



**FINAL**

***For Review and Adoption by the Council at the October 24, 2019 Meeting***

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**

**Thursday, September 26, 2019**

**Location:**

**Agenda Items 1-3**

**Orange County Water District**

**18700 Ward Street**

**Fountain Valley, CA 92708**

**Agenda Items 4-15**

**Orange County Sanitation District Boardroom**

**10844 Ellis Avenue**

**Fountain Valley, CA 92708**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

---

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Tatayon called the meeting to order at 8:23 AM, September 26, 2019 at the Orange County Water District location.

**2. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)**

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Ken Weinberg, Frank Damrell, Randy Fiorini, Maria Mehranian, Oscar Villegas, and Susan Tatayon.

Councilmember Mike Gatto arrived during the tour.

**3. Tour of Groundwater Replenishment System (Information Item)**

The Council participated in a tour of the Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System. For more information on the system, please visit <https://www.ocwd.com/gwrs/>.

After completion of the tour, at 9:30 AM, the Council recessed to reconvene at the Orange County Sanitation District Boardroom.

Adjourn to Second Location for Agenda Items 4-13: Orange County Sanitation District Boardroom, 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

**4. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Tatayon reconvened the meeting at 9:48 AM, September 26, 2019 in the Orange County Sanitation District Boardroom.

**5. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)**

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. The following councilmembers were present: Ken Weinberg, Mike Gatto, Frank Damrell, Randy Fiorini, Maria Mehranian, Oscar Villegas, and Susan Tatayon.



**6. Overview of the Municipal Water District of Orange County and the Orange County Water District (Information Item)**

General Manager Rob Hunter and Director Larry Dick provided a welcome and overview of the operations of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). First Vice President, Cathy Green, and Executive Director of Engineering and Water Resources, John Kennedy provided an overview of the Orange County Water District (OCWD).

Councilmembers and OCWD discussed funding sources from recent water bonds and state loans. They also discussed plans for future expansion.

General Manager Jim Herberg from the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) also welcomed the Council.

The welcome and overview provided by the Districts are viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-09-26> minute 00:04:11.

**7. Adoption of August 22, 2019 Meeting Summary (Action Item)**

There were no changes to the meeting summary.

**Motion:** Offered by Gatto, second by Mehranian - Approve the August 22, 2019 meeting summary.

**Vote:** 7/0 – Weinberg, Gatto, Damrell, Fiorini, Mehranian, Tatayon, and Villegas voted aye. The motion was adopted.

*All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>*

The Meeting Summary is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-09-26> minute 00:30:49.

**8. Chair's Report (Information Item)**

Chair Tatayon reported on her participation at a climate workshop hosted by the Department of Water Resources and sponsored by the Council called "Planning for Change." She participated on a panel, "Addressing Climate Change: Key Policy and Institutional Challenges," which highlighted climate change adaptation strategies undertaken by state agencies. Chair Tatayon also reported that she attended the Delta Roundtable hosted by Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot on September 23 at the Jean Harvie Center in Walnut Grove.

**8a. Delta Science Funding Initiative**

Special Assistant for Planning and Science, Amanda Bohl, provided an update on a series of Delta Science Funding issue papers and how they will be combined into a single report on Delta science funding. Some key items the report will address are proposed actions, standard reporting protocols, support of the proposed actions based on the updated Science Action Agenda, and a planned workshop on science funding needs. Ms. Bohl said she will return to the Council after the November Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee meeting, with a summary of the combined report.



The Chair's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-09-26> minute 00:31:19.

**9. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson provided a quick overview of the role of the Council and the Delta Plan. She informed the Council that the August Highlights report was available in their binders. Ms. Pearson also provided three coordination letters sent by the Council for upcoming projects in the Delta and an updated list of active projects the Council is tracking.

There were no covered actions to report.

**9a. Legal Update (Information Item)**

Ms. Pearson stated that there was no legal update.

**9b. Approval of a Federal Receivable Agreement with the U.S Bureau of Reclamation (Action Item)**

Ms. Pearson asked the Council to approve a federal receivable agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for up to \$1,385,162. Lead Scientist Dr. John Callaway stated that this new funding would reimburse Council staff time for independent science review services that support Reclamation and its partners in evaluating the actions taken to protect species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, San Francisco Bay, and upstream tributaries. He also provided a quick overview of what the Delta Science Program has done with previous receivable agreements with Reclamation.

