



Meeting Minutes

Meeting of the California Water Commission
Wednesday, December 19, 2018
State of California, Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street, First Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814
Beginning at 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Quintero called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Executive Secretary Kimberly Muljat called the roll. Commission members Carol Baker, Andy Ball, Joe Del Bosque, Maria Herrera, Cathy Keig, and Armando Quintero were present, constituting a quorum. Commissioner Danny Curtin arrived at the beginning of item 8. Commissioner Joe Byrne was absent.

3. Closed Session

The Commission did not hold a closed session.

4. Approval of November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Del Bosque moved to approve the November 14, 2018 meeting minutes. All Commissioners present voted to approve the minutes.

5. Executive Officer's Report

Executive Officer Joe Yun attended a Floodplain Management Association meeting in November and gave a presentation on the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP). Mr. Yun also attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Fall Conference at the end of November. The early funding agreement for Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project has been executed. Staff is working on logistics for meetings with WSIP applicants on the required contracts for the administration of public benefits. Amy Young has been hired as the WSIP Program Manager.

Commissioner Ball asked when WSIP funding will be distributed. Mr. Yun explained that applicants can be paid as soon as their funding agreement is executed and they submit an invoice; payment can take one week to one month after an invoice is submitted.

6. Commission Member Reports

Commissioner Ball participated in a meeting of the Bay Area Council Water Committee. Commissioner Quintero spoke at the National Water Resources Association meeting in San Diego, attended the ACWA Fall Conference, and attended the California Foundation for the Environment and the Economy Roundtable Conference on California Water.

7. Public Testimony

There was no public testimony.

8. Legislative Update

Kasey Schimke, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, provided a brief presentation on recent legislation related to DWR. AB 1270 passed, which deals with the timing of annual inspections of dams and their facilities and what those inspections must include. SB 955 established a Citizens Advisory Commission for Oroville Dam. In 2018 the legislature passed water use efficiency legislation which the Commission was briefed on at its November meeting. Mr. Schimke discussed the upcoming legislative calendar for 2019.

Commissioner Ball asked if there are requirements to be a member of the Oroville Dam Citizens Advisory Commission. Mr. Schimke stated that SB 955 specifies the members of the Commission, including the directors of several state agencies and representatives of local governments in and around Oroville.

9. 2018 California Water Plan Update

Kamyar Guivetchi, Chief of DWR's Division of Statewide Integrated Water Management, discussed the California Water Plan Update 2018 and what can be expected in the Public Review Draft. The document includes challenges to sustainability, sustainability goals, recommended actions, conditions assessments, and approximate implementation costs. Mr. Guivetchi summarized the six sustainability goals contained in Update 2018 and discussed what will be required to achieve sustainability, including alignment and integration, consistency with values, and adaptive management.

Commissioner Keig noted that it is difficult to achieve efficiency with the number of water related agencies in California and asked if there will be governance changes. Mr. Guivetchi explained that several state programs encourage agencies to coordinate at a regional scale, but more sustained funding for these programs would help.

Commissioner Herrera expressed appreciation for the recognition of the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Commissioner Baker asked if there are planned efforts to engage small and unincorporated communities and water users. Mr. Guivetchi responded that there are new provisions requiring drought and water shortage contingency plans for small water systems and small communities. There are recommendations in Update 2018 that would help advance those efforts.

Commissioner Ball asked for clarification of the investment backlog mentioned during the presentation. Mr. Guivetchi stated that DWR surveyed flood and water agencies to determine their infrastructure improvement needs and added together the cost of all those projects to determine the investment backlog.

The Commission took public comment. Deirdre Des Jardins, with California Water Research, discussed the affordability and use of general obligation bonds and how funding impacts natural resources.

10. Climate Change Effects on the State Water Project

John Andrew, DWR's Assistant Deputy Director for Climate Change, introduced the recent state and federal climate change assessments. Current and former DWR staff contributed original research to both climate assessments, including nine technical papers for California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment.

Kevin He, with DWR's Bay Delta Office, summarized the Fourth National Climate Assessment. Mr. He served as a review editor for the water chapter, which states that changes due to climate change are occurring faster than previously anticipated, with increasing extreme event intensity and frequency. Climate change is affecting surface water quality and quantity (due to lower snow pack and declining groundwater storage). The relationship between these impacts and our aging water infrastructure means water managers must design water management strategies with flexibility to be able to adapt to a highly variable future.

Jay Wang, with DWR's Bay Delta Office, presented "Mean and Extreme Climate Change Impacts on The State Water Project," which is included as part of the State's Fourth Climate Assessment. The study looks at mid-century (2045 – 2074) climate impacts. The approach to assessing climate change impacts includes use of the 20 Global Climate Change Projections determined to be best at assessing change for California; downscaling to the local level for temperature change, shifts in precipitation patterns, and sea level rise; assessing what these changes mean to the hydrology; and modeling State Water Project operations using the CalSim 3.0 model. Climate change impacts affect model inputs such as rim inflows (flows in the upper watershed to the valley), sea level rise, water demands, and river indices. These input changes then affect model outputs of Delta exports, Delta outflow, carryover storage (the amount of stored water carrying over to the next water year), system reliability, and Delta water quality as measured by salinity level and location (X2). As a result of the changes, the state will see a wetter Northern California and drier Southern California, with greatest warming occurring inland. Delta outflow will change with earlier peak rim inflow, resulting in more outflow in the winter and less outflow in late spring and summer. In the event of the extreme driest global climate projection in the study, severe drought would

reduce south of Delta exports by 50%. The most influential factor is shift in the timing of rim inflow.

Andrew Schwarz, currently with the Delta Stewardship Council, presented a study performed while he was part of the DWR climate team. This report, "Climate Change Risk Faced by the California Central Valley Water Resource System," is included in the State's Fourth Climate Assessment. Mr. Schwarz stated that using our existing tools differently can help us view information from a risk-based decision framework, which is already familiar to water managers. The methodology used in Mr. Schwarz' paper is essentially opposite of the more traditional methodology presented by Jay Wang in the previous study. The starting point is to probe the system (State Water Project) simulation model to understand how that model responds to a large array of model inputs, and applying the global climate projections as a probabilistic overlay as a final step. The probing of the system simulation is used to generate a graphic called a "response surface," where the ability of the system to make current deliveries is the "center" line with lower declining deliveries to the left and increasing deliveries to the right of the line. Generally, as temperatures increase, the ability to deliver water at the current level requires more precipitation. A probabilistic "balloon" of global climate models is then super-imposed on the response surface. The global climate balloon shows that the climate models show more agreement (higher probability) in the center of the balloon, with less agreement (less probability) in the outer edges of the balloon.

This analysis shows that a warmer, drier, climate is most probable and falls to the declining side of the operational center line. This translates to water managers being able to focus now on potential adaptation strategies that address a drier, warmer climate, rather than waiting for a future analysis with greater certainty. This may help water managers figure out what is acceptable risk as they look at infrastructure and operational adaptations to more likely climate impacts that affect the SWP's ability to deliver water.

11. Consideration of Items for Next California Water Commission Meeting

Agenda items in January will include a presentation on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act basin boundary modifications, a presentation on State Water Project dam safety, and a presentation on DWR's implementation of AB 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act.

12. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned at 12:23 PM.