

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

---oOo---

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF ZOOM PROCEEDING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021

10:00 A.M.

OROVILLE DAM CITIZENS ADVISORY

COMMISSION MEETING

HOSTED BY THE CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

---oOo---

Reported by: ANN R. LEITZ, CSR NO. 9149

ROLL CALL

- 1
- 2 Lieutenant Collins
- 3 Supervisor Connelly
- 4 Supervisor Conant
- 5 Secretary Crowfoot
- 6 Deputy Director Curry
- 7 Supervisor Flores
- 8 Supervisor Fuhrer
- 9 Assemblyman Gallagher
- 10 Deputy Licon
- 11 Captain Million
- 12 Director Nemeth
- 13 Senator Nielsen
- 14 Councilmember Pittman
- 15 Mayor Reynolds
- 16 Lieutenant Stokes
- 17 Superintendent Teague
- 18 Supervisor Vasquez
- 19 Genoa Widener

20

21 ALSO PRESENT:
22 Nick Saffold, Kearns & West

23 PRESENTERS:
24 John Yarborough, DWR
25 Valerie Pryor, State Water Contractors
Dave Duval, DWR

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

AGENDA

- Item 1: Welcome and Introductions
- Item 2: Action Items, Meetings Roadmap and Reporting
- Item 3: Spillway Cameras
- Item 4: State Water Contractors
- Item 5: Oroville Facilities: Asset Management
- Item 6: Oroville Facilities: Annual Maintenance Plan
- Item 7: Public Comment & Questions
- Item 8: Adjourn

---oOo---

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 Friday, August 27, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

3 ---oOo---

4 (Zoom Hearing in Progress...)

5 NICK SAFFOLD: This meeting is being held in a virtual
6 format in accordance with Executive Orders to protect public
7 health during Covid-19. There will be time for public comment
8 and questions following today's presentations.

9 Today's meeting is being conducted over a Zoom
10 webinar. A complete virtual meeting guide with user
11 instructions can be found on the Oroville Commission webpage.
12 If this resource does not address your issue, our colleague is
13 available to help field questions. You can reach her at
14 530-400-9068; again, that's 530-400-9068. You can also -- if
15 you're on Zoom, you can ask technical questions by clicking
16 the Q&A icon as well.

17 So the Commissioners as well as the experts presenting
18 today will be in Presenter mode and they'll be able to mute
19 and un-mute themselves to ask questions. Members of the
20 public will need to be muted and in listen-only mode until
21 Public Comment period and until they're called on. For
22 members of the public joining by Zoom, there's two ways to ask
23 a question or make a comment during Public Comment period; you
24 can raise your hand to indicate you would like to provide
25 public comment, and there's a hand icon down at the bottom of

1 your screen, and the Webinar Host James will un-mute you. If
2 you provide -- if you wish to provide a written comment, you
3 can do that in the Q&A icon during Public Comment period. And
4 then, if you're on phone, you just need to press star two to
5 raise your hand -- or #2, excuse me, to raise your hand to
6 speak during Public Comment. And then you may have to -- I
7 will note, you may have to un-mute your phone as well.
8 Everyone will have about three minutes, and there should be a
9 time -- (Audio Difficulty/Unintelligible) -- to let you know
10 when things -- But The meeting is being recorded. There will
11 also be a transcript posted at a later date.

12 Commissioners, if you wouldn't mind just un-muting
13 yourself now I'm going to do a quick roll call in the order
14 that it appears on the screen. Please just say "Here" or
15 "Present."

16 Lieutenant Collins?

17 LIEUTENANT COLLINS: Here.

18 NICK SAFFOLD: Supervisor Connelly?

19 SUPERVISOR CONNELLY: Here.

20 NICK SAFFOLD: Supervisor Conant?

21 SUPERVISOR CONANT: Here.

22 NICK SAFFOLD: Secretary Crowfoot?

23 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Here.

24 NICK SAFFOLD: Deputy Director Nezhura?

25 DEPUTY DIRECTOR NEZHURA: Here.

1 NICK SAFFOLD: Supervisor Flores?
2 SUPERVISOR CONANT: Dan will not be here today.
3 NICK SAFFOLD: Thank you. Noted for the record.
4 Supervisor Fuhrer?
5 SUPERVISOR FUHRER: Present.
6 NICK SAFFOLD: Assemblyman Gallagher? Assemblyman?
7 Supervisor Kimmelshue?
8 SUPERVISOR KIMMELSHUE: Here.
9 NICK SAFFOLD: Deputy Licon?
10 DEPUTY LICON: Here.
11 NICK SAFFOLD: Captain Million?
12 CAPTAIN MILLION: Here.
13 NICK SAFFOLD: Director Nemeth?
14 DIRECTOR NEMETH: Here.
15 NICK SAFFOLD: Thank you, Director.
16 Senator Nielsen?
17 SENATOR NIELSEN: I'm with you folks, thank you.
18 NICK SAFFOLD: Thank you, Floor.
19 Councilmember Pittman?
20 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Present.
21 NICK SAFFOLD: Mayor Reynolds, are you with us? Mayor
22 Reynolds? Okay.
23 Lieutenant Stokes?
24 LIEUTENANT STOKES: Here.
25 NICK SAFFOLD: Superintendent Teague?

1 SUPERINTENDENT TEAGUE: Here. Good morning.

2 NICK SAFFOLD: Good morning. Thank you.

3 Supervisor Vasquez?

4 SUPERVISOR VASQUEZ: Here.

5 NICK SAFFOLD: Commissioner Widener?

6 GENOA WIDENER: Here.

7 NICK SAFFOLD: Thank you. Okay.

8 Is there anyone that I missed? I think we've got
9 everyone. James, you can go to the next slide. And,
10 Secretary, I'll turn it over to you.

11 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Assemblyman Gallagher is here
12 as well.

13 NICK SAFFOLD: Great. Thank you, Assemblyman.

14 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thanks everyone for joining.

15 My name is Wade Crowfoot. I lead the California
16 Natural Resources Agency.

17 This is actually our eighth meeting of this
18 Commission, and I'm proud of the fact that we've now held
19 eight meetings, and they provide an opportunity for what I
20 think has been really constructive dialogue among local
21 elected and appointed officials in the Oroville area and
22 members of the public.

23 As always, special thanks to Senator Nielsen and
24 Assemblyman Gallagher. It was their policy leadership that
25 actually formed this body and is the reason why we're meeting

1 here today.

2 I'll note that this meeting takes place at a really
3 challenging moment in California. We have over 10,000
4 firefighters and first responders battling wildfires across
5 our state. As I look out of my office, 20 floors up in
6 Sacramento, I see the smoke from the Caldor Fire, which is
7 moving east towards the Tahoe basin, and the Dixie Fire, which
8 is the second largest wildfire in the state's history. I just
9 wanted to share -- I think I speak for everyone -- my thoughts
10 and prayers go out to those communities and residents that
11 have been impacted by the wildfires, those that have lost
12 property or casualties as a result of the fire or the several
13 tens of thousands of people that are currently evacuated.
14 Huge thanks to the heroes on the front lines. The first
15 responders are represented by some of the agencies on our
16 Commission here today and the firefighters.

17 We, obviously, are also contending with severe
18 drought, which impacts not only the Oroville reservoir and
19 dam, but our communities, our agricultural producers and our
20 entire state. And so, after I share an overview of the
21 meeting agenda, I'm going to ask to turn to Karla Nemeth, who
22 is one of our leaders in state government contending with the
23 drought, for an update on water operations.

24 We're obviously meeting virtually once again given the
25 pandemic. I think we're all excited to get back together in

1 Oroville for in-person meetings, and we'll do that as soon as
2 it's appropriate and safe to do that. Today we're excited to
3 hear a presentation from the State Water Contractors and
4 Valerie Pryor on behalf of the State Water Contractors. It's
5 long been a goal of this Commission to actually hear from the
6 State Water Contractors, given the role that they play in the
7 Oroville facility. So big thanks to Valerie for being here.

8 DWR will also provide an update on dam facilities, the
9 Asset Management work that's taking place and the projects and
10 the Annual Maintenance Plans. We'll also get an update on
11 Action Items, where we've identified things that need to take
12 place based on Commission meetings and Commission discussion,
13 a roadmap of meetings from here, and the Commission report
14 that we owe the Legislature per that initial legislation that
15 created the Commission. We'll also get an update on the
16 Spillway Cameras; that's important to many of us. And then,
17 as always, allow for Public Comment.

18 So before we jump into that core of the agenda, let me
19 turn it over to Karla Nemeth, who directs our Department of
20 Water Resources, to provide an update on our drought
21 resilience task force and the work of that task force that the
22 Governor set up and the work that takes place as we navigate
23 our drought, the drought that we now face. So over to you,
24 Director Nemeth.

25 DIRECTOR NEMETH: Good morning, everyone. It's good

1 to be here.

2 I am going to focus on specific conditions at Oroville
3 since that's so important to this community, as well as some
4 of the broader things that we are working on as it relate to
5 drought.

6 So a lot has happened, particularly up at Oroville,
7 since we last got together, you know, a few months ago, and in
8 many ways, I think that actually speaks for itself, since so
9 much has changed very quickly as it relates to hydrology and
10 management. So I am sure most of the folks around this table
11 and who are participating members of the public today, you
12 have an awareness that Oroville reached an historic low
13 earlier this month on August 1st. Our new historic low was
14 between 642 and 643 feet. So that actually beats by about a
15 foot the historic low that Oroville experienced in 1977.

16 Lake levels will continue to fall, but at a much more
17 modest rate as water deliveries to Feather River settlement
18 contractors, meaning mostly agricultural contractors in the
19 Feather River watershed as they finish the irrigation season.
20 They started earlier this year and they're ending earlier this
21 year due to the warm conditions. So the dropoff of lake
22 levels is slowing significantly.

23 How did we get here? One of the things that's
24 important, I think, for folks to understand and that I -- for
25 me is front and center as we think about Oroville planning

1 into the future, is we actually started this water year with
2 1.6 million-acre feet in Oroville, and that's really important
3 because that includes a 20 percent increase in carryover
4 storage than we ordinarily would have. We did actually learn
5 quite a bit from the last drought, and that drove the
6 department to increase our carryover storage to create more of
7 a buffer in years like this.

8 And I think what's really important for me and the
9 department to understand and internalize it and work more
10 broadly with water users in the community in Oroville is,
11 given the intensity of hydrologic conditions, even things that
12 we think are really helping us get ahead of the curve, the
13 intensity of the changing climate around us, is challenging
14 even those actions. And how that played out this year is,
15 even though we had significant storage heading into the year,
16 what happened in the period between April and end of May was
17 that near 70 percent snowpack in the Feather watershed did not
18 materialize into runoff into Lake Oroville.

19 Typically, we see about 60 to 80 percent snowpack
20 runoff, so snowpack that turns into flows, inflows into
21 Oroville. This year we saw about 20 percent, and that was
22 historic. That is a new -- frankly, a new data point in terms
23 of extreme conditions that affect how hydrology translates
24 into water management. And that is fundamentally what altered
25 our situation this year.

1 So despite the fact that we had lower -- significantly
2 lower than what we would typically see as inflow into the
3 reservoir, the department and State Water Project still has
4 very specific and important obligations in how we manage those
5 remaining supplies, and those are really fourfold.

6 One is we have obligations to our Feather River
7 settlement contractors, when we get into a situation like this
8 one with these dry conditions, by contract, we reduce by
9 50 percent our allocation to those Feather River settlement
10 contractors. But that's an absolutely critical part of our
11 management.

