

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
January 11, 2023, @ 8:00 a.m.

Due to the continuing state of emergency declared by the Governor and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e), Director Green called the Water Issues Committee meeting to order via Zoom webinar. Members of the Board and the public participated via Zoom. The Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows:

Committee Members

Cathy Green
Dina Nguyen (arrived 8:05 a.m.)
Roger Yoh
Kelly Rowe
Bruce Whitaker

OCWD

Mike Markus – General Manager
John Kennedy – Executive Director
Christina Fuller – Asst. District Secretary
Jeremy Jungreis – General Counsel

Alternates

Denis Bilodeau
Steve Sheldon
Van Tran
Valeria Amezcua
Natalie Meeks (absent)

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Rowe, seconded by Director Whitaker and carried [5-0], with Director Bilodeau abstaining on Item No. 2, *Agreement Amendment with Dopudja & Wells Consultants*, as follows.

Ayes: Green, Yoh, Rowe, Whitaker, Bilodeau

1. Minutes of Water Issues Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Water Issues Committee meeting held December 14, 2022 were approved as presented.

2. Agreement Amendment with Dopudja & Wells Consultants

Recommended for approval at January 18 Board meeting: Increase the Agreement with Dopudja & Wells from 19,999 to 34,999 to assist with completion of the SARCCUP Extraordinary Supply Agreement and assist in the potential development of revisions to the existing South County Emergency Water Supply Agreement.

3. Agreement with DDB Engineering for the Preparation of 2022 GWRS Annual Report

Recommended for approval at January 18 Board meeting: Authorize issuance of Agreement to DDB Engineering Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$58,825 to provide consulting services for the preparation of the calendar year 2022 GWRS Annual Report.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

4. Fiscal Year 2022-23 Basin Production Percentage Public Hearing and Imported Water Purchases
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Executive Director John Kennedy reported that staff is recommending two actions to partially counter less than expected groundwater pumping this fiscal year. He advised that the reduction in pumping is due to declining total water demands, delays in constructing PFAS treatment systems and new PFAS testing orders for 39 additional wells. He stated that increasing the Basin Production Percentage (BPP) requires a public hearing which will be set for February 1. He noted that if approved, the new BPP becomes effective for the remaining months of the fiscal year. Mr. Kennedy reported that the District would have an initial 77% BPP for the beginning of the fiscal year, a new BPP of 96.2% for the remaining five months of the fiscal year, with an overall average BPP of 85% for the entire year that the Producers would use to manage their pumping.

Upon motion by Director Whitaker, seconded by Director Rowe and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its January 18 Board meeting: 1) Schedule a public hearing on February 1, 2023 to increase the Basin Production Percentage from 77% to 96.2% for the remaining five months of the fiscal year (resulting in an average BPP for the entire year of 85%); and, 2) Suspend purchases of imported water for the remainder of the year.

Ayes: Green, Nguyen, Yoh, Rowe, Whitaker

5. Staff Review of Directors Rowe and Whitaker Memo on a Coastal Seawater Barrier and Replenishment Network

Director of Hydrogeology Roy Herndon reported that Directors Rowe and Whitaker submitted a memo that presents two interrelated main themes: 1) Increasing the groundwater basin storage operating range for an extended drought, and 2) Improving the District’s seawater intrusion prevention infrastructure including construction of a “complete coastal network” of injection wells. He provided staff’s initial comments and advised that OCWD continues investing heavily to investigate and prevent seawater intrusion. Mr. Herndon stated that if the Board should want to pursue a more detailed evaluation of the issues, staff would recommend requesting cost proposals to retain outside engineering and groundwater modeling consultants for the scope of work.

Upon motion by Director Rowe, seconded by Director Nguyen and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its January 18 Board meeting: Direct staff to return to the committee with a more detailed recommended scope of work for the following activities: 1) engineering/feasibility study for a potential future Sunset Gap seawater barrier, 2) condition assessment for Talbert Barrier pipelines, 3) condition assessment and replacement plan for Talbert Barrier injection wells, and 4) to study additional ways to get more supply out of the groundwater basin such as pumping amber-colored groundwater in the Deep aquifer.

Ayes: Green, Nguyen, Rowe, Whitaker, Sheldon

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JANUARY 18 BOARD MEETING

It was agreed to place all items on the Consent Calendar at the January 18 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

DocuSigned by:
Cathy Green 2/8/2023
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Cathy Green, Chair