

**WATER RESOURCES & CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
Wednesday, April 22, 2020
4:15 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE

Directors: Paul Sethy (Chair), Jim Gunther

AB

Staff: Robert Shaver, Laura Hidas, Thomas Niesar, Leonard Ash, Devon Becker

The monthly Water Resources & Conservation Committee Meeting was held on April 22, 2020 at 4:15 PM. Due to COVID-19 and in accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20 which suspends portions of the Brown Act, this meeting was conducted by Zoom Webinar and Teleconference and members of the public were invited to participate.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Water Supply Outlook: Leonard Ash, Water Supply Supervisor, provided an update on the rainfall accumulation this water year, the current precipitation forecasts, and the District's plan to meet 2020 water production demands. On January 24, 2020, the Department of Water Resources increased the District's Table A allocation from 10% to 15%, resulting in an allocation of 6,300 acre-feet of water, which the District plans to store in San Luis Reservoir to meet 2021 demands. The Alameda Creek Watershed remains at below-average precipitation totals for this time of year at a total of 9.96 inches to date, reflecting 1.55 inches of measured rainfall so far in April. Mr. Ash reported that the latest 8- to 14-day, 30-day and 90-day precipitation outlooks all indicate either normal or drier than normal forecasts. Given the dry conditions this winter, the District has shifted to dry year water supply planning, with an emphasis on increasing imported supplies and minimizing groundwater usage to preserve supplies in the event the following year is also dry. The District is planning on returning 7,600 acre-feet of water stored in San Luis Reservoir to help meet 2020 demand.

Additionally, the District anticipates returning 13,600 acre-feet of Semitropic Water Bank supplies to meet 2020 demands. Similarly, the District expects to purchase the contractual minimum amount of 8,567 acre-feet from the San Francisco Public Utility Commission. By participating in the State Water Contractor's 2020 Dry Year Transfer Program, the District anticipates an additional purchase of 1,900 acre-feet of imported water this year. Staff estimates that 11,900 acre-feet of local water supplies will also be utilized to meet the 43,600 acre-feet of expected demands in 2020.

The District's water supply outlook for 2020 remains sufficient despite the dry conditions, thanks to past investments in water supply reliability and current demand management and conservation on the part of customers. Lastly, Mr. Ash provided an overview of daily water demand data for 2020, and staff discussed their continued efforts to monitor trends in changing demands due to COVID-19 responses of District customers.

Staff responded to questions from the Directors.

2. 2019 Update to the San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and Grant Funding Opportunities: Devon Becker, Water Resources Engineer, provided an overview of the 2019 Update to the San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management (BAIRWM) Plan and also presented two grant funding opportunities for the District that were made available through the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program administered by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

The BAIRWM Plan was first prepared in 2006 to fulfill requirements of the 2002 IRWM Planning Act. The BAIRWM Plan is a collaborative effort by the nine Bay Area counties to address all aspects of water resources management in the Bay Area region. This 2019 Plan updates the previous 2012 Plan to conform to DWR requirements outlined in the 2016 IRWM Plan Guidelines. Required changes incorporated into the 2019 BAIRWM Plan include discussing climate change vulnerabilities in the Bay Area; identifying how management strategies can help address climate change challenges; outlining specific processes and strategies used to engage and include underrepresented populations, such as Disadvantaged communities and Tribal communities, in regional planning; including additional details on the work performed under the Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Program (DACTIP); adding detail related to regional groundwater contaminants and management plans; and other minor changes to conform to 2016 IRWM Guidelines. The 2019 BAIRWM Plan was approved by the state on March 21, 2020. Adoption of this State-approved regional plan is required for the District to be eligible for most state grant funding, including Proposition 1 funding.

Additionally, the District has been recommended for grant funding through DWR's Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program for up to \$3,346,992 for the RD1 System Fish Passage Improvements Project (Project). The District's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes construction of a fish ladder at Rubber Dam No. 1 and Shinn Pond Fish Screen. In the grant application to DWR, the Rubber Dam No. 1 Fish Ladder project and the Shinn Pond Fish Screen project were combined into a single project that includes construction of the fish ladder and screened diversions. The District applied for this grant on December 2, 2019, and DWR issued the recommended funding list on March 26, 2020. Another grant funding opportunity through DWR's Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program is the Bay Area Water Conservation grant, which was submitted at the same time as the RD1 System Fish Passage Improvements Project through a collective effort of eleven Bay Area agencies, with East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) acting as the lead agency. The total recommended award amount is \$4,177,875; the District's share is \$312,000. Conservation programs supported through this grant include landscape contractor trainings, weather-based irrigation controllers, turf removal, Advanced Metering Infrastructure meters, and water loss component analysis.

At the upcoming Board meeting, staff will recommend that the District adopt the 2019 BAIRWM Plan Update, and will also recommend that the District authorize the General Manager to execute a grant agreement with the Bay Area IRWM grant administrator, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and to take other related actions for the RD1 System Project. Lastly, staff will recommend that the Board authorize the General Manager to enter

into a Memorandum of Understanding with EBMUD to receive the District's portion of the Bay Area Water Conservation grant.

Staff responded to questions from the Directors.

3. Public Comments: There were no comments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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