12 The second piece is we continue to have obligations
13 down in the Delta for water quality conditions in the Delta
14 that are important to all -- to other kinds of water rights
15 holders all down the system.

16 Thirdly, we have obligations to manage for temperature
17 for fisheries on the Feather system.

18 And then fourth, in a year like this one, we also have
19 obligations to provide minimal pumping to South Bay aqueduct
20 water contractors; that's three percent of what our overall
21 typical water operations would be.

22 So I really want to clarify that, in a year like this
23 one, although, the State Water Contractors had a five percent
24 allocation, with the exception of very modest pumping that
25 went to the South Bay aqueduct contractors, Oroville supplies

1 did not go to fulfill those contractual obligations. Those
2 obligations were filled by San Luis Reservoir.

3 So we've been continuing to operate with those needs
4 in mind. We did do some important things to help deal with
5 those obligations, particularly down in the Delta. The
6 department, with the Bureau Of Reclamation, sought relief from
7 some of those water quality requirements. Not all of them.
8 We also installed temporary barriers to prevent salinity
9 intrusion into the deeper part of the Delta, which is critical
10 for maintaining fresh water in the Delta that supports human
11 health and safety needs in the event that we have a subsequent
12 dry year. So a lot of modifications have been made to the
13 system.

14 And then, I would also say the other key thing that
15 we've been learning over the course of the summer in terms of
16 how we've been operating Oroville is, even the water that we
17 have been releasing for purposes of downstream water quality
18 and salinity control, that has been a challenge to maintain
19 because of other depletions in the system, meaning unregulated
20 and sometimes illegal water diversions that occur between the
21 base of the dam down into the Delta.

22 So, if you can imagine, DWR does a lot of modeling to
23 understand how much water we need to release from Oroville to
24 get to the Delta and to maintain some fresh conditions there,
25 and what we saw happen this year was, we were making those

1 releases, but those releases weren't actually making it all
2 the way to the Delta, and insignificant volumes. And so, it
3 has been a struggle for the department to maintain all of
4 those elements, and that is why the Water Resources Control
5 Board has started a curtailment process in this watershed.

6 It's very important to the department, given all the
7 needs that we need to meet, be they environmental, be they our
8 Feather River settlement contractors and others, that those
9 kinds of illegal diversions in the watershed or unregulated
10 diversions in the watershed, meaning we don't really know how
11 much is being taken and whether or not it's in accordance with
12 people's water rights, those are really essential to how we
13 manage this system moving forward.

14 Water rights are crucial. They are a crucial
15 underpinning of how our system works, and so, when we don't
16 really understand what's being taken out and the fact -- and
17 whether or not it's in accordance with held water rights, it
18 really hurts all of us, including senior water right holders.
19 So that's going to be very important as we continue to manage
20 moving forward.

21 I also -- for folks up in Oroville, when we shifted
22 and reached that lower lake level, we did stop power
23 production at Hyatt Powerplant. That is the first time that
24 that has ever happened. Typically, Hyatt does support the
25 power grid. Not this year. But what that also had the effect

1 of doing is it meant that we were releasing water to meet
2 these deliveries from lower river valves, and that produces
3 colder water into the system. So if you are recreating in the
4 afterbay, it will be noticeably colder. And we would just
5 make sure that folks are continuing to take their public
6 safety precautions anytime they recreate; wear that life vest.
7 But you will notice those colder temperatures.

8 The one silver lining in all of this is, when lake
9 levels get so low, it enables us to get in and do a lot more
10 work on some of the recreational amenities at Oroville. So
11 that work proceeds a pace even in an accelerated way. So we
12 are continuing with the construction of the Loafer Point Stage
13 II Boat Ramp Project that helps us get deeper into the
14 fluctuation zone of Lake Oroville during this fall and winter,
15 and so, we do anticipate resuming those construction
16 activities into October.

17 Heading into next year, we will need a heck of a lot
18 of rain to get us to anything that is remotely normal. So we
19 need probably about 140 percent at this point of our normal
20 precipitation and snowpack just to get into more normal kinds
21 of runoff into Lake Oroville. I think we need order of
22 magnitude about a 200 percent precipitation to actually refill
23 Oroville's storage.

24 So for water contractors south of the Delta -- and
25 you'll hear from Valerie Pryor later -- they are very much

1 focused on water conservation because Oroville storage is not,
2 in all likelihood, going to be available to meet those kinds
3 of water demands further down in the system. We will likely
4 be continuing this effort to deal with our Feather River
5 settlement contractors, conditions down in the Delta, and
6 doing things that we need to do to maintain temperature
7 conditions for fisheries, to maintain the hatchery; that's an
8 important recreation amenity for anglers here in this part of
9 the state. And that's what we're really looking at heading
10 into next year.

11 So that was kind of a lot thrown at you, but this is a
12 really important year for everyone to understand a little bit
13 better how the system is designed to work and where there's
14 flexibility and where there is not and what it means to be in
15 these tough choices that are really given to us by
16 extraordinary hydrology.

17 So I'm going to stop there. Thank you.

18 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thanks so much, Karla. I
19 appreciate that. And while that was a lot of information, I
20 think it gives a good sense of all the complicated questions
21 in managing the State Water Project and, obviously, how
22 Oroville flows into that, quite literally.

23 I'll also recognize that there are County supervisors
24 that represent a lot of folks that are impacted by our water
25 decision. So, hopefully, that was helpful.

1 As always, I next want to turn it over to Senator
2 Nielsen and Assemblyman Gallagher to set the tone for the
3 discussion here today and really the topics we're going to
4 talk about. But I first wanted to thank them for their
5 leadership and their advocacy for sediment removal below the
6 dam.

7 This is a photo from a recent event in Yuba City that,
8 as I understand it, is celebrating this sediment removal
9 project. I'm really gratified that our state agency was able
10 to find five million dollars and grant that from our Prop 68
11 funding to remove sediment and invasive species, the water
12 primrose, to both improve recreational asset -- or, I should
13 say, access, as well as restore habitat and preserve water
14 quality.

15 So big thanks, Senator Nielsen and Assemblyman
16 Gallagher, for your leadership on this. Also, I want to give
17 some credit to Gary Lippner on Karla's staff at DWR for
18 helping facilitate the project. I know this is one of the
19 many priorities that community leaders have, and so glad to
20 see a point of progress here.

21 With that said, let me turn it over to you, Senator
22 Nielsen, for any introductory remarks that you have, and then
23 I'll turn it over to Assemblyman Gallagher.

24 SENATOR NIELSEN: Mister Secretary, I want to
25 emphasize how very significant that this de-sedimentation is.

1 It has been so impossible for decades to do much anything in
2 those rivers, and the sediment builds up. And I really
3 appreciate that you have pushed through and being able to set
4 and accomplish something here.

5 And, again, I commend the whole group here for your
6 vigilance over the years participating in these proceedings,
7 and the importance that Secretary Crowfoot and Director Nemeth
8 have placed on it. Their very personal participation always
9 makes a big difference, and I think it has alleviated a lot of
10 the concerns and problems that we have had in the past.

11 As we proceed, maybe some of you could comment on the
12 impact of the fires. Gallagher, LaMalfa and I were up in
13 Oroville quite a few weeks ago, and it was approaching dead
14 pool, and the Hyatt thing shutting down, and then it was like
15 mid-winter valley fog, but that was the fire. And we've had
16 to contend with that. And most of the area that I represent
17 is burning up. And I guess what I would hope to say is
18 encouraging. It seems that we're paying more attention to
19 utilizing the resources the legislature has put in the budget
20 for forest and wildland management.

21 I would also like to ask Director Nemeth to comment if
22 the fires have had any particular impact on Oroville. I'm not
23 aware of any, but that may be the case.

24 And then, lastly -- this is a really important
25 point -- several years ago, I was asking one of the water

1 authorities in California, What are we doing about what I call
2 water pirating and the spoiling of our lands by what these
3 folks are putting into the soil that erodes into our waterways
4 as well as utilizing water for growing marijuana. And I was
5 told, No, I'm not putting my people at risk. Well, I said,
6 No, I'm sorry, you're the regulatory authority, you darn well
7 will; however, we can help you. So we worked out a pilot
8 project with Sheriff Honea in Butte County whereby then if we
9 had a disclosure of such a site that they would coordinate
10 with the board and provide some security for the hours that
11 they had to be -- the agency had to be on site taking a look.

12 Now, as we're moving ahead -- because this is getting
13 to be even a greater problem, as Director Nemeth just
14 stated -- I think that's an idea that we might be able to
15 explore a little bit. Again, Folks, I might pop up with some
16 other stuff later.

17 Oh, by the way, the last thing I wanted to bring to
18 your attention. Sites Reservoir was authorized seven years
19 ago. The Sites' JPA thinks it will take maybe six more years.
20 So, to me, that's just a little bit too long. What we were
21 trying to do with Prop 1 is to anticipate future droughts and
22 prepare for them. That didn't happen. And it mostly didn't
23 happen because of regulatory morass of agencies of government.

24 Folks, this is life, health and safety, and we can't
25 keep goofing around with it and expediting CEQA for stadiums

1 that have little impact on human beings, and tend to our water
2 and move that Sites Reservoir at least along. I really
3 appreciate how the Commission has worked on Sites and keeping
4 things moving along. At least we're going to have that
5 sometime in our lifetime.

6 Thank you very much for the indulgence, Ladies and
7 Gentlemen.

8 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thank you, Senator. I totally
9 hear you on Sites. We've had sort of two all hands-on
10 meetings with the project authority and key entities within
11 our agency just really focused on answering questions needed
12 on that project. I share your impatience.

13 So, you know, that's -- I mean, the proof is in the
14 pudding in terms of getting it done, but I just wanted to
15 acknowledge your comment there.

16 Water piracy, we totally agree with you. We need to
17 ensure that it's only those people that can be taking the
18 water or should be taking the water that are taking the water.
19 So you'll hear more from us on that in coming months.

20 And then, Karla, on the question of the impacts of the
21 wildfire on Oroville, can you just speak to that quickly?

22 DIRECTOR NEMETH: Sure. So far, we're not seeing
23 impacts to Oroville per se, but, of course, you know, it will
24 rain again and it will rain over really significant burn scar.
25 So kind of two things; one, the department does participate in

1 -- we do have a fuel reduction program in the watershed, and
2 through that, we are a partner with broader efforts to
3 understand better forest management in the Plumas and to make
4 sure that we're part of the discussions and we're doing our
5 part, you know, where we have that nexus between forest
6 management and water quality and water supply.

7 I want to just be very clear that, you know, this is
8 by far and away the biggest wildfire we've had, second biggest
9 in the state's history, so it goes without saying, the biggest
10 in this part of our watershed. So I'm not going to say that
11 we know today, you know, without rainfall how it's actually
12 going to behave, but we do have a good idea.

13 And certainly what happens when we have rain
14 post-wildfire, DWR is mobilized and deployed into different
15 watersheds to track the flood potential and debris flow
16 potential into waterways and, frankly, into communities, too.
17 So we will be part of those teams that will move forward once
18 the fire is out and we're into a different season.

19 And then, importantly, we will also be partnering with
20 the Water Resources Control Board which manages how we address
21 any water quality concerns that might arise relative to runoff
22 conditions that are altered by fire.

23 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: That's helpful. I want to
24 recognize Deputy Director Nezhura from the Governor's Office
25 of Emergency Services, followed by Supervisor Conant.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR NEZHURA: Thank you, Secretary and
2 thank you, Director.