**Motion:** Offered by Damrell, second by Weinberg - Approve the federal receivable agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for up to \$1,385,162 for independent science review panel contracts and Council staff time.

**Vote:** 7/0 – Weinberg, Gatto, Damrell, Fiorini, Mehranian, Tatayon, and Villegas voted aye. The motion was adopted.

*All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>*

The Executive Officer's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at: <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-09-26> minute 00:38:00.

**10. Lead Scientist's Report (Information Item)**

Dr. Callaway began his report with an overview of the article from *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* on water budgets of the Delta Watershed. He provided a visual abstract that outlined precipitation, evaporation, river flows, water imports and exports for the Delta and Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds. Dr. Callaway also touched on a previously reported article (from 2016) relating to water supply reliability, a recent review of Delta mercury control studies, and the Remote Imagery Consortium Workshop. Lastly, Dr. Callaway provided the By the Numbers report.

Councilmembers discussed how water budgets ensure a healthy estuary.



All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>

The Lead Scientist's Report is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-09-26> minute 00:47:52.

## **11. Inter-relationship of the Delta Plan and the California Water Resilience Portfolio (Information Item)**

Chair Tatayon introduced Legislative and Policy Advisor, Ryan Stanbra, who discussed the inter-relationship of the Delta Plan and the California Water Resilience Portfolio.

The public comment portion began with Charley Wilson, executive director of the Southern California Water Coalition. Mr. Wilson said that the estimated investments in Southern California water resiliency, reliability, and innovation are over \$2 billion a year for the past 30 years. Mr. Wilson also stated the importance of looking for an effective, innovative solution for the Delta.

Councilmembers discussed how the Resilience Portfolio relates to the Delta Plan. Chair Tatayon stated that the Administration asked the Council and the State Water Resources Control Board to use their existing meetings to gather input on the Portfolio, including the recent Delta Plan Interagency Implantation Committee (DPIIC) meeting. A core team is currently doing the assessment work, and the Council and other agencies have provided input.

Councilmembers asked Mr. Wilson what the state could do to help. They also asked if there were opportunities for funding and grants, such as the recent bond measures, to address water resiliency, reliability, and innovation. Mr. Wilson responded that the State should provide more incentives and ensure oversight founded on collaboration. He also stated that he would like to see a shortened process for executing funds for these types of projects.

Other public comments were provided by:

- Charles Gibson, Santa Margarita Water District. Mr. Gibson responded to the Council's question of "what the State can do to help progress," by saying that he would like to see more storage and flow data from Northern California. Mr. Gibson is looking for a balanced approach when tracking storage and flows.
- Robert Hunter, MWDOC: Mr. Hunter clarified that restoring the ecosystem does not mean returning the ecosystem to its state in the mid-1800s. Organizations should look at what the ecosystem is going to be (roughly 80 years from now), and let that determine what kinds of infrastructure should be funded.
- Peer Swan, Irvine Ranch Water District: Mr. Swan responded to the Council's question of "what the State can do to help progress." Mr. Swan stated that he had an issue with the amount of funds spent on water supply. He also noted that the State should provide more financial and regulatory support for local problem-solving. Lastly, Mr. Swan urged the Council to look for solutions from a systematic point-of-view.

This item is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-09-26> minute 01:03:36



**12. Overview of Southern California Water Supply Reliability and Reduced Reliance Projects (Information Item)**

Ms. Pearson introduced Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan Water District) Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer Deven Upadhyay as the moderator for the next two panels (Agenda item 12 and 13). Mr. Upadhyay first provided an overview of the role of the Metropolitan Water District. He then introduced the members of the panel:

- Rafael Villegas, Program Director for Hyperion Reuse and Water Resiliency Program
- Enrique Zaldivar, Director and General Manager, City of Los Angeles Sanitation
- Jeff Pasek, Watershed Manager, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department; and
- Kyle Swanson, Operations Director, East County Advanced Water Purification Project

Mr. Villegas provided the Council with various strategies the Hyperion water treatment plant plans to use to reduce reliance on the Delta through increased water recycling. The plant currently receives 81 percent of Los Angeles' total wastewater and plans for more than \$2 billion in investment to increase water recycling from its current 27 percent to 100 percent, as part of Mayor Garcetti's Sustainable City pLAN to reduce the city's dependence on imported water by recycling 100 percent of wastewater by 2035.

