

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Oroville Dam Citizens Advisory Commission**  
**Meeting 5: November 13, 2020**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar**

This meeting summary provides an overview of the November 13, 2020 Oroville Dam Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) meeting and focuses primarily on capturing the comments and questions posed by Commissioners and members of the public. It is organized by agenda topic to assist readers in cross-referencing the meeting materials. This document is not intended to serve as minutes of the meeting or a transcript of the discussion. A transcript and materials from the meeting are available on the Oroville Dam CAC website: <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Oroville-Dam-Citizens-Advisory-Commission>

**MEETING AGENDA**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Wildfire Updates
- Winter Operations and Communications
- Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA)
- Public Comment

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Meeting facilitation consultants, Kearns & West, to produce meeting summary. California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), Asm. Gallagher, Sen. Nielsen, Sup. Flores (Sutter County), and Sup. Bradford (Yuba County)'s offices to review summary prior to posting on the Oroville Dam Citizens Advisory Commission website.
2. DWR will provide real time updates to the Senator and Assemblyman and other Commission members:
  - If incoming debris into the lake gets out of control/overwhelms DWR's mitigation activities. (Ted Craddock)
  - On whether storm inflows are matching those predicted by the CA-NV Weather Forecast Center, or whether the hydrology appears to have been impacted more significantly by the fires.
3. Christina Curry, CalOES, will follow up with CalTrans on the status of their post-fire mitigation along County highways, including any preventative measures against erosion and mudslides they may be considering now or for the future (e.g. hydroseeding, replanting)
4. Christina Curry, CalOES, will schedule an update on 911 improvements with Senator Nielsen.
5. DWR will ensure that the IRB recommendations log is either clearly linked to from the Final CNA Report.
6. The Commission will establish a log to track commitments made as part of public meetings, regularly update it, and post it on the CAC website. Relevant updates will be reported out at subsequent CAC meetings.
7. DWR will connect with CNA Ad Hoc Committee members, Ron Stork and Matt Mentink, prior to the February 19, 2021 meeting to discuss their concerns about the CNA analysis and its approach toward risk; will report back at the next CAC meeting.

8. The CAC will regularly agendaize updates on the projects and studies coming out of the CNA.
9. Commission members will provide suggestions to CNRA for how to structure the CAC meetings to make them as useful as possible.
  - o Secretary Crowfoot suggested that DWR post background documents on the CAC website for easy access and to allow Commissioners to prepare in advance of meetings.
10. DWR will present on the following topics at a future CAC meeting:
  - o DWR's Fire Modernization Program, with a focus on safety improvements at Hyatt
  - o A holistic look at potential risks to Hyatt identified by the IRB and preventative measures that have been taken or are being taken to mitigate that risk
  - o Continue the CNA conversation, including a report back on interim conversations with Ron and Matt (see above bullet)
  - o Report on how the Commission will log commitments (the accountability measure) going forward
11. CNRA will notify Commissioners once the date for the next meeting is confirmed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Secretary Wade Crowfoot welcomed attendees to the meeting and stated that while the virtual format is not ideal, the work of the Commission is vital and must continue. The meeting is being broadcast live and is accessible to the public via a link on the CAC website (<https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Oroville-Dam-Citizens-Advisory-Commission>).

The Secretary noted that all meeting materials, including the Oroville Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) Summary, which will be the primary focus of the meeting, are also available on the website. A summary and transcript of the meeting will be added in coming weeks. The Secretary emphasized that his priority at these meetings is ensuring that Commissioners and community members have their questions answered and can make their voices heard.

Senator Jim Nielsen described the CAC as a unique opportunity in state government for the local community to participate directly in topics of great significance. He added that it enables government representatives like himself to understand what topics are on the minds of community members and what should be prioritized in the State budget. He thanked the Newsom Administration for their high-level of participation in the CAC and noted that it is rare for a Secretary to devote so much time to a single topic.