3 I also wanted to add that the state operations center
4 is activated and one of the task forces that has been put
5 together is the Watershed Task Force. They're already
6 meeting -- DWR, DSOD, CalOES, and several other partners, Cal
7 Fire and others -- are already looking at the watershed
8 because we know that the main damage to our dams from wildfire
9 is actually the sediment and the ash and the debris that comes
10 through the watershed following the wildfires, so I want you
11 to know that we are already working on that.

12 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: I appreciate that.

13 Supervisor Conant?

14 SUPERVISOR CONANT: I just wanted to comment on the
15 sediment removal that Jim Nielsen and you guys brought up
16 earlier. SBFCA led up that program, those sediment removals,
17 you know. There is more projects they can do if they had
18 more funding. So I don't know if that's something that
19 can be done to get more funding in to get more sediment
20 removed.

21 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: That's helpful. Let's keep that
22 on our radar screen and maybe on the agenda for a future
23 meeting is what resources are available for more sediment
24 removal. Let me turn to Assemblyman Gallagher.

25 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Thank you, Secretary.

1 I mean, there are so many things going on, as you
2 said. I mean, there's just so much that we could talk about.

3 For me, first of all, I just want to thank you again
4 and Director Nemeth for your continued personal attention to
5 this Commission and, you know, everything that you guys have
6 done to really make this a priority. I don't think -- as
7 Senator Nielsen said it, we have not seen that in the past,
8 and so, it is very much appreciated.

9 I think this sediment removal was a great project. I
10 would call it a first step. I agree with Supervisor Conant,
11 like, I think there's more to be done. Kind of as we just
12 talked about with the fires, all that sediment and things that
13 are going to come down, it's the same thing with what happened
14 with the spillway; there was a lot of stuff that came down
15 that system and has had impact. So, you know, I think that's
16 a great -- it was a great partnership with DWR and Sutter/
17 Butte Flood Control Agency and all the stakeholders there to
18 make that happen, and my message is let's just continue it.

19 I think one thing that, you know, all this really
20 shows is the importance of some different objectives that
21 we've outlined. You know, forestry management is so connected
22 to drought and water management. We've got to get on top of
23 that issue and avoid these kind of situations. If we have a
24 healthier forest, we also will have a healthier water
25 ecosystem as well and water storage and greater -- one of the

1 problems is canopy; you know, if you have so much canopy that
2 the snow is not getting down to the ground, you're not getting
3 that water, you know, it's evapotranspiring faster.

4 So these are some of the issues you got to work on,
5 but I think -- I'm one who has said climate change is very
6 real and it's having impacts on us. But that means that we
7 need to act, right? It's not just, Oh, well, it's climate
8 change and that's what's happening. It's all the more
9 important that we, one, do greater forestry management to
10 avoid these catastrophic wildfires. It's all the more
11 important that we change the way that we manage our water
12 system.

13 You know, that's why I really think our objective in
14 getting the manual updated and having, you know, forecast-
15 based operations is going to be so important, and we need to
16 really fast track and move down the road on that effort.

17 I think it shows how much important that voluntary
18 agreements are important. And I know that you all have been
19 working on this, too, but we've seen no action. It's very
20 frustrating. And this very same Water Board that is now going
21 after more water rights-holders and telling them they can't
22 use their water rights that they have held for generations is
23 the same one who has stopped the involuntary agreements from
24 happening. That's very frustrating.

25 So I think we all together have a lot of work to do to

1 really work on all these fronts. I think those are objectives
2 that we all agree on and that I think will make for a much
3 better system, operations going forward.

4 I know a lot of times like -- you know, those of you
5 in the agencies, you're just implementing the policy that's in
6 place. To me, a big part of the problem here is that policy
7 needs to change and we need to accomplish some of these
8 objectives that we've set out to do.

9 Sites Reservoir, I see another big one that needs to
10 get accomplished.

11 Lastly, you know, I appreciated Karla's -- Director
12 Nemeth's presentation. I think it's also important to
13 emphasize and for people to understand that not everybody has
14 really felt the pain of this drought the same. When you talk
15 about the Feather River settlement contracts, those are
16 farmers, and they took a 50 percent hit in surface water, you
17 know. Many other districts took a 75 percent hit in surface
18 water. Nobody else has done that. No other entities,
19 stakeholder out there has had that same impact.

20 When you talk about pre-1914 rights gaining impact,
21 that's something that's never happened except once before to
22 users in the Delta. That is a huge impact that others have
23 not felt. And so, that is part of some of the frustration
24 that you hear from folks, is that we got -- that can't be a
25 situation that one group takes the brunt of the hit on these

1 things. There's got to be a better way to ensure that we're
2 all truly getting through this together.

3 So these are just some of my thoughts at the outset
4 here. I appreciate the presentations. I know that we all
5 have the same goal of trying to get these objectives
6 accomplished. I just really want to see some movement on
7 those fronts; voluntary agreements, Sites Reservoir, forecast-
8 based operations. I think all those things will really help
9 us in the long term.

10 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thanks, Assemblyman. I think --
11 well, I know I couldn't agree with you more on the need to
12 move further and faster on forest management and on those
13 elements of water management, whether it's forecast-informed
14 reservoir operations, which I know Director Nemeth's people
15 are pushing on really pretty intensely with Army Corps of
16 Engineers and the voluntary agreements that we're spending a
17 whole lot of time advancing. Working to advance, anyways.

18 And then, you know, huge thanks for the legislature's
19 leadership, you know, bipartisan effort to push a lot more
20 funding into forest management. And it's our responsibility
21 now to get that funding out the door to get more forest
22 management on landscapes, including up around Oroville. So
23 more to come on that.

24 Speaking of getting things done and accountability,
25 we're going to jump into our presentations. The first one is

1 from our colleague, Nick Saffold, who has been coordinating
2 this mission.

3 Nick, you're going to give us the progress report on
4 action items, you know, how we're tracking those Action Items,
5 the roadmap for meetings moving forward, as well as this
6 report we owe the legislature next year. So I'll turn it to
7 you.

8 NICK SAFFOLD: Thank you, Secretary. I just want to
9 note that we are already running behind time. We have a lot
10 we have to cover. I'm going to dive into this, talk about the
11 items that you mentioned, but also move pretty quickly here.

12 I'm also thinking, in the interest of time, just --
13 you know, if Commissioners have any questions, we can provide
14 kind of more-detailed responses following the meeting and
15 we'll include that in the meeting summary as well, is just
16 kind of what I'm thinking.

17 So, again, this is just an Action Items Tracker here.

18 James, you can go to the next slide.

19 So this is our Action Items Tracker that folks have
20 seen. This is just like, you know, follow-ups from past
21 meetings or issues that have come up that Commissioners have
22 raised. A lot of these you've already seen, so I'm not going
23 to touch on all of them.

24 But this first item, Item 1, Tour of the Joint
25 Operations Center, this is just an item that we haven't been

1 able to get to because of Covid. We're kind of thinking Q2 of
2 next year that's something that we can provide in Sacramento
3 to the Commissioners.

4 Item 2 is just like kind of an ongoing item about
5 instrumentation.

6 Item 3 invites State Water Contractors. Today we're
7 checking that one off our list and hope to continue that
8 dialogue.

9 FIRO and the water control manual process, this is
10 Item 4; this came up at meeting three, and we're on track with
11 this and we're hoping to provide an update at Q4, so December
12 of this year at our 2021 meeting.

13 Item 5 is just on the status of the FERC relicensing.
14 So this is an ongoing item, and we kind of anticipated this
15 point for early 2022 for some sort of update there.

16 And then we can go to the next slide, James.

17 Again, I apologize for having to run through these
18 quickly. If there are questions from the public, feel free to
19 email us or call us. Our numbers and emails are on the
20 Oroville website. And then, obviously, for the Commissioners,
21 you know how to get in touch with us, and I'm happy to dive
22 into any of these and provide more detail.

23 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Nick, is this Commission Action
24 Items Tracker on our website?

25 NICK SAFFOLD: Yes, it is. This is updated quarterly

1 and included in the presentation. So this is something that
2 people can find in the meeting materials.

3 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Great. I think Director Nemeth
4 may have a point of clarification or something to add?

5 DIRECTOR NEMETH: Are we done with this part of it?
6 Just, is there anymore on the tracker?

7 NICK SAFFOLD: There is some more on the tracker.

8 DIRECTOR NEMETH: Why don't you go through that and
9 then I'll pick it up with you then.

10 NICK SAFFOLD: So Item 6 is on FEMA reimbursements.
11 This is just kind of an ongoing item we want to track.

12 Seven, kind of talking -- addressing kind of
13 homelessness; this was brought up at meeting three in 2020.
14 And so, this is just an item that we're keeping on the list
15 for future consideration.

16 Item 8 -- so these items in green that you can see on
17 the tracker are items that are completed. And so, we followed
18 up with Department Of Transportation, and this item is done
19 around post-fire mitigation from last year.

20 Item 9, this is just kind of a DWR monitoring item.
21 This came up from meeting five.

22 And then we discussed Hyatt in Q2 of 2021, and so,
23 that item is done. Dave Duval covered that.

24 And next slide, please.

25 Yeah, so we've offered Commissioners orientations --

1 this is item 11; that is done.

2 Post additional contact information, I just mentioned
3 that, a phone number that is available if anyone from the
4 public has questions.

5 Item 13, lessons learned from 1986. So this came up
6 at our last meeting, and we're hoping to cover that at a
7 future meeting, potentially the December meeting of this year.

8 And then a question from the public came up and State
9 Parks was able to coordinate with them and get them the
10 information, from a member of the public at the last public
11 comment from the last meeting, around fuel and vegetation
12 management.

13 There was a question from a Commissioner about what is
14 -- what constitutes failure, and so this came up, and DWR has
15 provided kind of a synopsis of that in writing, but also just
16 something we want to keep on our list and that we may need to
17 address in the future.

18 Next slide, James.

19 So 16, this is just a request to develop a single
20 tracking log cataloging future projects and ongoing projects.
21 So this came up at the last meeting, and my understanding is
22 DWR is actively working on this, so we have that on track.

23 And then item 17, discuss Risk Assessment and just
24 keeping that on the list. And we know that has been
25 beneficial to the Commission and we just want to continue to

1 have outside experts weigh in there.

2 Director Nemeth, I'll turn it back to you. That is a
3 very, very quick run-through of our Action Tracker.

4 DIRECTOR NEMETH: I'll be fast. I just wanted to
5 offer that I know we've had it on our agenda to do a tour of
6 the JOC since November of 2019. If there's a way to do it
7 that's safe for everybody, given the pandemic, you know, I
8 would like to offer an ability to do it this fall. I'm
9 sensitive to how long that's been out there, and I think that
10 kind of orientation could be very helpful. So I would just
11 offer that to the group.

12 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Yes, I think that's a really
13 great idea.

14 NICK SAFFOLD: Thank you very much.

15 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: If we can do that before the wet
16 season, that would be helpful. We can keep the group fairly
17 small, the Commissioners and maybe a handful of others. But
18 we've talked about really getting in and seeing flood
19 operations center, both on the federal and state side, and
20 then being able to ask a bunch of questions, I think would be
21 real helpful.

22 So, Nick, if we can work to organize that, I think
23 that would be great to do this fall.

24 NICK SAFFOLD: Agreed.

25 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Senator Gallagher. Agreed and

1 would be happy to help facilitate as well.

2 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Excellent.

3 NICK SAFFOLD: We'll put that on the list. Thank you.

4 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: And then give us a sense of the
5 roadmap from here in terms of meetings.