Mr. Zaldivar discussed the City of Los Angeles' goal to improve water quality and water supply, rather than just focus on water imports. The City of Los Angeles recently passed Proposition O that supports green infrastructure and provides for water quality projects. Mr. Zaldivar also discussed the importance of collaboration and leadership support.

Mr. Pestrella presented the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' efforts to educate the community, and the successful approval of Measure W's clean water program, a parcel tax that will help cities in Los Angeles County meet their obligations under the Clean Water Act and work to make the area more water resilient.

Mr. Pasak presented the Pure Water San Diego Program. This program serves the county of San Diego and will recapture and reuse wastewater to supply one-third of San Diego's population with locally produced water. The project execution is in phases; the North City project will begin by 2023, the East County project by 2025, and the Central Area and South Bay projects by 2035.

Mr. Swanson presented the East County Project that will reduce reliance by increasing local water supply to 30% by developing innovative, regional water and wastewater solutions. The project is also a collaborative partnership between the Padre Dam Municipal Water District, Helix Water District, County of San Diego, and the City of El Cajon.

Councilmembers asked a series of questions of the panel regarding governance and partnerships, how to execute infrastructure projects, and if the panel can provide the Council with quantifiable data showing reduced reliance on the Delta.

Some responses from the panel include using integrated regional management programs to develop partnerships. They also said that infrastructure projects range in



size, and therefore differ in their level of difficulty and length of time to execute. Regarding the topic of quantifying reduced reliance on the Delta, panelists stated that it would be more feasible to show reduction by region rather than by individual district.

This panel is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-09-26> minute 01:40:13

### **13. Innovations in Water-use Efficiency and Re-use (Information Item)**

Mr. Upadhyay presented an overview of recent legislation on water use efficiency and the Metropolitan Water District's Regional Conservation Rebate Program. In this second panel, Mr. Upadhyay introduced:

- Sylvie Lee, Manager of Planning and Environmental Compliance, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Joone Lopez, General Manager, Moulton Niguel Water District
- Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency, Municipal Water District of Orange County; and
- Dan Ferons, General Manager, Santa Margarita Water District

Ms. Lee presented the Chino Basin Program, planned to be implemented by 2026. This program will produce 15,000 acre-feet of advanced purified water that will be stored in the Chino Basin in eastern Los Angeles County

Ms. Lopez presented how water use data, when synthesized in a centralized location, can be used to inform water demand management practices.

Mr. Berg presented a Regional Water Loss Control Program, which provides technical assistance with water audit compilation and validation, raw data analysis, component analysis of real and apparent loss, and proactive leak detection. Projects include smart timers, which allow homes to irrigate more effectively to reduce runoff, and a replacement program for pressure regulating valves.

Mr. Ferons presented a multi-phase project that will enhance water reliability by capturing local storm water runoff, as well as directing recycled water into temporary storage and using it to recharge an underground aquifer. The District holds the first swimmable recreation lake filled with recycled water, Lake Mission Viejo. The District's strategic goals are to maximize the reuse of imported water, develop local water supply, and create emergency storage.

Councilmembers asked the panel if they can provide quantifiable data showing reduced reliance on the Delta.

The panel echoed the previous panel, stating a collective, regional measurement is more efficient. Mr. Upadhyay stated that the Districts provide a report on the region's activity on reduced reliance, conservation, and reuse. He then offered to work with the Council to provide better documentation.

This panel is viewable on the linked agenda at <https://cal-span.org/unipage/?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2019-09-26> minute 03:10:07



**14. Public Comment**

There was one public comment from Peer Swan, Irvine Ranch Water District. He stated that future impacts should be analyzed based on future environments. Mr. Swan also stated his concerns with several conflicting State actions, such as the rising cost of living due to imported water from the Delta.

**15. Preparation for Next Council Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

*All meeting materials, presentations, and comment letters are available at <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings>*