, and then updates to the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority agreement.

Dr. Flores stated that the current cost assessment is \$15.9 billion in non-discounted dollars. This includes project costs for construction, management, oversight mitigation, planning, soft costs and a fairly health contingency level given the level of uncertainty at this point in the project's design and engineering.

The estimate includes one tunnel, total capacity of 6,000 CFS, two intakes at 3,000 CFS each, 42 miles of tunnel and associated shaft and then a bunch of facilities in the delta area at the bottom end of the tunnel where it would have a new pump station, new forebay and connections to the existing California Aqueducts. All the plumbing to connect it to the State Water Project system has been included. And of course the environmental mitigation is also included. The funding agreement for environmental planning covers about \$385 million of planning costs from 2021 to 2024 based on the cost allocation factor. It's really going to be proportional to the level of participation of the different agencies. If Zone 7 participates at our Table A amount that would result in us covering 2.2% of the overall planning costs.

Linda Kelly, a resident of Pleasanton, asked if Zone 7 could share the project in the local newspapers and maybe a Zoom meeting so that the public could be more engaged.

4. Verbal Reports – none

5. Adjournment – Director Palmer adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.