Assemblyman James Gallagher also attested to the importance of the CAC continuing to meet and provide critical input to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). He thanked the Secretary for his continued attention and described the CNA as a substantial step in the right direction in terms of addressing the infrastructure needs of the Oroville Dam complex. He looked forward to the conversation around what the next steps need to be.

As mandated by the requirements set forth in Senate Bill 955 (2018, Nielsen), the Commission is comprised of representatives from the following agencies and public bodies. Attendance at the November 13, 2020 meeting is noted in the table below.

Agency or Public Body	Commissioner (or Alternate)	Present
CA Natural Resources Agency	(Chair) Secretary Wade Crowfoot	X
California State Senate	(Vice Chair) Senator Jim Nielsen	X
Department of Water Resources	Director Karla Nemeth	X
Department of Parks and Recreation	Director Armando Quintero (represented by Matt Teague)	X
Office of Emergency Services	Director Mark Ghilarducci (represented by Deputy Director Christina Curry)	X
Department of California Highway Patrol, Butte County Division	Assistant Chief Steve Dowling	
California State Assembly	Assemblyman James Gallagher	X
Oroville City Council	Councilmember David Pittman	X
Oroville City Council	Mayor Chuck Reynolds	
Butte County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Steve Lambert	
Butte County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Bill Connelly	
Butte County Board of Supervisors	Genoa Widener	X
Yuba County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Gary Bradford	X
Yuba County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Doug Lofton	
Sutter County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Mat Conant	X
Sutter County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Dan Flores	X
Butte County Sheriff's Office	Lieutenant Steve Collins	X
Yuba County Sheriff's Office	Lieutenant Joe Million	X
Sutter County Sheriff's Office	Lieutenant Commander Marc Stokes Deputy Andre Licon	X

## AGENDA ITEM 2: WILDFIRE UPDATES

Christina Curry, Chief Deputy Director at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), and Brian Marshall, CalOES Fire Chief, reported on recent fire impacts and response, including ongoing mitigation efforts. Their presentation described:

- The status of wildfires across the State, which to date have burned 4 million acres and resulted in 31 fatalities, 10,000 lost structures, and an emergency declaration covering 27 counties, with a focus on the North Complex Fire that burned 320,000 acres in and around Butte County and destroyed 1523 single family homes and 51 commercial properties.
- CalOES and the State's continued commitment to supporting both fire response and recovery efforts at the local level.
- The importance of the mutual aid system, which enabled the State to call on personnel and resources from around the country to respond to the wildfires.
- The partnership between CalOES and the Butte County Sheriff's office in conducting search and rescue operations of burnt homes to ensure all residents were accounted for and to determine whether any hazardous materials were on site.
- Active efforts to pre-position water rescue assets near newly burned areas in advance of rain events and ongoing aerial monitoring of areas which could see large debris flows
- The federal disaster declaration, which includes the North Complex fire, makes Butte County residents eligible to register through FEMA for assistance with losses.
- Debris clean-up which is currently in Phase 1 (the clean up of household hazardous waste removal) and will soon proceed to the removal of debris from parcels.

Matt Teague, Superintendent at State Parks' Oroville Recreation Area, presented on recent wildfire impacts on the reservoir and recreation area. His presentation described:

- The Potters Fire in August, which forced the temporary closure of the spillway. While that fire was contained, it burned very hot and caused extensive tree damage; as a result, Parks plans to keep the North Fork and Potters trails closed this winter and then reassess and complete hazard tree work in the spring.
- The North Complex Fire in September, which was slowed by extensive prescribed burns that had been completed around Loafer Creek; this prevented the fire's ability to proceed into the Loafer Creek Marina, Kelly Ridge, and the City of Oroville where it could have caused significant damage.
- The close coordination between State, local, and federal agencies in addressing damage repair immediately and the ongoing partnership with PG&E to implement erosion prevention measures.

Secretary Crowfoot emphasized that the kind of prescribed burns used around Oroville should be mimicked around the State to prevent and slow down catastrophic fires.