6 NICK SAFFOLD: Again, I'll just be really brief here
7 just because of time.

8 So this is the roadmap of -- it's a snapshot, if you
9 will, of meeting topics that have come up and then we've kind
10 of organized them by meeting and the future. These aren't set
11 in stone by any means and can kind of change based on, you
12 know, items on the ground or just the realities that come up.

13 But I would just look at kind of Q4; this is our
14 December 3, 2021, meeting that will be the next one. This is
15 probably the most important around locking on our content here
16 and our subject matter.

17 So the Topics we have, so this is an operation update,
18 Winter Operations Plan, we often cover that, obviously, in Q4
19 ahead of wet season. Downstream flood management and
20 preparedness. And then U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water
21 control manual update. Those are sort of the main topics
22 there.

23 Looking to Q1 of next year, we don't have a meeting
24 date just yet, but we were talking about having, like,
25 partners within the dam facilities talk about -- you know, get

1 an update on FERC Relicensing, hopefully, but, also,
2 Recreation and Public Safety Partners there, and then also
3 dive a little bit more into the Commission Report, which I'll
4 talk about a little bit more in a second.

5 Next slide, James.

6 And then, on the Joint Operations Center -- thank you,
7 Director Nemeth, for jumping in there. So we'll try -- this
8 is the item that you just mentioned here at the top. We'll
9 try and move that to the fall of this year so that we can get
10 that in and try and navigate Covid around that.

11 And then, this is pretty far out now, but Q3 of next
12 year, kind of we were thinking safety is the topic there, kind
13 of a recap of the joint operations tour and then diving more
14 into the Commission Report. We'll build that one out in kind
15 of Q4 as we get a little bit closer. But Q4, we'll kind of
16 want to lock in and finalize that Commission Report.

17 But at 10,000 feet, those are kind of the subjects
18 that we want to cover and the cadence of those upcoming
19 meetings.

20 Next slide, please.

21 Okay, I'm not going to really touch on this slide too
22 much. We've talked about this at previous meetings, but this
23 is just kind of the report requirements under Senate Bill 955,
24 and so folks have seen this and can take a look at it, if
25 there are any questions. But this is the essence of what our

1 report needs to cover, the report that the Commissioner
2 Secretary mentioned that is due at the end of next year.

3 So we can go to the next slide here. Again, apologies
4 for having to move so quickly here.

5 So what we've done is try to create like a timeline,
6 if you will, like a schedule for drafting that report. So you
7 can see we're kind of talking about this in August of '21,
8 just kind of like what the schedule will be. We're hoping for
9 a high-level kind of report outline in the December meeting
10 timeframe, and then Q1 we actually start some drafting and
11 provide kind of a more detailed outline to present to the
12 Commissioners, Q1, and build off that. We'll do Q2 and Q3,
13 version one and version two, and then, obviously, the goal is
14 getting to that Q4.

15 The one thing I will ask here is, I'm wondering if we
16 can have potentially two Commissioners that are willing to
17 volunteer today to kind of help us guide this report to a good
18 outcome and get locked in on a final report at the end of next
19 year. Obviously, you know, working collaboratively with
20 myself and natural resources and the full commission, but kind
21 of having two folks that are willing to volunteer and sort of
22 serve as an informal subcommittee, if you will, and help us
23 kind of behind the scenes drive the content here.

24 So I'm wondering if there are any Commissioners at
25 this time who are willing to volunteer for that?

1 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: I'll clarify, our folks do the
2 work and then the two Commissioners help us make sure that the
3 report is accurate.

4 NICK SAFFOLD: That's correct. Yeah, we're not
5 intending for this to be too burdensome on folks' time. It's
6 just to help ensure that, you know, we have Commissioners that
7 are engaged here and kind of keeping us on track.

8 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Nick, I will say this, just why
9 don't we -- if nobody is ready to raise their hand now, we can
10 see if anyone gets in touch with you offline, and if not, we
11 can do some constructive recruitment.

12 SENATOR NIELSEN: Senator Crowfoot, Jim Nielsen. If I
13 can recommend or suggest Rob Olmstead, my chief of staff, to
14 be part of this; he's very, very knowledgeable about all these
15 issues.

16 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: That would be great. We would
17 greatly appreciate that.

18 SENATOR NIELSEN: Done deal on our side. Thank you.

19 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Excellent. And then we'll work
20 on -- sorry.

21 LIEUTENANT COLLINS: Nick, if you want, I'll help out
22 with that.

23 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Huge thanks, Lieutenant.

24 LIEUTENANT COLLINS: No problem.

25 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: And again, we'll do the work.

1 You guys help us make sure it's the voice of the Commission.
2 Very good.

3 Any questions of Nick or points of clarification
4 before we move on? All right.

5 Listen, next it's my pleasure to introduce Valerie
6 Pryor. Valerie is the general manager for Zone 7 Water
7 Agency, which is a portion of Alameda County, Bay Area, as I
8 understand, and this is a presentation -- did I jump? Sorry.
9 Sorry, Valerie, not quite yet.

10 We're going to hear from John first about the Spillway
11 Cameras. Spillway Cameras have been an item of interest for
12 this Commission and community members, and there was some
13 concern, I think, at one point around the cameras going away.

14 John, give us, if you could, a distilled summary on
15 the cameras.

16 JOHN YARBROUGH: Sure. Thank you, Secretary. I will
17 do that. James, thank you for bringing up the screen.

18 The quick background was, following the spillway
19 incident, we had installed two separate web cameras that were
20 available for the public. We did this because, during the
21 reconstruction effort, there wasn't public access, so people
22 weren't able to see the facilities. Through these webcams,
23 they were able to.

24 These were temporary installations and they weren't
25 intended to be permanent, so at the beginning of this year,

1 four years after the incident, we get started to decommission
2 these two spillway cameras; one at the bottom of the spillway,
3 one at the top. As we were doing that, we got really quick
4 feedback from staff from Senator Nielsen's office and
5 Assemblyman Gallagher's office that people were looking for
6 the webcams and weren't able to find them and asking about
7 what happened, and so I had some discussions. Based on that
8 feedback, we reinstalled the top spillway camera so that we
9 could maintain people's ability to see the spillway.

10 The bottom camera we do have, that was a remote
11 installation. We had a lot of vandalism issues there, so we
12 did decommission that one. But we've kept the top camera.
13 Still a temporary installation right now. And so what we're
14 doing is looking for a way to put a permanent camera up on top
15 of the spillway. So what we're going to do is keep this
16 temporary camera there in place until we get the permanent
17 one. So we'll have a couple of shots here, what you can see
18 from the camera.

19 The camera is available, if you go to the Department
20 of Parks & Recreation website, and you can alternatively
21 search for the Oroville Wildlife Area -- I'm sorry, Oroville
22 State Recreation Area and Google, and it will take you to the
23 website where you can find the link to the cameras there.

24 So real quick summary there, Secretary. I don't know
25 if there were any questions, but those are the main points I

1 have here for everybody.

2 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thanks. To me -- this is a
3 system working really well, which is the legislative leaders
4 were able to express concerns about an action we were planning
5 and then we changed the action. So I think that's really good
6 and a good example of how we can work together.

7 So let's move on and introduce Valerie Pryor, the
8 general manager for Zone 7.

9 A little bit of context on this update. We have, at
10 the Commission, wanted to hear from our State Water
11 Contractors about their -- one, how they interact with the
12 Oroville facility, and then also their -- how they -- a
13 perspective on their role in terms of overall maintenance and
14 future of the facility.

15 As probably everybody knows, the Oroville Reservoir is
16 the cornerstone of our State Water Project, which serves some
17 portion of water to, I believe, two-thirds of Californians,
18 upwards of about 25 million Californians. There are 27 Public
19 Water Agencies that are contractors on that project, which
20 means they help fund the construction of that project and they
21 get water from that project. And because of the fact that
22 they're sort of a key funder and participant in the project,
23 which includes Oroville, they interact with Department of
24 Water Resources as the maintainer of the project in ways that
25 actually impact Oroville.

1 So the feedback we got was that the State Water
2 Contractors are sometimes not around the table in discussions
3 around Oroville and community concerns around the reservoir
4 and dam. So we're using this opportunity to speak with
5 Valerie to, again, understand a little bit more about the role
6 of the State Water Contractors and their perspective on the
7 future of Oroville and the State Water Project. So thanks so
8 much, Valerie, for joining us.

9 VALERIE PRYOR: Good morning. Thank you for allowing
10 me this opportunity to present. I'm going to tell you a
11 little bit about the Zone 7 Water Agency and how we use the
12 State Water Project and why it is so important to us, and then
13 you'll understand why our agency is very supportive of, you
14 know, DWR's constant abatements of the system.

15 We are in the Bay Area. We're located in eastern
16 Alameda County. We serve a population of about 265,000
17 people, the cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and parts
18 of San Ramon. We're known as the Tri-Valley region. We're
19 about 40 miles east of San Francisco, 30 miles north of the
20 Silicon Valley. If you read our Economic Development
21 Literature, we say we're known as a crossroads literally and
22 figuratively. Literally, for the commuters that are traveling
23 from the Central Valley to Silicon Valley and San Francisco.
24 And, yes, some commuting has started back up as people are
25 teleworking a little bit less. But also figuratively, because

1 we have major employers, which are the vineyards. We have
2 range properties, and then we have high-tech firms in our
3 area. So a little mixture there. We are one of the fastest
4 growing areas in the Bay Area.

5 So Zone 7 was originally established in 1949 as part
6 of the overall Alameda County Flood Control and Water
7 Conservation District operating under the County's seven to
8 ten geographic zones. There was major flooding in 1955 in the
9 Zone 7 area and the ground water basin was being depleted. It
10 was in overdraft. So, for those reasons, in 1957, the local
11 voters approved the creation of Zone 7 as an independent zone,
12 and so, that is how we became the Alameda County Flood Control
13 and Water Conservation District Zone 7, and we go by "Zone 7."

14 So, in this manner, the flood protection and
15 management of our water resources was moved to local control.
16 We have a seven-member elected Board of Directors, and we do
17 operate independently of Alameda County. We have three
18 distinct roles; we do water supply, flood protection and we
19 also serve as the ground water sustainability agency for our
20 area.

21 Shortly after Zone 7 was formed in 1957, Zone 7 signed
22 the State Water Project Water Supply Contract in 1961. I'm
23 not going to talk about the flood part too much, but water
24 supply, we are largely a wholesaler and we provide treated
25 water to four retail water agencies, a primary amount of our

1 water sales. But we also provide untreated water to
2 agricultural customers, and that's about 15 percent of our
3 water sales. That's largely supporting the Livermore Valley
4 wine region, which is a major economic engine in our
5 community. And for our agricultural customers, they receive
6 pretty much 100 percent State Water Project water direct from
7 the South Bay aqueduct.

8 And so, the South Bay Aqueduct is our lifeline; it
9 comes through Zone 7. And then we have two South Bay aqueduct
10 contractors that are south of us, which would be the Alameda
11 County Water District and Santa Clara Valley Water District as
12 well.

13 The State Water Project is our primary source of
14 water. We receive about 70 percent of our water from the
15 State Water Project, the rest is 10 percent from the local
16 water right, 11 percent from local ground water, and then
17 9 percent is recycled water by the retailers.

