



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
IMPORTED WATER COMMITTEE
September 14, 2017**

1. Roll call – determination of quorum.

Chair Weston called the Imported Water Committee meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Committee members present were Chair Weston, Vice Chairs Fong-Sakai and Kennedy, and Directors Miller, Scalzitti, Steiner and Wilson. Committee members absent were Directors Barnum, Hogan, Lewinger, Madaffer, Murtland, Olson, Saxod and Supervisor Gaspar. Also present were Directors Arant, Brady, Butkiewicz, Cherashore, Croucher, Evans, Guerin, Hedberg, Heinrichs, Hilliker, Morrison, Muir, Tu and Watkins. At the time of roll call, the Committee lacked one Member to form a quorum. At that time, there was a quorum of the Board.

Staff present was General Manager Stapleton, Deputy General Manager Kerl, Assistant General Managers Cushman and Denham, and MWD Program Director Chen. In addition, Scott Slater of Brownstein Hyatt Schreck was present.

2. Additions to the agenda.

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Public comment – opportunities for members of the public to address the Committee on matters within the Committee’s jurisdiction.

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

4. 2017 Transfer and Exchange Agreement Decision: Alternative Conveyance and Basin States Impacts.

Chair Weston stated the objective of the Special Board Meeting was to be able to make a decision on the future duration of the Water Transfer Agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and the Exchange Agreement with MWD. He stressed the decision would be made at the December 7, 2017 Imported Water Committee meeting. The decision would be to either extend the Exchange Agreement with MWD by 10 years to 2047, or reduce the Conserved Water Transfer Agreement with IID by 10 years to 2037.

He announced Special Counsel Scott Slater would be acting for the General Counsel’s office.

Mr. Denham provided an in-depth presentation that reviewed background on QSA agreements and 2017 decision as well as alternative Colorado River conveyance. He explained

the Imperial Valley pipeline alignment options, environmental conditions analyzed, and water quality. He described the Binational Aqueduct study, which was an option to potentially bring QSA water through Mexico to the San Diego region. He explained different alignments, costs of tunneling, and legal framework required for the Binational project.

The Board asked questions.

Ms. Mathews addressed the Board on Basin States issues, which included Colorado River hydrology and shortage projections; Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan, Minute 323 (Mexican Treaty update), and impacts to the Water Authority.

Mr. Denham concluded with how the Basin States issues related back to QSA supplies. He explained how the Department of the Interior had represented that the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) would not be an “official shortage” but rather a voluntary reduction, and how the DCP would impact the Salton Sea.

5. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Slater took the Committee into Closed Session at 2:20 p.m.

5-A Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)
State Water Resources Control Board Petition of Imperial
Irrigation District for Modification of Revised Water Rights
Order 2002-0013

5-B Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)
SDCWA v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California;
Case Nos. CPF-10-510830; CPF-12-512466; CPF-14-514004;
CPF-16-515282; CPF-16-515391; A146901; A148266;
BS169881; and CA Supreme Court Case No. S243500

Mr. Slater brought the committee out of Closed Session at 3:30 p.m. and stated there was no reportable action.

6. Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the Imported Water Committee, Chair Weston adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.