Following the presentation, Commissioners asked for clarification or provided feedback on the presentation and related topics; input included:

- Assemblyman Gallagher asked for more detail around how the State is addressing the risk of surges of runoff through the drainage and into the reservoir this winter as a result of the fires in the upper watershed.
  - Ted Craddock, Deputy Director, State Water Project, DWR, explained that DWR is focused on the control of debris as it enters Lake Oroville. DWR will have two vessels on the lake to collect and monitor debris. They are also working with the County to replace

bridges on Craig Access Road, as well as completing miscellaneous erosion control work on the state-owned lands around the lake.

- Secretary Crowfoot asked DWR to provide real time updates to the Commissioners if mitigation efforts fail/DWR loses control of debris flows. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- Assemblyman Gallagher clarified that he is more concerned with changes in hydrology and possibility that the burned areas, which may be less absorptive, will result in surges of runoff into the lake during the winter.
  - John Leahigh, Principal Engineer, Division of Operations and Maintenance, DWR, described his conversations on this topic with the National Weather Service and California-Nevada Weather Forecast Center, which produces the inflow forecasts for Lake Oroville. The Forecast Center uses forecast models with parameters that can be adjusted based on watershed conditions and regularly compare their modeling results with actual observed inflows. After the Camp Fire, they found that the impact of the fire on inflows was not as large as they might have expected. However, the scarring in the Feather Basin was more extensive this year than after the Camp Fire, so they will be monitoring the situation very closely and making appropriate adjustments to their model parameters.
  - Secretary Crowfoot asked DWR to keep the Assemblyman and Senator updated on whether the inflows are matching expectations based on the modeling as rains begin. If changes are significant, DWR should keep the Commissioners updated. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- Councilmember Pittman voiced appreciation for all the coordination and assistance provided by State Parks during and after the fires. He shared that 70 homes were lost around Lake Padrone and Bear Creek. The residents in that area have implemented their own erosion control measures, which hopefully will be successful, but the biggest issue has been getting the domestic water supply systems and power lines back online. He noted that over 4,000 utility poles were lost. The current inventory of trees needing removal along a one-mile lake is 1000 trees. He is particularly concerned about erosion along the highways, particularly State Highway 162, which cuts along steep hillsides where erosion could take out parts of the road. He reminded other Commissioners that for most residents in that area, the highway is their only way in and out. He asked about whether hydroseeding or replanting efforts have been considered in this specific region and statewide — if not now, then for the next season.
  - Christina Curry, CalOES, will follow up with CalTrans on the status of their post-fire mitigation along County highways, including any preventative measures against erosion and mudslides they may be considering now or for the future (e.g. hydroseeding, replanting). **[ACTION ITEM]**
  - Senator Nielsen stated that reforestation is going to be a necessity. The Senator also asked for another update from CalOES on the 911 improvements. Tina Curry committed to scheduling that ASAP. **[ACTION ITEM]**

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: WINTER OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

John Leahigh, Executive Manager for Water Operations, and Carolina Roberts, Chief, Communications and Outreach Branch, reported on DWR's approach to winter reservoir operations and their planned communications to the community. Topics included:

- Water year 2020 recap.

- Flood pool requirements, including an enhanced flood pool.
- Water year 2021 outlook.
- Winter operations communications, including the weekly *Oroville Community Update* and social media outreach.

There were no Commissioner questions or comments.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Secretary Crowfoot introduced the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), which was recently concluded; the public version of its final report is now available. He noted that the Community Ad Hoc Group, which provided a community perspective on the CNA to DWR, was an important part of that process. He asked Assemblyman Gallagher and Senator Nielsen, who chaired that group, to provide high-level thoughts on the process.