18 We store our water right in Lake Del Valle, which is a
19 State Water Project reservoir, and we do coordinate quite
20 frequently with DWR and other South Bay aqueduct contractors
21 on accessing that water. Also, we coordinate quite a bit with
22 DWR in the operation of the Del Valle Reservoir that provides
23 water storage, which is obviously used during drought times,
24 but it's also an important blending supply for us for water
25 quality reasons.

1 In addition to using the State Water Project as our
2 current water supply, in wet years, we do store extra State
3 Water Project water in our local ground water basin and also
4 in ground water banking programs in Kern County, which we use
5 in dry years like this year. Just of note, of recycled water,
6 our retailers have been very successful in recycling waste
7 water and actually, at this point, all of our summertime waste
8 water fluids are recycled, and we actually have a moratorium
9 on most new connections for recycled water. So we are trying
10 to maximize local water resources.

11 And as I mentioned earlier, we are the ground water
12 sustainability agency for the region and the State Water
13 Project plays a critical role in helping us to manage the
14 ground water basin. As I mentioned, Zone 7 was formed because
15 of severe overdraft in the ground water basin, and by
16 recharging the ground water basin at the State Water Project,
17 we became -- we recharged the ground water basin and we've
18 been operating our State operation yield since the 1980s.

19 We also use the State Water Project to meet water
20 quality standards. We do have nitrate and PFAS contaminants
21 in our ground water, and we can use the State Water Project
22 when we need to take wells out of service or for blending
23 purposes.

24 And so, hopefully, I've impressed upon you how
25 important the State Water Project is to our community and

1 that's why we are very supportive of investing in operations
2 and maintenance and repairs and replacement.

3 The Zone 7 Board and the community have always been
4 supportive of DWR's efforts and we've been supportive of the
5 need to invest additional resources. And safety is very
6 important. We have four State Water Project dams and
7 reservoirs in our service area, so DWR's work for Lake
8 Oroville and the other reservoirs is very important to us.

9 Let's go to the overall summary, and I would be happy
10 to address any questions or comments.

11 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: I guess, Valerie, one thing I
12 would ask -- I mean, it's helpful to understand more about
13 Zone 7 as one of the 27 water contractors, but this would be
14 for sort of you or Karla, would be sort of what's the role of
15 the State Water Project contractors in decisions that get made
16 about Oroville, as sort of the State's second largest
17 reservoir and kind of the cornerstone of the State Water
18 Project?

19 VALERIE PRYOR: Sure. We are a member of the State
20 Water Contractors, Inc. organization; it's a nonprofit
21 representing 27 of the contractors. As a member of that
22 organization, we get quite a bit of information from DWR. We
23 get presentations. We do provide recommendations.

24 And one of the issues -- not issues, but one of the
25 topics we discussed at the last year was that DWR requests

1 additional positions for capital improvement program, asset
2 management, and through that, we were briefed on it, we were
3 able to have any questions or input and, ultimately -- you
4 know, my agency was very supportive of that. We provide input
5 to DWR. DWR partners with us quite a bit. But I don't think
6 that we actually make the decisions, but we are, as I've said,
7 supportive.

8 DIRECTOR NEMETH: I was going to say, you'll be
9 shocked to know we don't always agree what the role is and
10 what the right decisions are, and that's just because folks
11 are coming from different perspectives.

12 But one of the things that has been important to me as
13 the Director of the Department is to do a better job with the
14 State Water Contractors in really articulating the financial
15 decisions that we're making about the project, because when we
16 have aging infrastructure, it's really important to me that
17 the State Water Contractors truly understand what's in play
18 relative to public safety and all these really crucial things
19 that the department is making decisions on. And that's the
20 way I think that, at least, I, as the Director, am looking to
21 build better support for the things that we need to be doing
22 that are real critical to public safety and the operations of
23 the facilities.

24 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Karla, that's really helpful.
25 Because if I'm a representative of a community around

1 Oroville, I want to make sure the State and the water
2 contractors are spending adequately on safety at the facility.
3 And then, I think in the past, there's been at least some
4 concern about, you know, Boy, what interests do the State
5 Water Contractors have in making those investments? So, you
6 know, is there a tension there and how do we deal with the
7 tension to ensure that there's adequate funding, too, for the
8 safety of the dam and the reservoir?

9 DIRECTOR NEMETH: Just in the spirit of candor,
10 there's always some tension there, but I think that's okay.
11 My point, Secretary, is that public safety is priority one,
12 and that's always going to be DWR's priority. So that's where
13 we are.

14 And what's really helpful for the department in our
15 relationship with the State Water Contractors is to be more
16 sort of forthcoming and proactive about financial planning so
17 that we can build their support for DWR's decisions that
18 maintain public safety as the number one priority. It's why,
19 you know, a lot of these issues around contract extension have
20 been really important to the State Water Project and the
21 contractors. We do sell bonds. This is different from the
22 Central Valley Project. The State Water Project contractors
23 pay for all -- they pay for all the capital costs, all the
24 operations and maintenance in long-term reinvestment in the
25 project.

1 So our ability to sell bonds is really important to
2 financial stability so we can amortize those costs over a
3 longer period of time. I won't get down into those details,
4 but it's just an example of the way in which the department
5 and Ted Craddick's shop is really pressing on our ability to
6 provide better information to the contractors is the way in
7 which we build support for the decisions the department needs
8 to make that maintains public safety as priority one.

9 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: That's really helpful. I think
10 Supervisor Connelly has his hand up.

11 SUPERVISOR CONNELLY: I don't know how to raise my
12 hand the other way. I can never find that little thing.

13 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Me neither.

14 SUPERVISOR CONNELLY: So it wasn't an IQ test that I
15 failed, right?

16 I would really like to bring up a couple of points.
17 One is that, as we're talking about all this, it's almost like
18 in a way, Butte County, Oroville doesn't really exist. The
19 meaning of that is, you talk about the lack of power
20 production like it would be some impact on us. We don't get
21 to tax it, we don't receive a benefit of it, we don't do
22 anything. And then, on top of that, the recreation was never
23 built out.

24 I don't want to get -- we're going to take this up in
25 a later meeting. But I want to emphasize that there is a cost

1 to hosting this facility that the water contractors and DWR
2 should try to offset. We're out-of-pocket over seven million
3 a year, just out of pocket, Butte County, for hosting this dam
4 without the real buildup of the recreation that could offset
5 it. And so, as long as I'm alive and as long as people like
6 me that grew up, watched the dam built, and saw the impacts on
7 our community and the lack of resources put back into it, I'm
8 going to be a voice to that. I hope the water contractors
9 understand it's a burden for us to have a facility in our back
10 yard.

11 And then, as far as safety, we'll talk about that
12 later. But I would love to be able to do presentations to the
13 various water contractors around the state without their
14 attorneys in the room and let them know what it's really like
15 to be impacted hosting a facility in your community. And I do
16 understand that water is necessary for everybody and I
17 understand that we are the bathtub for it. But there is
18 another side to this. Thank you.

19 SUPERVISOR VASQUEZ: Would you take it out in water,
20 that dollar amount?

21 SUPERVISOR CONNELLY: We get about 27,500 acre feet of
22 water.

23 Senator Pittman, years ago -- his son is on here with
24 us -- asked for 270,000 acre feet of water which would have
25 totally offset any impacts to the community, the way I see it.

1 Or we could ramp up the building out of recreation or you
2 could give us a share of electricity, something to offset the
3 negative impacts to our community. I didn't even bring out
4 the 41,000 acres that are out of our tax rolls, that a very
5 simple CPI would be five to seven million right now, under two
6 percent per year, if no improvements had ever been done. We
7 lost that. And we don't get payment on taxes like a federal
8 facility does. Or if they create a national forest or
9 something like that, there's generally a PILT payment; we
10 don't receive any of that.

11 This is a very impactful thing to our community.
12 Actually, without going on and on, it actually threw us into a
13 depression after the dam was complete because the recreation
14 facilities were never built out. Again, I could go on and on.

15 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: No, I appreciate that. This
16 Commission is all about that kind of real talk. So you should
17 keep on being as candid.

18 I'll make two comments before calling on Councilmember
19 Pittman and Assemblyman Gallagher.

20 One is, I think one of the reasons why we're focused
21 on FERC relicensing, as I understand it, is to unleash a lot
22 more investment in recreation and build on that reservoir
23 being an incredible place to recreate. So I think holding us
24 accountable and holding the Army Corps -- or FERC accountable
25 is getting that relicensing done.

1 Number two is, I just note that, as I understand it,
2 there is significant flood benefit of the dam to downriver
3 communities. In fact, I think that's one of the reasons why
4 it was first considered just because of the horrific flooding
5 that was occurring down the Feather and into the Sacramento.

6 But all that being said, Supervisor Connelly, part of
7 this Commission is for people like me to listen and learn from
8 people like you who have been here your whole lives. So I
9 appreciate those comments and I encourage you to keep on
10 raising that perspective.

11 Councilmember?

12 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Thank you, Secretary.

13 Valerie, great presentation, very informative.

14 The question I have to you -- and, also, I appreciate
15 Supervisor Connelly's comments. Thank you, sir. We certainly
16 agree in that perspective.

17 Valerie, what's the long-term look-out or reach-out
18 for year Zone 7 as far as water needs to the future? Is water
19 going to be a holdback to your development and growth to your
20 area?

21 VALERIE PRYOR: We do anticipate about a 20 percent
22 increase in population, and so, we do need to invest in
23 additional water supplies and water supply reliability
24 projects.

25 So under consideration for our agency at the current

1 time is the Delta Conveyance Project, Los Vaqueros Reservoir
2 Expansion Project, the Sites Reservoir off-river use, and Bay
3 Area Regional Desal project, which would be brackish Desal
4 from the Delta. So they're all in the planning phases right
5 now, but our agency knows that we do need to invest in one or
6 more of those projects, and we do know that's it's going to
7 have a significant cost impact.

8 Besides having to invest in aging infrastructure in
9 our own service area as well as State Water Project, we will
10 need to invest in additional water supplies.

11 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Thank you. Appreciate that.

12 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thank you. Assemblyman?

13 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Yeah, hi. This was really
14 informative to hear from you. One quick question -- couple
15 quick questions I had is, what is the approximate cost of
16 water for you guys per acre foot currently?

17 VALERIE PRYOR: I'm just hesitating because that could
18 be calculated in different ways. Our large portion of paying
19 for the State Water Project is a fixed cost, so those costs,
20 they don't change from year to year regardless of how much
21 water. So it's kind of an artificial number, but probably
22 around \$800 per acre foot.

23 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: I heard you mention that one
24 of the reasons you started was because of flooding in 1955,
25 and that's something we also experienced.

1 I will point out, just to clarify one point, Oroville
2 itself has never actually had threat of flooding, but it is
3 for those of us downstream in the like Yuba and Sutter
4 Counties and lower Butte County where Oroville provides a
5 great flood protection benefit, for sure.

6 But I'm curious, what was the flooding issues that you
7 guys experienced in that area? What river system that you
8 guys have had flood concerns and what have you guys done for
9 flood control?

10 VALERIE PRYOR: So we have -- basically, our watershed
11 goes into Alameda Creek, but we have the Arroyo Del Valle,
12 which Lake Del Valle Dams -- that was the primary benefit of
13 Lake Del Valle, so that impacts the flooding.

14 Zone 7 is a flood control agency. We operate about
15 40 miles of flood control channels; some are engineered, some
16 are the arroyos, and we do have a capital improvement program
17 to identify projects which could help reduce flooding.

18 We actually had significant damage in 2017 and we're
19 still working on the repairs from that. So whether they're
20 channel improvements or, you know, some ways that detain
21 additional water upstream, we are looking at a number of
22 projects.

