

**North Delta Water Agency
Special Board Meeting
July 28, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.**

Via teleconference, pursuant to Government Code Sec. 54953
Physical site: Reclamation District 501, 3554 Highway 84, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Henry Kuechler called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. on Monday, July 28, 2014. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

Directors

Tom Hester, Division 5
Henry Kuechler, Division 3
Steve Mello, Division 1
Ken Ruzich, Division 4
Topper van Loben Sels, Division 2

Absent

None

Staff

Melinda Terry, Manager
Colleen Flannery, Assistant Manager
Gary Kienlen, MBK Engineers
Kevin O'Brien, Downey Brand

Others

Kenric Jameson, RD 900
Stacey Boyd, RD 501
Mike Hardesty, RD 2068
Dick Goodell, Glide-In Ranch

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and EIR/EIS Comment Letter – Board Discussion and Public Comment

Draft comments on the BDCP were shared at the meeting and posted online. Directors and the participating public were urged to provide feedback.

Director van Loben Sels reported that the current draft letter reflected suggestions previously provided to staff at the Board's Ad Hoc Committee on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan meeting, therefore the Committee supported the current draft before the Board.

Director Mello, who also served on the committee, expressed his endorsement of the more extensive and detailed comments than the original letter discussed at the June board meeting, as raising these specific issues was important at this point in the process. He also suggested the addition of an executive summary, if there was time for staff to prepare one before the submission deadline.

Mike Hardesty, RD 2068, presented his proposed edits which were primarily minor grammatical editorial improvements with one substantive concern regarding the proposed language regarding "endowments" for habitat restoration projects and whether that was the right funding mechanism. He said his reclamation district and others do support ensuring the concept of secured funding that requires BDCP proponents set aside enough money to not only create habitat, but also to maintain it over the 50-year permit. Such money must be continuously appropriated in some way, or local governments could end up responsible for maintenance of the habitat acreage and Endangered Species Act adjacency problems for landowners.

Dick Goodell thanked the Board and staff for calling the meeting, and for submitting the comments on behalf of North Delta Water Agency residents.

Motion and second to approve the proposed Agency comment letter on BDCP with the Board providing additional instruction for staff to: 1) finish the final edits per suggestions provided; 2) complete the attachments; 3) add the list of North Delta RDs to the letter who contributed to legal and engineering costs associated with drafting the comments; and 4) submit the Agency comments on July 29, 2014 as required. A roll call vote was held as required under Government Code Sec. 54953. The motion was approved. (Kuechler-Aye; Ruzich-Aye; van Loben Sels-Aye; Mello-Aye; Hester-Aye).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m. on Monday, July, 28 2014.