Assemblyman Gallagher described it as a productive process. While the CNA was a very technical process, it was important that community representative could ask questions and provide input along the way. The Ad Hoc Group brought a variety of perspectives and expertise to the table. The Assemblyman acknowledged that not everything could be addressed within the CNA, so understandably outstanding concerns exist. He called the CNA a step in the right direction both by advancing early implementation projects and identifying areas of the infrastructure that need further study. He emphasized that the CNA is a first step and largely a planning document; the CAC will need to drive implementation on other measures in the long-term.

Secretary Crowfoot agreed that the CAC will be key to ensuring there is transparent oversight of this work going forward.

Senator Nielsen agreed with the Assemblyman that the Ad Hoc Group had been a successful venue for maximum input from the public. He advocated making that kind of forum an established part of public processes more broadly.

DWR's Director Karla Nemeth described three pieces that contributed to a successful CNA: DWR's own expertise in operations and planning, especially in looking toward changing future hydrology; input from the Independent Review Board; and feedback from the Community Ad Hoc Group. She stressed that the CNA is a planning document, produced with the best available information at this particular moment in time. The document identifies some near-term measures that will be completed to ensure dam safety now, but just as importantly, it identifies areas where DWR needs to develop additional information in order to make informed decisions. She asked the CAC to consider how often they want updates on the ongoing dam safety process and how much information is useful to them.

Director Nemeth also noted that the CNA was a response to conclusions provided in the Independent Forensic Report that was compiled by independent experts after the 2017 Spillways Incident. A separate critique of that report was that DWR was too siloed; while those kinds of non-technical, "cultural" issues were not addressed in the CNA, Director Nemeth assured the CAC that DWR is tracking and addressing them. For instance, John Yarbrough's position, Chief Risk and Resiliency Office for the State Water Project, was created to focus on planning for extreme events along much longer time horizons. DWR has also refocused the State Water Project Strategic Plan on public safety and risk mitigation associated with aging infrastructure.

Bruce Mueller, chair of the CNA Independent Review Board (IRB), presented on the CNA process and the role of the IRB. His presentation included:

- An introduction to the IRB's members and their experience.
- The IRB's perspective on the key elements of dam safety.
- The status of the IRB's recommendations provided throughout the CNA process, their final conclusions on the outcomes of the CNA, and IRB perspectives on the DWR process.

Following the presentation, Commissioners asked for clarification or provided feedback on the presentation and related topics; input included:

- Senator Nielsen thanked the IRB. He noted that for decades the risk assessment/infrastructure management process has frustrated him, observing that state and federal agencies often do not talk with each other or cross-reference even when they are operating in the same field; this has prevented them from anticipating problems. He voiced hope that the process used by DWR by soliciting input from outside experts will be institutionalized and normalized going forward in the dam industry and other fields unrelated to resources. He noted that the public involvement was integral as well.
- Secretary Crowfoot also called the IRB a "powerful model." He noted that, while DWR and the IRB collaborated closely, the degree of the IRB's independence is clear from the 79 recommendations they provided to improve DWR's analysis and approach.
- Councilmember Pittman described the CNA report as "wonderful" and highlighted the deep review it provides of the relevant activities. He voiced support for having an additional lower level outlet, observing that if the Hyatt Powerplant were to lose a generator, the ability to release water from the reservoir at lower levels is significantly reduced. He noted that when the dam was built, the possibility of a second power plant was considered. He also observed that there was a fire at the Thermalito Powerplant, which has the same components as the Hyatt Plant. He asked whether DWR has considered replacing whatever components were at failure for the Thermalito fire at Hyatt.
  - John Yarbrough, DWR, described DWR's fire modernization program which is reviewing all the plants in the State Water Project to minimize the risk of what happened at Thermalito happening elsewhere.
  - Secretary Crowfoot asked DWR to provide a presentation at the next CAC meeting on the fire modernization program with a focus on safety at Hyatt. **[ACTION ITEM]**
  - John Yarbrough noted that his upcoming presentation will cover DWR's investigations related to whether an additional lower level outlet is needed and what information will ultimately feed into that decision.
- Supervisor Conant also voiced interest in an alternative spillway or additional powerplant to address the need to quickly evacuate the reservoir; he also asked for more detail on the piezometers installation.
  - John Yarbrough confirmed that his presentation will cover those details.
- Lieutenant Collins asked how often an assessment like the CNA should be completed since it is only intended as a "snapshot in time."
  - John Yarbrough confirmed that the outcomes of the CNA will be ongoing, since the report included a long list of recommended studies that DWR plans to implement. In

addition, the FERC Part 12 Process, which is a very similar risk assessment in which they examine the entire facility, occurs every five years.