23 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Where did it flood? Did it
24 flood, like, Dublin?

25 VALERIE PRYOR: Pleasanton, primarily.

1 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: And then, the Kern County
2 water banking, how does that work for you guys? I was curious
3 about that.

4 VALERIE PRYOR: So we store water in Kern County, and
5 the way we access water from those banks, since we're upstream
6 of it, is through exchanges. So, in the simplest term, we'll
7 take -- we'll exchange water with someone in Southern
8 California, so we'll intercept their water before it goes to
9 Southern California, and then we'll pump water out of our
10 ground water banks and send it to Southern California.

11 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: So you guys have a ground
12 water bank locally that you can pump out --

13 VALERIE PRYOR: Yes.

14 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: -- and send that water back
15 down the system?

16 VALERIE PRYOR: Right. We have part of it in storage
17 in Kern County. But our local ground water basin, it only
18 produces a small amount of what I'll call native ground water,
19 and the rest is recharge of State Water Project water.

20 So, in this particular year, in this drought year,
21 because of the low State Water Project allocation, we will be
22 maximizing our local ground water basin.

23 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: The Kern County water bank, do
24 you guys kind of send your allotment of water, like, maybe you
25 don't take it and it goes down and it gets put into that Kern

1 County water bank?

2 VALERIE PRYOR: Yes. So in wet years when we have
3 higher State Water Project allocation, more than we need in
4 that particular year, we'll send the excess down to Kern
5 County.

6 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: And that that gets pumped out
7 there by people that need it --

8 VALERIE PRYOR: Correct.

9 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: -- that water, and then we'll
10 take more water later?

11 VALERIE PRYOR: Yes. So in a dry year like this year,
12 we will access water from the banking programs in Kern County
13 as well as our local ground water basin.

14 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: That water physically down
15 there, it can't get back up through there, right?

16 VALERIE PRYOR: Correct. So we exchange with
17 contractors in Southern California.

18 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: You take their water upstream,
19 and in exchange, they take your water from the Kern County
20 ground water bank?

21 VALERIE PRYOR: Yes.

22 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Yes, that's what I wanted to
23 clarify.

24 Where -- so out of the South Bay Aqueduct, is that --
25 there's pumps there in the Delta that pump into that; is that

1 right?

2 VALERIE PRYOR: Yes. So the Delta goes into the
3 California aqueduct and then, really quickly, the South Bay
4 Aqueduct takes off from the California Aqueduct.

5 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Thanks. I wanted to get a
6 better understanding of how your guys' system works, so thank
7 you.

8 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Those are excellent questions.
9 Frankly, I learned a lot from Valerie's presentation. To me,
10 this makes a point that there may be benefit in exploring
11 whether we want somebody representing the State Water
12 Contractors, you know, sitting on this Commission so they can
13 actually learn more about the local concerns and the local
14 impacts and also share more, where helpful.

15 I think we would want to do that only with the
16 approval of Senator Nielsen and Assemblyman Gallagher and the
17 Commission. But I just raise that candidly because I do think
18 it's helpful for the State Water Contractors to understand,
19 you know, the perspectives of the folks that live around the
20 facility and also, likewise, to, you know, share information
21 with you all when helpful. Supervisory Connelly?

22 SUPERVISOR CONNELLY: I totally support that. I think
23 it's very important for them to understand as we go on that we
24 have aging infrastructure, and it's probably all up and down
25 the state, but we're worried about Oroville right now, that

1 there's going to be a cost associated with it. I was
2 surprised when she said 800 an acre foot; that's fairly high.
3 But, you know, maybe it has to be a thousand dollars an acre
4 foot before we can make it totally safe and we do every type
5 of recycling there is and we really treat water as precious as
6 it is, so I would really like to have them around the table.

7 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Appreciate that. Senator?

8 SENATOR NIELSEN: I would very much support the Water
9 Contractors participation. You know, I've long argued that
10 water is all of California, and there's not a north, south,
11 east, west; it's all together, it's not just about the Delta.
12 So they would be very, very important. Let's have further
13 discussion about that, Mr. Secretary.

14 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: That sounds good. I appreciate
15 that. Director Nemeth?

16 DIRECTOR NEMETH: Well, actually, I don't think I can
17 improve upon the last three commenters, just to say I
18 wholeheartedly agree, especially as the state and at the
19 federal level, there's really historic investment in water
20 infrastructure and we have an opportunity here, and that
21 opportunity will be better realized if we have more joint
22 thinking about how to make the system work better and work for
23 more people when we, you know, really -- that ought to effect
24 the way in which we pursue state funding and federal funding
25 investments in water infrastructure. So thanks to all three

1 of the previous commenters.

2 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thank you. So, Nick, let's put
3 that on the to do list, is to explore with State Water
4 Contractors whether they would be interested in having
5 somebody sit on the Commission.

6 Valerie, just so you know, it's not a huge -- I'm not
7 necessarily nominating you because you're giving the
8 presentation, but just so you know, you can tell your
9 colleagues, it's not huge investment of time, we meet
10 quarterly. But it could be a really important opportunity to
11 share updates that are meaningful to local community and then
12 critically to understand the perspective of folks living
13 around the facility.

14 VALERIE PRYOR: I think that's an excellent idea. I
15 can't speak for the other contractors, but, yes, we would
16 support that at some --

17 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thank you for that. Thank you
18 for all the work you're doing and your engagement here today.

19 Let's move on to, I think -- I believe our last
20 presentation, which is an update on Asset Management and the
21 Annual Maintenance Plan.

22 And if you would, David and Dave, demystify what
23 "Asset Management" means. Sometimes in the water sector we
24 get into a lot of lexicon, like vocabulary and acronyms, et
25 cetera. So help us understand -- maybe at the top, you

1 know -- the relevance of this update to the concerns that
2 council members have, and then if you could delve into the
3 update, that would be great.

4 DAVE DUVAL: Thank you, Secretary, and thank you all
5 Commissioners for letting me present. I'll try on Asset
6 Management.

7 Just quickly, I'm going to give a presentation on
8 Asset Management, our Asset Management program, and, in
9 particular, how we look at asset and evaluate asset and
10 prioritize our projects moving forward for aging
11 infrastructure. And then the latter half of the presentation
12 will be Oroville Annual Maintenance and Projects, both our
13 budgeting over the last few years, and within this year, are
14 the activities that we do for overall maintenance. Next
15 slide.

16 The State Water Project, one of the things I want to
17 touch upon is State Water Project Prioritization. Part of --
18 Project Prioritization is one of the key parts of our Asset
19 Management program, so -- our Asset Management program is
20 based off an international standard. We have been working in
21 the last seven years to bring it up to a international
22 standard.

23 It really delves around -- excuse me, if we could --
24 thank you.

25 It really comes around different processes. One is

1 identifying risk. We do that through inspections and
2 condition assessments and studies and how it operates and
3 different maintenance activities. We identify risk for the
4 safety of the facilities, the people around the community.

5 Once we've identified those risks, we'll do an
6 assessment for each proposed project or activity that we want
7 to do on a large scale, and those assessments will identify,
8 you know, what is the severity of consequence if a failure or
9 part of the piece of equipment would go down and then what is
10 the likelihood of it occurring. We use that and plot it onto
11 a matrix and say that, okay, we'll give it a number based on
12 that and it will help us to drive our decisions. I'll talk
13 more about in a little bit.

14 Then we use the risk assessment in identifying
15 projects for our financial management and resource planning.
16 The approach considers different things, like mandatory. If
17 the State of California mandates that the State Water Project
18 needs to do something, it will consider that. It will
19 require -- it looks at benefits and risk and resources to find
20 the right balance between performance, costs, and risk. Next
21 slide.

22 What we call it is Risk-Informed Prioritization, or
23 Risk-Informed Decision. And why do we use risk informed?
24 It's to select our projects and how we address aging
25 infrastructure. We do that -- it helps us prioritize and

1 select the right ones, the ones that can reduce the risk in
2 the least amount of time and reduce the highest risk with the
3 available funding and resources. It's a better practice.
4 It's international standardized, as I said.

5 Public utilities often use risk, rather than other
6 financial metrics, such as Net Present Value, otherwise, what
7 is the cost benefit to evaluate in a more objective way of
8 what we should be doing for projects moving forward.

9 The risk scores are assigned a quantitative value to
10 the risk associated with an event or an issue, and that allows
11 us to compare different projects within a complex like
12 Oroville or across the state so that we are putting our human
13 resources as well as our financial resources in the highest
14 risk and the highest issues.

15 As I said earlier, the State Water Project has modeled
16 this process after an international standard, ISO 55001.

17 Next slide, please.

18 Just to give a quick overview of our State Water
19 Project Capital Prioritization Process, it starts off with we
20 do condition assessments of our facilities and infrastructure
21 through operating, and we do monitoring, what is the status
22 and condition. We do studies, we do very technical studies,
23 engineering studies, to determine what is the condition,
24 because a lot of times you can't get and physically touch
25 and/or feel or look at the infrastructure, so you have to do

1 studies, much like what we've done up in Oroville Dam.

2 We identify projects that need to be completed for our
3 capital improvements. And then we -- once we have identified
4 a project, we'll evaluate the risk.

5 Once again, when we say evaluate the risk, we'll say
6 what is the consequence if that were to fail, that piece of
7 infrastructure were to fail, and what's the likelihood of it
8 failing, and then we plot it and use that information to
9 inform what we should be doing.

10 We also identify that project, what are the resources
11 needed to do it, how much -- not just money, but what are the
12 technical expertise, and those resources allows us to balance
13 out so that both contracting and/or state resources people,
14 that is, we can come up with a prioritized projects.

15 The output of the projects are what we finalize our
16 next year's budget and then we also create a multi-year
17 capital plan so that we can project out the needs of the State
18 Water Project. Next slide, please.

19 So transitioning to Oroville Historical Expenditures,
20 we have on this slide is, our funding is based in two
21 different areas; one is our Annual Operation & Maintenance
22 expenses, and the other is our Capital Projects. We fund for
23 them differently. Capital Projects are bonded over multiple
24 years based on our capital policy, but the Annual activities
25 are pay as you go, so to speak, each year.

1 As you can see in 2018 through 2020, our Annual
2 Operation & Maintenance activities are running in the 40 to
3 50 million-dollar range and our Capital Projects are similar,
4 in the 40- to 50-million-dollar range. So just under
5 100 million is what we've been spending up there annually.

6 One thing to note is that this excludes the cost for
7 the Oroville Spillways Emergency and Reconstruction; that was
8 a completely -- that is a complete adder-on to that. This is
9 our normal capital improvement and annual activities. Next
10 slide.

11 Just to give a snapshot of what we're doing, looking
12 for in current year as well as next year is, we're similar, a
13 little bit higher. We're going to be a little over 100
14 million spent up in the Oroville area for annual activities in
15 our capital projects. Next slide, please.

16 So what I wanted to show is the Commission, what are
17 the activities in each of those categories. So Annual
18 Operation & Maintenance Activities are things that are just
19 done constantly. It's our operators operating the facilities,
20 it's our dam safety surveillance people that are doing
21 monitoring of the dams and all the pertinences in the Oroville
22 area. It is also all of our maintenance activities.

23 On the left-hand side are powerplant related
24 activities. One of the things I want to emphasize at Hyatt
25 Powerplant is critical for our dam safety because Hyatt is the

1 way we release water throughout the year so that we can get --
2 manage the reservoir in years of high -- or plentiful water.

