

Delta Committee:

Summary Notes and Minutes

Meeting Date: September 29, 2010

Start Time: 4:00 p.m.

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

Zone 7 Staff Present: J. Duerig
B. Ledesma
J. Chahal (*notes*)

1. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Members of the public did not provide comments.

2. Water System Master Plan – Status Update

a. Arroyo Valle Water Rights – update on Petition for Extension of Time

Staff gave a presentation to the Delta Committee (Committee) outlining the status of the Water System Master Plan (WSMP) and Zone 7's petition for extension of time for its water right permit on Arroyo del Valle (Petition). During the presentation, Staff told the Committee that Staff would complete the WSMP by March 2011 instead of December 2010, and that the delay reflected reallocation of resources to address four protests filed against the Petition – the protests required responses within tight deadlines established by the State Water Resources Control Board. Staff also said that during the months of August and September, they solicited feedback from the Retailers regarding various shortages and frequencies they would like analyzed as part of the WSMP.

Discussion on the Arroyo del Valle Water Rights Petition for Extension of Time

The Committee asked who filed the protests, the reason for the protests, the attitude of the protestors toward Zone 7, and the implications to Zone 7.

Staff responded that Alameda County Water District (ACWD), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) filed three of the protests, and that Alameda Creek Alliance (ACA), California Water Impact Network (C-WIN), California Sportsfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), and AquAlliance (AA) filed a fourth, joint protest. Staff also indicated that the reasons for the protests reflected concern that the project described in the Petition might potentially impact the environment or downstream, more senior water rights. Staff told the Committee that they had already met with DFG, ACWD, and the joint protestors (ACA, C-WIN, CSPA, AA) on 8/25, 9/14, and 9/23, respectively, and that Staff plans to meet with SFPUC in the next few weeks – the relationship with all of the protestors is very good and of a cooperative nature. Staff said it expects that Zone 7 will need to complete an Environmental Study and Water Analysis in support of the Petition, and would work with the protestors through the development of both efforts.

Staff also indicated that Zone 7's request for a 30-year extension of time is based on the best information currently available as to when the Chain of Lakes will come under its control. The Chain of Lakes, particularly, Lakes A and B, are vital to completing the project described in the Petition, and Zone 7 has little to no control over their eventual completion. Staff also said that once the Chain of Lakes is available, Zone 7 projects that it can increase its long-term average yield by approximately 3,800 acre-feet.

Discussion of Potential Water Supply Options

Staff presented copies of the water supply options tables previously provided during the Board of Directors meeting on July 21, 2010. Staff described the organization of the tables, and then discussed potential water transfer ideas, including potential new supplies associated with the recent merger of Byron Bethany Irrigation District and Plain View Water District.

3. 2010 Urban Water Management Plan Update

Staff gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the purpose, status, and schedule of the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), and provided a summary of key changes from the 2005 UWMP. As part of the presentation, Staff also said that they provided a preliminary draft version of the UWMP to the Retailers for technical review on September 21, 2010, and they expected comments from the Retailers by mid-October.

Staff also said that, even though recent legislation passed by the Governor extended the UWMP deadline for water supply wholesalers to July 1, 2011, they were still going to try to complete the UWMP by December 31, 2010. As with past UWMP, Staff is attempting to obtain UWMP approval from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) before the Board adopts it. Staying on the expedited schedule allows Zone 7 to work closely with DWR to integrate new guidelines, including SBX7-7, and be first in line for review.

4. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.