John Yarbrough, DWR, then provided an overview of the CNA and its outcomes. His presentation included:

- The CNA's purpose
- DWR's approach to the CNA
- The results of the assessment, which included the conclusion that no dam safety issues that needed immediate risk-reduction action were identifiable
- A description of the FERC Part 12D Safety Inspection and comparison to the CNA.
- Next steps, including (1) completion of early implementation projects, (2) design of safety measures to be implemented in the near term, (3) the deployment of \$224 million in capital investment planned prior to the CAN, (4) implementation of several investigations, studies, and surveillance enhancements to reduce uncertainty and inform future decision-making, and (5) integration of CNA measures into DWR's O&M Risk Management Framework and Processes.

At the end of the presentation, Secretary Crowfoot observed that the CNA topic will likely need to be carried over into a subsequent meeting to allow for adequate discussion. He asked that any issues of particular interest be noted and agendaized for the next meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: QUESTION & PUBLIC COMMENT**

Following the presentation, Commissioners and members of the public provided feedback and asked questions in tandem. Remarks from members of the public are summarized and shared without attribution below; remarks from Commissioners are attributed and summarized below. For a full transcript of the exchanges, see transcription or recording of the meeting posted online.

- Question (Q): I served on the Ad Hoc Group. After reviewing the 79 recommendations the IRB provided to DWR, it was clear the impact they had on the CNA process and what they have contributed to the dam industry as a whole. I suggest that the IRB's recommendation log be included as an appendix to the report to serve as a tool for the rest of the industry.
  - Response (R) (John Yarbrough, DWR): The final IRB report is included in the public CNA report. In addition, all the IRB reports are available on the CNA website in conjunction with the meeting they were presented at. DWR did not append them all to the final report in an effort to minimize the total number of pages.
  - R (Secretary Crowfoot): DWR should make it clear in the report where people can access the recommendations.
  - Comment (C): I am interested not just the reports but also the recommendations logs, which are not available on the website. I also suggest that the Commissioners and facilitation team adopt the same practice for the CAC in terms of creating a log for recommendations and commitments made at these meetings.
  - R (Secretary Crowfoot): There is a lot we discuss at these meetings, and there should be a way for both Commissioners and members of the public to track commitments and outcomes. We will discuss with the facilitators. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- Q: I served on the Ad Hoc Group and represent Friends of the River. I started working on dam safety issues related to Oroville as part of a CalFED post-1997 flood Yuba-Feather River Working