3 So if you look at the left-hand side, just to talk
4 through a few of these things. Annually, we do our generator
5 unit. When I say "unit," I mean generator unit reliability
6 outages and condition assessment inspections. We do unit
7 transforms -- high-voltage transformer annual maintenance,
8 generator annual maintenance and a protective relaying
9 testing. We do high-voltage switchyard and breaker
10 inspections and testing and maintenance. We annually go in
11 and look at and inspect the generator runners or the wheels
12 and do inspections and repair. We have fire systems that are
13 very sophisticated to protect the plants. We do those annual
14 testings and inspections. Station service, which is all the
15 auxiliaries in the plant, we do annual maintenance. And we do
16 things like battery back up-charging and testing.

17 Same thing for our Thermalito Powerplant and our
18 Thermalito Diversion Dam Powerplant are the similar type
19 things.

20 When you go to the right side, more our annual
21 activities for the non-powerplant things and all of the dams
22 and impertinences of the system up there, things like Flood
23 Control System Annual Maintenance. We do yearly with our
24 regulatory dam safety regulatory agencies, Division of Safety
25 Of Dams, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, we have annual

1 inspections. The Intake Shutters we do annual maintenance;
2 that's what allows the water into Hyatt Powerplant. Of course
3 we do ground's fencing repair, gates and sign. Oroville
4 Spillway Radial Gate Testing we do annually. Road
5 maintenance. We do fish -- the State Water Project does the
6 maintenance for the fish hatchery there in Oroville, and we do
7 that annually. Also, a chief component, especially with the
8 fires, as we talked earlier, we have a crew that's dedicated
9 to Oroville Lake debris removal and maintenance of log booms
10 and keeping the lake clean of debris. Daily, we do dam
11 surveillance and monitoring, water flow and temperature
12 monitoring, which is -- and water quality sampling. Water
13 quality sampling is also very important for the fire -- all
14 the fires that have happened around the watershed. We do
15 debris removal/erosion repair on all dams, vegetation,
16 maintenance. And another key thing is we participate with
17 other partners within the agency, Parks, CalFire, California
18 -- CCCs to do fuel load reduction up around the facilities.

19 And in the Upper Feather -- our reservoirs on the
20 Upper Feather, we do similar things through all that, also.

21 This Annual Operation & Maintenance Activities are
22 anywhere from daily to weekly or monthly or yearly maintenance
23 activities, depending on the periodic need of those
24 infrastructure. Next one, please.

25 Going to the other half of the expenditures, is

1 Capital Improvement Projects; I want to go through some of
2 these. This is what has -- over the last year we have been
3 doing up in the Oroville area.

4 Power canal -- when I say "doing up there," some
5 things have been just finished up, some things that should
6 have been started, some things are heading into these Capital
7 Improvement Projects.

8 Our Power Canal Erosion Repair. Diversion Dam Radial
9 Gate Inspections and Repairs and refurbishment. Our River
10 Outlet Radial Gate facility is in the middle of refurbishment.
11 Bidwell Dam, the Toe Weir Deign and Construction and
12 Installation; that's so that we can monitor Ski Beach across
13 Bidwell Dam.

14 We have our river -- RVOS stands for River Valve
15 Outlet System Rehabilitation project that's currently in its
16 design phase. We have Hyatt Unit 1 Valve Refurbishment and
17 Turbine Replacement, which was jut most recently completed.
18 We have Hyatt Power Plant Station Service Protective Relay
19 Replacement project. Thermolito Powerplant Restoration
20 Complete. We lost Thermalito years ago. It was completed
21 this last year.

22 We have Hyatt Unit 4 Cooling System Replacements,
23 Hyatt Battery Replacement, Thermolito Diversion Dam
24 Transmission Line Repairs; those are high-voltage transmission
25 lines, or medium voltage 13.8 kb. We have our Physical

1 Security Modernization up there. Craig Access Road Bridge
2 Replacements. As a result of the fire, we lost some bridges
3 up in that on Craig Access Road and we immediately, before the
4 winters came, replaced the bridges.

5 Loafer Creek Launch Ramps. This is a proactive thing
6 the department has done for recreation and spent approximately
7 \$20 million to put in those launch ramps, both a higher level
8 and a lower level. We're continuing to chase the lake down
9 with extending those boat ramps. Then we have some -- we
10 always do Functional Exercises on a periodic basis.

11 On the right side, we have some Flood Control Outlet
12 Structural Reanalysis to determine exactly what is the
13 condition of the flood control outlet, in particular the gates
14 and that system. We put into the Flood Control Outlet the
15 Monoliths, some Piezometers, so that we can monitor those
16 Monoliths. We have been proactively putting in Oroville Dam
17 Piezometers at the toe of the dam as well as in -- we're
18 starting a project right now with the Core Block and Grout
19 Gallery Piezometer Installation.

20 We're doing Palermo Tunnel Bulkhead Improvements.
21 I'll probably just --

22 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Dave, just, you're doing a
23 Yeoman's effort getting through the 36 points improvement
24 projects. Why don't you just summarize sort of the key ones,
25 and then I think the key point is that this will be up on the

1 website and that our Commission can either cherrypick things
2 to get a deeper dive on or Commission members can ask about
3 specific projects.

4 DAVE DUVAL: I'll wrap it up there, Secretary. The
5 one thing I'll say, if you notice, the rest of the ones are
6 very much dam safety projects for the community up there on
7 the right-hand side -- well, throughout all of it.

8 I'll leave it at that. Thank you very much,
9 Secretary.

10 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thanks. Just a word to the
11 Commissioners that -- maybe, Nick, you can make sure in our
12 next email to highlight these, and if people want to better
13 understand any one of them, we can either set up a direct
14 discussion or address them at a future meeting. Thanks so
15 much.

16 Are we turning it over to the other Dave or David?

17 DAVE DUVAL: Yes. No, I think --

18 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Or was that --

19 DAVE DUVAL: That is the end of the presentation.

20 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Got it. Oh, sorry; I lost you
21 there halfway in the middle. Dave and David, thank you both
22 so very much -- or David and Dave, I should say.

23 Any questions, recognizing that we do want to move
24 along and certainly get to Public Comment? But any high-level
25 questions, recognizing that we can ask more specific questions

1 offline or at a future time?

2 Supervisor Connelly?

3 SUPERVISOR CONNELLY: I'll defer.

4 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Oh, sorry.

5 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Just really, quickly. Dave,
6 you showed a slide there about what costs have been, I think,
7 from '18 through '21. What have they been more historically
8 like from, say, 2010 through 2017 on maintenance -- O & M and
9 Capital costs? Have they generally been the same or do you
10 have that kind of data?

11 DAVE DUVAL: I don't have it right on the top of my
12 head, but I do know we've been growing at three to six percent
13 rate notwithstanding, you know, there are peaks and depending
14 on the size of the capital improvement projects. But pretty
15 consistent. And, once again, I want to highlight that
16 excludes the Oroville emergency activities.

17 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Right. So that's -- you're
18 talking about both O&M and capital has been growing about
19 three to six percent rate?

20 DAVE DUVAL: Yes.

21 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Yeah, I think it would be good
22 if we can get that similar graph but going back a little bit
23 further, maybe like 2010, just to kind of see what those have
24 been cost-wise.

25 One thing on the O&M, I didn't really see on there --

1 maybe I missed it -- but, you know, like concrete review and
2 inspection, like of spillways. Is that part of annual O&M
3 costs?

4 DAVE DUVAL: Yes, that would be part of the annual
5 when we go out and do either the FERC and DSOD inspections or
6 our own inspections of the facilities, so we would go out and
7 inspect -- depending on the case of the spillways, it would be
8 go out and look at and analyze and see if there's any spalling
9 or cracks and identifying and do repairs.

10 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: I did see on the radial gates
11 they're also inspected every year?

12 DAVE DUVAL: Yes, they're tested, inspected. And the
13 different pieces of it -- there's electrical-mechanical
14 activities as well as structural that are either tested,
15 inspected, or doing maintenance on annually. Some of the
16 things might be monthly, some of the things might be annually,
17 depending on the wear-and-tear type of those activities.

18 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Vegetation management is also
19 part of that O&M costs?

20 DAVE DUVAL: Yes. Absolutely, it would be part of
21 that. There's two types of vegetation management. Obviously,
22 there's fuel reduction, which is sort of separate from that,
23 for fire. But then vegetation management so that the
24 facilities are -- can be inspected, and we keep the vegetation
25 -- it needs to be appropriately inspected, so you have to,

1 obviously, keep the vegetation down.

2 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: Is that what we're really
3 watching on like, say, the emergency spillway now, like
4 ensuring that -- well, emergency spillway and the gated
5 spillway, I guess, like ensuring we don't get any vegetation
6 too close to, you know, the concrete structures that could
7 potentially undermine them?

8 DAVE DUVAL: Yes. We will establish a barrier, which
9 that we think -- you know, both from wanting to be able to do
10 inspections and keep it very clean and tight, so to speak.
11 And then, with all the new fires and everything, we're going
12 to be working hard to understand what is a good boundary of
13 the Oroville facility so that we keep the fuel loads down,
14 also, and in particular around what you're talking about, the
15 dam, the impertinence and the spillways.

16 ASSEMBLYMAN GALLAGHER: That's all I have.

17 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thanks so much. I know,
18 Supervisor Connelly, you raised your hand, and then Senator
19 Nielsen and Councilman Pittman.

20 SUPERVISOR CONNELLY: He asked my question.

21 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Got it. Senator Nielsen?

22 SENATOR NIELSEN: Dave, are you doing, as a part of
23 your inspections, any boring? That was the first question I
24 asked after the failure, had you done boring over the last
25 decades, and there was a porosity of boring done. In other

1 words, what's going on down underneath? Are we still anchored
2 somewhere in the firmament? Had we found that we had drain
3 lines that were plugged with roots and that there had been
4 erosion of some substantial amount underneath. Is that a part
5 of your inspection process, too? I trust it is.

6 DAVE DUVAL: During the emergency and since we have
7 done a tremendous amount of coring to -- in or around the
8 facilities to understand what is the condition for the wart
9 (phonetic) rock and everything. Maybe I'll ask Dave Sarkisian
10 to talk a little bit more on there.

11 But if you'll notice, we also talked about, on the
12 list of projects, the piezometer installations within the dam
13 core block, at the toe of the dam, and also on the spillway
14 monoliths, which also gives an indication of what's going on
15 in those areas, too. Those are new installations.

16 SENATOR NIELSEN: Just lastly, an observation. One of
17 the things that you folks had to do immediately was clean out
18 a lot of trees. Now, I trust that when this habitat thing is
19 not going to be much part of the future. In other words,
20 we're going to keep those trees out of the way. That was a
21 problem, a lot of resources were committed to get tree removal
22 right off the bat.

23 DAVE DUVAL: We are working with the Federal Energy
24 Regulatory Commission and other regulatory to understand the
25 condition at which we need to bring the habitat back. But it

1 is very much on our minds to do as much as possible to keep
2 that as clean for fires and other issues.

3 SENATOR NIELSEN: Thank you very much.

4 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thank you, Senator.

5 Councilmember?

6 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Dave, real quick question;
7 with the low water levels and high intake structure being
8 relatively rarely available, is there any inspection or
9 maintenance or other activities being utilized right now that
10 you couldn't do under normal water level conditions?

