

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

Director Whitaker called the Water Issues Committee meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the District Boardroom. Public access was also provided via Zoom webinar. The Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows:

Committee Members

Bruce Whitaker
Dina Nguyen (absent)
Roger Yoh
Van Tran
Kelly Rowe

OCWD

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

Alternates

Denis Bilodeau (arrived 8:10 a.m.)
Steve Sheldon
Valeria Amezcua
Natalie Meeks (absent)
Cathy Green

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Rowe requested the removal of Item No. 5, *Consideration to Financially Support A Brackish Groundwater Project Feasibility Study*, from the Consent Calendar. The remainder of the Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Rowe, seconded by Director Yoh and carried [5-0], as follows.

Ayes: Whitaker, Yoh, Tran, Rowe, Sheldon

1. Minutes of Water Issues Committee Meeting

The Minutes of the Water Issues Committee meeting held February 8, 2023 were approved as presented.

2. Amendment to Agreement 1474 with Jacobs to Update Computer Model of Recharge System

Recommended for approval at March 15 Board meeting: Authorize issuance of Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 1474 with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., for an additional \$18,621 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$28,442 for updates to the recharge facilities computer model.

3. Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations at Prado Dam: Phase V - Implementation Support

Recommended for approval at March 15 Board meeting: Authorize amending agreement with UC San Diego/Scripps Institution of Oceanography by adding \$265,000 for Phase V, Implementation Support for Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations at Prado Dam.

4. Contract No. IRWD-2021-1 Irvine Ranch Water District Well Opa-1 PFAS Treatment System: Ratify Change Orders 1-2, Authorize Change Order to ICS, and Increase Project Budget

Recommended for approval at March 15 Board meeting: 1) Ratify issuance of Change Order Nos. 1-2; 2) Authorize Change Order No. 3 in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for additional well casing and well pump rehabilitation work, and 3) Increase project budget by \$960,000 for a total project budget of \$6,857,000.

5. Consideration to Financially Support a Brackish Groundwater Project Feasibility Study Sponsored by the Mesa Water District

This item was removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6. Serrano Water District PFAS Water Treatment Plant: Increase Project Budget

Recommended for approval at March 15 Board meeting: Increase project budget by \$216,186 for a total project budget of \$6,194.

7. Award Contract GBM-2023-1 for Installation of Shallow Aquifer Monitoring Wells for Annual Water Level Maps and Storage Calculation

Recommended for approval at March 15 Board meeting: 1) Receive and file Affidavit of Publication of Notice Inviting Bids for Contract GBM-2023-1; and Accept bid and Award Contract GBM-2023-1 to BC2 Environmental LLC for an amount not to exceed \$84,115.

8. Amendment No. 2 to Agreement with Engineering Analytics, Inc. for Consulting Services for the South Basin Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

Recommended for approval at March 15 Board meeting: Authorize issuance of Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 1428 with EA for an amount not to exceed \$70,481.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Consideration to Financially Support a Brackish Groundwater Project Feasibility Study Sponsored by the Mesa Water District

Director Rowe requested that staff provide more information on this item. Executive Director John Kennedy explained that Mesa Water District (Mesa Water) is developing a feasibility study for a local groundwater supply improvement project that will evaluate potential locations for extraction wells and a treatment plant seaward of the Talbert Barrier to desalinate brackish groundwater. He advised that the project includes the development of a feasibility study that evaluates the potential locations for groundwater wells seaward of the Talbert Barrier and estimates their impacts on the Talbert Barrier and seawater intrusion, raw water quality, impacts to treatment facility design, and waste management.

Upon motion by Director Sheldon, seconded by Director Yoh and carried [4-0-1], the Committee recommended that the Board at its March 15 Board meeting: Authorize payment of \$50,000 for the District's contribution to Mesa Water District's Local Groundwater Supply Improvement Project.

Ayes: Whitaker, Yoh, Tran, Sheldon

Noes: Rowe

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

9. Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Water Purchase Budget

Mr. Kennedy advised that the proposed fiscal year 2023-24 water budget totals \$6.2 million, but does not include the purchase of any Metropolitan Water District (MWD) untreated full service water. He advised that the District normally budgets for and purchases untreated imported water, which currently cost \$855/acre-foot, to recharge the groundwater basin to support higher levels of groundwater pumping. He stated that in general it is a good financial strategy to budget money for MWD untreated water purchases and noted that during years when no water is purchased, this money stays in the water fund for future purchases. He reported that staff is recommending to temporarily deviate from this budgeting strategy due to several reasons which include:

- Groundwater pumping remains less than normal due to the PFAS issue;
- The recent expansion of the GWRS is providing the District with additional recharge water;
- The groundwater basin is in very good condition; and
- The recommended Replenishment Assessment increase would be higher than what is currently being considered.

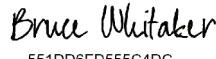
He stated that staff anticipates recommending the inclusion of funding to purchase MWD untreated water in future budgets.

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MARCH15 BOARD MEETING

It was agreed to place Item No. 8 as a Closed Session item at the March15 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Bruce Whitaker, Chair