Group chaired by Yuba Water Agency (YWA); the group included YWA, DWR, and a number of environmental groups. We met for several years, and ultimately one of our major concerns was the unsuitability of foundation conditions downstream of the emergency spillway for planned flood control operations (i.e., not emergency operations but those where DWR was still keeping river outflows below 250 thousand cfs). We believed there were more risks to using the emergency spillway than DWR acknowledged, and 2017 demonstrated the unsuitability of foundation conditions both there and on the main spillway. Maintaining existing flood control capabilities and the ability to pass the revised probable maximum flood (PMF) is something the public in the Feather River Basin should be able to expect of DWR. However, DWR essentially did not consider maintaining that existing competence as a planning objective in the CNA. I was disturbed by some of John Yarbrough's responses to questions from the Ad Hoc Group in which he described DWR's risk-based approach and deterministic objectives. That matches with the risk-based framework that Bruce Mueller of the IRB described and the asset-management approach used for the entire SWP. That approach makes some sense in the context of a Reclamation program across the west where they need to decide which projects to spend their budget on annually. But under a FERC license, there is an expectation that a project works sufficiently enough to meet objectives, which include meeting the PMF US Army Corps requirement for Oroville Dam. And this did not appear to be a focus of the CNA. We raised it in the Ad Hoc Group and expected some revisions to the Report in response but did not see any. I think as we walk forward into the future, there will be a clash between DWR's obligation to meet floodwater management standards and be able to pass the PMF with the freeboard it had in the past. You should note that the potential future projects being considered by the department address these issues without explicitly saying so (e.g., raising the saddle dam so a larger PMF can be handled; some of the physical measures that will make it possible for the PMF to be passed without surcharging the reservoir and causing chaos downstream; walling off Hyatt so it is not flooded by back flows). None of the underlying reasons for those measures appear in the CNA, and when asked about these issues at the Ad Hoc Group, DWR was evasive or did not answer. The objective of the Ad Hoc Group was to educate the community representatives about the CNA and the reasoning behind DWR's choices to the extent that those representatives could explain it to other community members. I do not believe there was enough candor in the Ad Hoc Group to make me comfortable defending the Department's decisions. My other concern is that by choosing an asset management approach, DWR is in effect lobbying FERC not to force them to make modifications at Oroville so that PMFs can be accommodated. That is understandable from a Department fiscal-perspective but not from a Feather River Basin perspective. I would love to have further discussions about this with DWR and CNRA leadership.

- R (Secretary Crowfoot): Thank you for the time you have spent on the Ad Hoc Group and Feather River issues generally for the last few decades. Clearly, the Ad Hoc Group was formed so that community members had transparency into CNA process and IRB, and it sounds like the process created a level of dialogue. I am hearing that you would advocate a fundamentally different approach to meeting obligations at Oroville, and I am trying to understand your differentiation between a risk management approach and what you are advocating with respect to meeting obligations at Oroville. I want to state that the Ad Hoc Group's intention was not to meet consensus for every item and also to

acknowledge that you have outstanding concerns. I would be happy to figure out how to unpack your concerns in a more detailed discussion.

- R (Director Nemeth): I have respect and reverence for your persistence on these issues, and as a general proposition, am open to continuing dialogue on the issues you raised. There is probably a disagreement around the scope of what we were addressing in the CNA and also some topics that were considered in the CNA but were not driving the analysis. This includes some of the topics we are considering separately with the Army Corps in conversations about the flood control manual; and also issues we are addressing through measures like maintaining a deeper flood pool in the reservoir. What I understand from your comment is that you disagree with the risk-based approach and whether that framing generates the right set of questions. I do not think the risk management approach prevents DWR from considering the issues you raised, and we would be happy to discuss how we are thinking about those topics and where they are getting addressed. Let's continue the dialogue because it is certainly not our intention to come across as evasive.
- R (Secretary Crowfoot): DWR staff will connect with Ron Stork and Matt Mentink, together or separately, before the next CAC meeting and report back. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- Q: It was noted in Mr. Mueller's presentation that the Hyatt Powerplant was a potential restriction in being able to drain the reservoir in an emergency situation (i.e., if a turbine or two were out of commission). Can you please expand on that issue and how it is being addressed?
  - R (Bruce Mueller, IRB): We had two concerns about the Hyatt plant's continued ability to operate: (1) we wanted to make sure that after a major flood event the Hyatt Powerplant would still be operational. We were concerned that when more water is released from the spillway, the level of water near the Powerplant rises, which could result in flooding inside the Powerplant, so it needs to be sealed off. There are actions DWR can make to improve those seals. (2) If a fire takes out the power lines running out of Hyatt, there is no way to dissipate energy being generated, and if that energy cannot be dissipated, the plant cannot generate without a run-away turbine and therefore, cannot be used as a release outlet. One of the ways we considered addressing this issue was creating a heat sink at the dam to absorb heat from generation, but it is not feasible to create a reservoir large enough.
  - R (Secretary Crowfoot): At the next meeting, rather than just fire risk related to Hyatt, we should agendaize a more holistic conversations about IRB observations and DWR responses to risks at Hyatt. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- Commissioner Genoa Widener noted that she was also a member of the Ad Hoc Group; she joined the group late, so she was not present at the first few meetings but was able to watch them online. She explained that the CNA risk analysis is very technical but that as a member of the public living underneath the dam, those risk assessments look a little different. I.e., "acceptable risk" is different when you are the one in potential danger, and she felt that the final CNA report attempts to minimize the perception of risk. In her perspective, the timeline for future actions prioritizes delivery of project services over safety, and past experience suggests that both FERC and the Department of Safety of Dam exercise discretion in terms of pushing of timely completion of any recommendations they make during their inspections. For instance, inspections have recommended the replacement of piezometers for over a decade and they are