11 DAVE DUVAL: Yes, sir. We are right now doing --
12 we're going to do a multi-million-dollar project to -- as soon
13 as we can get in. It's going to be dry. We're going to do
14 penstock inspections to see what the conditions and do any
15 repairs that are needed. The screens that protect the
16 penstocks, we're going to be doing refurbishment and
17 maintenance of those as we speak. We're also going to go in
18 the (inaudible) canal outlet structures; perfect opportunity
19 as the low lake to go in on the lake side and dive and do some
20 inspections and activities in that area.

21 So, absolutely, it's a perfect opportunity --
22 unfortunately, because of the drought, but it's time -- it's
23 the perfect time to do it.

24 COUNCILMEMBER PITTMAN: Good to hear. Thank you, sir.

25 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thanks so much. We have, as I

1 see it, about 25 attendees, which include probably mostly
2 community members, and one of them has their hands up. That's
3 actually a really good segue to Public Comment, and it's an
4 opportunity to share perspective and to generally pose
5 questions that we'll make sure this Commission asks.

6 Nick, can you run us over the ways that attendees to
7 this Zoom can provide public comment?

8 NICK SAFFOLD: Yes, absolutely. So for those on Zoom,
9 they can either raise their hand or click the Q&A icon at the
10 bottom of the screen, and then those on the phone, press #2
11 and then manually un-mute their phone as well.

12 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: I'll note, we're coming up on the
13 noon hour, and there may be some Commissioners that have to
14 drop off. I'm able to stay, certainly, through the Public
15 Comment and for the full meeting. But just know that if
16 you're a Commissioner and you need to drop off for a
17 commitment at noon, we do understand that and we'll be
18 providing a summary of public comment for you in the Meeting
19 Minutes.

20 So, Nick, without further ado, why don't you call on
21 members of the community or public commenters that have their
22 hands up.

23 NICK SAFFOLD: We have Matt Metnick (phonetic), and
24 then we'll go to Kevin Dossey after that.

25 JAMES: Matt, you should be able to unmute yourself.

1 PUBLIC MEMBER: Thank you. Nick, by the way, thanks
2 for the good job that you're doing on the tracking log. I
3 think we heard half a dozen things that will probably be added
4 from this meeting. I would like to add one more, is that here
5 it is 11 minutes left, and we're just now starting Public
6 Comment, so if these meetings need to go another half hour to
7 make room for those earlier introductions, then maybe we
8 should.

9 Quick question for Valerie. As a member of the State
10 Water Contractors nonprofit, Inc., do you know what their
11 annual budget is, Valerie?

12 VALERIE PRYOR: I'm thinking off the top of my head.
13 I don't know that. I could find out for you. But we're
14 largely an information group, so the budget is -- you know,
15 it's not -- it's a lot of supplies and services, so I'm going
16 to say somewhere in the five to ten-million-dollar range.

17 PUBLIC MEMBER: Five to ten?

18 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Just to note, on Public Comment,
19 I think it's helpful to pose questions, but just to keep us
20 efficient, if you can pose your questions in the Public
21 Comment, and I will do my best to make sure that they get
22 answered either now or down the road?

23 PUBLIC MEMBER: Would you like me to put all my
24 questions in written form for follow-up?

25 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: I think that would be great.

1 That would be really helpful. If you wanted to highlight any
2 of them here, you certainly could, but if you put them in
3 written form, we'll work to get them answered.

4 PUBLIC MEMBER: My apology for not asking for
5 presentation time myself for a couple of subjects that I
6 thought were very important in the downstream communities
7 we've been waiting a long time for. So if I forego the rest
8 of my time for written comments, will those be available on
9 the CAC website for review?

10 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Yes, I think so. We'll make sure
11 that the council members get them. If you have suggestions
12 for, you know, future topics of focus, we would welcome that
13 as well.

14 PUBLIC MEMBER: Yes, there was a few that I had for
15 this meeting, but we're apparently out of time. Let's try the
16 written form and let's see if we can't make improvements going
17 forward.

18 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Yeah, thanks. A really good
19 point about ensuring enough time for public comment. We could
20 even put it earlier in the meeting or top of the meeting.
21 We'll figure that out. But we're committed to ensuring that
22 those folks that want to make public comment have the full
23 time to be able to do so.

24 NICK SAFFOLD: We'll make sure that gets in the
25 meeting summary as well and that the Commissioners get all of

1 your written comments.

2 Let's move to have Kevin Dossey.

3 JAMES: You should be able to un-mute yourself, Kevin.

4 PUBLIC MEMBER: I'm Kevin Dossey, and I live in
5 Oroville, less than a mile from the lake. After 34 years as a
6 civil engineer with the Department of Water Resources, I
7 retired about a year and a half ago. I have a good pulse on
8 the recreation and safety issues at the lake and around the
9 project facilities. Been working in the recreational section
10 for 11 years and also coordinating spillways work with public
11 safety, security and designs and recreation community.

12 My discussion is regarding a question many north state
13 boaters have; why is Bidwell Canyon Stage III boat ramp not
14 planned for extension this year? We currently have a big
15 recreation safety issue because of the lack of access to the
16 lake. The low lake level is a recreation hardship, with the
17 trees and islands emerging around the lake, but it's also a
18 public safety issue because no launching is available at the
19 lake right now.

20 Currently, emergency response would be limited to
21 already on-water State Park boats. So at full pool, you know,
22 with 34 concrete launch lanes, there are more launch lanes
23 available on Lake Oroville than any other lake at the five
24 developed facilities. With no boat ramps available now, it's
25 obvious we need to extend ramps. And as mentioned, I saw in

1 the notes from last meeting, Director Nemeth had mentioned
2 extending the Bidwell ramp, and I became aware -- I'm going to
3 run out of time, my three minutes, so I'm going to try to
4 summarize and maybe I'll submit written transcripts of what I
5 planned to talk about.

6 But the point is, I know the focus has been moved to
7 Loafer Ramp, and that's great. You know, it's good to see
8 that the Loafer Ramp will be extended this fall and other
9 projects, potentially at Lime Saddle, the access. But the
10 Bidwell ramp project is really independent of the Loafer Creek
11 ramp, it's around the corner and it's the easiest access, the
12 most popular place for boaters all around the north state to
13 come to is Bidwell. So I think going forth with the Bidwell
14 Stage III boat ramp project would be prudent. It was
15 committed to by then Deputy Director Ralph Torres, in 2008, to
16 build that ramp and keep extending it as opportunities arose.
17 I have a lot of detail on that, but I think -- I've lost --
18 California budget surplus in the 40-billion-dollar range, I
19 would hope some money could be made available for the
20 approximately half-million dollar project.

21 I know DWR's funding is atypical for public agencies,
22 so I would suggest tapping into fourth priority funds, State
23 Parks, Division of Boating & Waterways, capital outlay funds
24 and/or state water contractor funds.

25 (Three-minute beeper)

1 In the spirit of benefiting local recreation users and
2 all Californians and others that visit Lake Oroville,
3 enhancing public safety and following through with prior
4 commitments, I think funds should be made available to
5 complete this highly visible project and very important
6 project as the Bidwell Canyon Stage III ramp. Thank you.

7 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Kevin, thank you. Thank you for
8 tuning into the discussion here today.

9 Just wonder if Matt Teague from the State Parks or
10 Karla or one of her staff want to share any comments both on,
11 you know, access to the reservoir or lake this year and then
12 that project? You know, if there's not a quick answer, that's
13 a response that we can get to Kevin offline.

14 SUPERINTENDENT TEAGUE: I would have to defer to
15 either Director Nemeth or Dave Duval on this one on this
16 meeting, basically, how it ties into the capital outlay, kind
17 of what Dave presented on the Loafer extension.

18 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Got it. Let's register that as a
19 question that's raised and then let's make sure that we get a
20 response to Kevin directly, Nick, and then also just have that
21 reflected in the meeting minutes.

22 NICK SAFFOLD: Absolutely.

23 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Nick, others?

24 NICK SAFFOLD: There's no one in the queue right now.
25 Again, please raise your hand on the Zoom platform or we can

1 put something into the Q&A, or folks on the phone, #2 to raise
2 your hand.

3 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Well, Nick, you can interrupt me
4 if somebody comes on -- that raises their hand that wants to
5 provide Public Comment.

6 Listen, this is the moment in time when we wrap up the
7 meeting, which actually we're able to do in two hours. I'm
8 certainly committed to ensuring that we have the amount of
9 time that we need, so if we need to make them a little bit
10 longer in the future, I'm very open to that.

11 We're meeting next on December 3rd, which Nick
12 mentioned. The hope is that we can do that in person up in
13 Oroville. Obviously, that depends on the Delta Variant,
14 pandemic. We have a pretty decent way of doing this via Zoom,
15 and I appreciate everyone's patience on that.

16 Per Director Nemeth, I think we would like to offer a
17 tour of the flood operations center, the federal and state
18 flood operations center, before that December 3rd meeting this
19 fall, really, before we get into our wet season. And so, I
20 know, Nick, we've sort of put you and the team on the spot
21 with recommending that it happen this fall versus next spring,
22 but I do that think that's a really good suggestion from
23 Karla, and we'll work to get that done.

24 Nick, I would encourage you to figure out times that
25 work for, certainly, Assemblyman Gallagher and Senator Nielsen

1 and us and then get a save-the-date out just as quickly as you
2 can so people can reserve that time. I envision that people
3 would drive their own vehicles down to the locations, and
4 we'll do it with masks, obviously, in a safe way.

5 So looking forward to our next meeting. I think this
6 has been a helpful discussion. Big thanks to Valerie for
7 coming today from the State Water Contractors. I think having
8 a representative on State Water Contractors on the Commission,
9 if we can do it, per Senator Nielsen and Supervisor, will
10 actually be helpful towards educating us all on sort of the
11 impacts, good and bad, of the facility up there and then also
12 be an opportunity for the water contractors to provide
13 information to local community leaders.

14 So unless anybody else raises their hand or pipes in,
15 I will make that the last word.

16 Senator Nielsen, I'm going -- Supervisor Connelly and
17 Senator Nielsen, I'm going to give you the last word.
18 Assemblyman, of course, can pipe in if he wants to as well.
19 Supervisor?

20 SUPERVISOR CONNELLY: I just want to thank everyone.
21 I think going through life, we can all learn something from
22 each other. I really appreciate the meeting. It's brought up
23 a lot about forest management, which does affect our
24 watersheds, and I want to emphasize publicly that it will take
25 tort reform, because every time we try to get something done,

1 it's a failure because we get sued over it.

2 The other thing was, I really appreciate the fuel
3 reduction efforts around the lake. It has really made a lot
4 of citizens feel a lot better about State Parks and DWR.
5 Thank you very much for hosting.

6 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Thank you, Supervisor.
7 Appreciate that. Senator?

8 SENATOR NIELSEN: I just wanted to thank you and
9 everybody. This is so helpful. Such a success. It's
10 exceeded my greatest expectations, so my closing remark is
11 thank you.

12 SECRETARY CROWFOOT: Well, thank you. You're the
13 reason we're here.

14 I consider all these meetings a work in progress, so
15 if members have ways to improve this and also topics that we
16 want to make sure to bring up at these meetings, let's make
17 sure to do that.

18 Nick, unless we have anything else, I will consider or
19 call the meeting adjourned. Thank you so much all joining us.
20 Be safe. Have a good weekend.

21 NICK SAFFOLD: Thank you.

22 (Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.)
23
24
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA)

I, ANN R. LEITZ, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein; that the Advisory Commission virtual Meeting was taken before me, in shorthand writing, and was thereafter transcribed, and is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of said hearing.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2021

/s:/Ann R. Leitz

ANN R. LEITZ, CSR NO. 9149

REVISED: 9-10-2021