

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE NOTES

April 16, 2019

Attendees:

Committee members: Jim Curatalo (Chair) and Luis Cetina

Staff members: Eduardo Espinoza, Chad Brantley, Carrie Corder, Rob Hills, Eric Grubb and Praseetha Krishnan

Members of the Public: None.

Call to Order: 4:45 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

1. Regional Contract Update (Verbal)

- Staff gave a verbal update to the Committee regarding the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) Regional Contract negotiations. The original regional contract was executed in 1973 and is due to expire in January of 2023. IEUA and the seven contract agencies appointed Kearns & West (K&W), a consultant, as the Regional Contract negotiation team and commenced the negotiations in August 2018. The negotiations began with a “Terms of Reference”, a MOU-type agreement amongst the staff of the negotiating parties, which set the ground rules for the negotiations. The parties also identified 21 topics (or issues) of importance to be discussed and negotiated. To-date the parties have made substantial progress on 10 issues. The K&W team has compiled scoping documents and a term sheet for each topic, which are the documents that memorialize the parties’ consensus on each topic. The term sheets will later be used to draft the new contract.
- The most challenging issue has been recycled water, with subtopics like the Santa Ana River Obligation, monthly peaking, and recycled water rates all of which are still open topics. In an effort to advance discussions, CVWD has taken a lead role, with encouragement by K&W and IEUA, to hold discussions outside of the formal negotiations with the contracting agencies only. CVWD has hosted two meetings so far and discussions have been candid and fruitful. As of now, CVWD and the agencies will continue meeting separately regarding recycled water until the topic is resolved.
- Negotiations on the remaining topics are scheduled through December 2019.

2. Proposed Amendments to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan

- Staff provided a verbal update and PowerPoint presentation to the committee on proposed amendments to the District’s Water Supply Shortage Contingency Plan (WSSCP). Background was given on the District’s WSSCP that was originally adopted in 2009 and then modified in 2015 to comply with State’s emergency rulemaking for mandatory conservation during the drought.

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- In 2018, two long-term water use efficiency bills were signed into law establishing new guidelines for urban water use efficiency standards for indoor use, outdoor use, and water lost to leaks. A component of one of the bills required all urban water suppliers to have at least six specific standard water shortage levels of progressive ranges up to greater than 50% shortage. The District's existing WSCP includes six levels; however, three newly required levels are not included.
- Staff proposed that the District amend its WSSCP to include three new water shortage levels, which when added to our existing levels, would exceed the State's requirements. Staff requested approval of the amendments to the District's WSSCP, which would be implemented immediately and will provide certainty for the design of the upcoming water rates in 2020.
- The Committee concurred with staff's recommendation and the item will go before the Legislative and Outreach Committee on April 30 and then to the entire Board of Directors for review and approval on May 14, 2019.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.