

Delta Committee:

Summary Notes and Minutes

Meeting Date: June 29, 2011

Start Time: 4:00 p.m.

Directors Present: J. Greci
S. Palmer
B. Stevens

Staff Present: K. Arends, J. Chahal,
J. Duerig, B. Ledesma

1. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Members of the public did not provide comments.

2. Water Supply Evaluation

Staff gave a presentation and answered questions from the committee.

Summary of Presentation

Staff gave a presentation that summarized the analysis, results, and recommendations of the evaluation. Some of the key recommendations from the study to help minimize near term risk and provide long-term flexibility included working with the local water supply retailers to develop additional water conservation and recycled water programs, confirming minimum yields from Zone 7's existing contract with BBID, reducing unaccounted-for water, and developing an enhanced in-lieu recharge program.

Some of the other major studies recommended included working with the Retailers to develop a water conservation tracking methodology, linking potable water demand offsets identified in the Water Supply Evaluation to potential recycled water demands, and evaluating the potential salt implications of recycled water over the Main Basin as part of the Salt Management Plan update. The evaluation also recommends continuing to participate in both the BDCP/DHCCP effort and the feasibility studies associated with the Bay Area Regional Desalination Project.

Staff provided a summary of some key observations regarding reliability. In particular, the analysis indicated that there was only about a 10 to 20 percent difference in total portfolio costs between a 75 and 99 percent reliability, and that other drivers (e.g., demand hardening and uncertainty) would likely drive any potential changes in policy. Consequently, staff also recommended working with the local water supply retailers to develop proposals for changing the existing reliability policy that can be brought to the Committee and Board of Directors for review after completion of the report.

Committee Comments and Questions

The Committee then asked specific questions regarding the potential "enhanced" in-lieu recharge program, regional desalination, Semitropic, and interties, as follows:

Enhanced In-Lieu Recharge

The Committee asked for more explanation of this potential program. Zone 7 staff indicated that enhanced in-lieu recharge would involve selling the Retailers additional surface water during normal or wet years in return for pumping less than their groundwater pumping quota, and that staff is still working on the details. Staff also indicated that the program would only be needed until sufficient artificial recharge programs (e.g., Chain of Lakes) were developed.

Regional Desalination

The Delta Committee asked if the Regional Desalination Project could be impacted by climate change. Staff indicated that from a water supply yield, maybe, but that it depended on the specific change occurring.

Non-Local Storage: Semitropic

The Delta Committee asked if the evaluation accounted for potential regulation of groundwater basins in Kern County, specifically within Semitropic Water Storage District. Staff indicated that this scenario was not evaluated, but that we have a myriad of water supply options available if dry year supplies were lost because of such an action. Staff also said that water system planning is not what it used to be – a plan is no longer good for 10 to 15 years, and that more frequent updates are required to account for future uncertainty (e.g., potential changes to Semitropic).

Interties

The Delta Committee asked if Zone 7 staff was also planning to speak to SFPUC regarding the potential of an intertie. Staff indicated that yes, they do plan to speak with SFPUC.

Request for Direction

After answering specific questions from the Delta Committee, Zone 7 staff then asked whether the length of the presentation was appropriate for the full board and whether the committee felt that any action might be required from the Board. The Committee recommended that Zone 7 staff give the same presentation to the full Board of Directors in July, and that they did not see any potential action unless it involved the reliability policy. Staff indicated that they plan to work with the Retailers over the next several months to develop a proposal regarding the reliability policy that can be brought to the Committee and the full Board of Directors but that it would not be ready for the July meeting.

3. Verbal Reports

No verbal reports were given.

4. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.