

**WATER RESOURCES & CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
4:15 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE

Directors: Paul Sethy (Chair) 
Staff: Robert Shaver, Laura Hidas, Evan Buckland

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Water Supply Outlook: Evan Buckland, Water Supply Supervisor, provided an update on the District's plan to meet 2019 water production demands. The Department of Water Resources increased the District's Table A allocation to 70% during March, resulting in an allocation of 29,400 acre-feet of water. The District is planning on returning 1,938 acre-feet of water stored in San Luis Reservoir to help meet 2019 demand. Semitropic returns are projected to be 0 acre-feet as a result of the increased Table A allocation, and staff is currently working with Semitropic to deliver a substantial amount of 2019 Table A water for storage in the bank. Staff is also planning to purchase the contractual minimum amount of San Francisco Public Utility Commission water, which is 8,567 acre-feet. Staff estimates that 27,335 acre-feet of local water will be available to meet the 45,000 acre-feet of expected demands. The Alameda Creek Watershed is currently slightly above average precipitation totals for this time of year at a total of 18.72 inches. The Committee reviewed current reservoir storage levels in both San Luis and Oroville Reservoirs and the latest 8- to 14-day, 30-day, and 90-day precipitation outlooks. The District's water supply outlook for 2019 is excellent, and the District will finish the year well prepared for calendar year 2020.

2. Updates on California WaterFix and Bay Delta Plan: Laura Hidas, Manager of Water Resources, provided a brief overview of the status of the California WaterFix and the Bay Delta Plan. On February 12 in Governor Newsom's State of the State address, he explained his preference for a single-tunnel approach to the California WaterFix project. Given this direction, a number of key issues are under review, such as the sizing and participation in a single-tunnel facility, environmental documentation and permit needs, and financing approach. Staff will continue to provide updates to the Committee as more information becomes available about the path forward for the California WaterFix project and the District's participation.

Building on the Bay Delta Plan overview provided at the January Committee meeting, Ms. Hidas informed the Committee that on March 1, a Voluntary Agreement proposal was submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) jointly by the California Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife for consideration as an alternative to the State Board's flow-only approach to the Bay Delta Plan. The proposal was supported by 44 stakeholder signatories and included a project description and a planning agreement which outlines a wide-ranging framework that includes both flow and non-flow measures to support environmental and biological objectives, and is backed by funding. As part of the proposal, the State Water Project and Central Valley Project would jointly contribute 300,000 acre-feet toward environmental flows, with the potential of an

additional 300,000 acre-feet to be provided after eight years, if supported by scientific studies. The Voluntary Agreement proposal will continue to be developed for further analysis, with additional refinements expected by June 1. It would be integrated as an alternative into a comprehensive Substitute Environmental Document for consideration by the State Board in the fall. Staff will continue to provide updates to the Committee as the process moves ahead, since the outcome has the potential to impact the District's water supplies.

3. 2019 Joint ACWD, SFPUC, and USD Purified Water Feasibility Evaluation: Laura Hidas, Manager of Water Resources, provided an update on a proposed joint study with Union Sanitary District (USD) and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to evaluate the feasibility of developing advanced treated recycled water to supplement drinking water supplies, which will be coming to the Board for consideration at the April meeting. The 2019 Joint ACWD, SFPUC, and USD Purified Water Feasibility Evaluation will build upon past studies and evaluate a broader range of alternatives to use purified water to augment water supply, including both direct and indirect potable reuse, which may be possible with SFPUC's participation. Information from the feasibility evaluation will also be incorporated into updates to future ACWD Integrated Resources Planning studies and, to the extent possible, the 2020-2025 Urban Water Management Plan; this information could also be used to pursue future grant funding opportunities.

Staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in November 2018 requesting interested firms to submit proposals for consulting services to perform the feasibility evaluation and received three proposals on January 22. The proposals were evaluated by staff from ACWD, SFPUC, and USD based upon established criteria including project understanding, approach and proposed scope of work, company and personnel qualifications, schedule, and level of effort. Based upon this evaluation, staff will be making a recommendation to authorize a Professional Services Agreement for this feasibility evaluation to the firm that was determined to have the qualifications, staff, and proposed approach that best meet the needs of ACWD, SFPUC and USD, and for a cost on the order of \$850,000. In addition to requesting authorization to proceed with the feasibility evaluation, staff will be requesting authorization for the General Manager to enter into a cost-sharing agreement for reimbursement, with USD contributing up to \$100,000 for the project and ACWD and SFPUC splitting the balance of project costs.

4. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Topics discussed by the Committee were informational only, and no recommendations are being made.