only now being installed (and being labeled “early implementation”). She called on the other Commissioners to keep an eye on the recommendations from the CNA and whether they are being implemented and the reasoning behind the timing. She said that this is the CAC’s job. The CNA is a snapshot of this moment in time but the FERC Part 12D studies are done every five years, and DSOD does inspections annually, so the CAC should track all these recommendations. Risk assessments and independent assessments were done before 2017, and there was still a disaster that put tens of thousands of people at risk, and looking back at reports, the same recommendations were made again and again without being implemented. She applauded the idea of a recommendations log so there is accountability among the Commissioners of what they need to be tracking.

- Secretary Crowfoot agreed with Commissioner Widener’s characterization of the CAC’s purpose. He liked the idea of a log to track implementation of these actions over time. Review of the log should be agendized on a periodic basis. **[ACTION ITEM]**
- Commissioner Widener said she was encouraged by the Ad Hoc Group and CAC and the associated increase in transparency; these bodies suggest that there is the potential to change DWR culture to include community perspectives.
- Secretary Crowfoot thanked her and other community leaders for stepping up and helping to make the CAC a meaningful oversight body.
- Senator Nielsen noted that he pushed to make the CAC a statutorily created body so that it would exist in perpetuity, rather than fading away like a study group. Putting it in statute ensure that there is a commitment to continued discussion and defined the parties who need to be part of that discussion.

## CLOSING COMMENTS

Secretary Crowfoot acknowledged the challenge of providing substantive updates in two to three-hour meetings. He suggested that DWR continue to populate the website with additional background documents and asked for Commissioner suggestions about how to make these meetings as useful as possible. He noted that the next meeting will include a discussion of Hyatt Powerplant safety measures and a discussion on how to track commitments made by DWR and Commission members going forward.

Senator Nielsen thanked everyone for their persistence and assured them that it is having an impact and will continue to have an even greater impact into the future.

Assemblyman Gallagher said he wanted to echo many of the other comments made: this body needs to ensure the implementation of recommendations in the CNA and beyond and the continued dialogue with members of the community. There are real positives to the CNA early implementation projects, such as the piezometer installation. The continued investigation into the headworks is already yielding results; preliminary findings suggest there is sound rock under the headworks. Longer term, the CAC may need to get into some of the conversations Ron Stork raised. Assemblyman Gallagher interpreted Mr. Stork’s comments as pointing to the fact that when the dam was initially built, the designers expected a second dam at Marysville that was never constructed. The Assemblyman suggested that the CAC needs to explore what that means for how Oroville is operated (e.g., the assumption that water should be surcharged over the emergency spillway). The emergency spillway is in better shape than 2017, but in the long term, is there additional infrastructure needed to address the concerns Mr. Stork

raised (e.g., the need for a low-level outlet). The Assemblyman observed that the CNA does not conclude the conversations about facility safety at Oroville. Ultimately, building of trust and success will be achieved through the CAC. He looks forward to being involved long term.

Secretary Crowfoot announced that they will confirm the next meeting date for the first quarter of 2021 shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.