

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE NOTES

July 21, 2020

Attendees:

Committee members:	Jim Curatalo (Chair) and Luis Cetina
Staff members:	John Bosler, Carrie Guarino, Eduardo Espinoza, Praseetha Krishnan, and Eric Grubb
Legal Counsel	Gene Tanaka (BB&K)
Members of the Public:	None

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Public Comment: None.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None.

Introductory Remarks by Chair Curatalo

Chair Curatalo announced for the record that this meeting was conducted by teleconference pursuant to the Brown Act waivers provided for under the Governor's executive Orders in response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Further, the agenda stated that there was no public location for attending this meeting in person. The agenda stated that the public may listen and provide comment telephonically by calling the number listed on the agenda. Chair Curatalo took a roll call of Committee members and staff present on the call as listed above.

I. Chino Basin Watermaster Update (Verbal)

- Staff and legal counsel, Gene Tanaka of BB&K, briefed the committee regarding the July Court Orders regarding the 2020 Safe Yield (SY) Reset and Agricultural (Ag) Pool Pooling Plan Amendment. District staff and Appropriate Pool (AP) parties are pleased with the Judge Stanford Reichert's ruling on SY Reset and Ag Pool's Pooling Plan Amendment. The Judge ruled in favor of the Watermaster and their engineer's analysis and recommendation to reset the SY to 131,000 AF until 2030 and denied the Ag Pool's and City of Chino's opposition motion and arguments to the SY Reset.
- Regarding the Ag Pool Pooling Plan Amendment motion, the judge relied on Appropriate Pool's legal counsel, John Schatz's, opposition motion and arguments against the amendment, and denied the Ag Pool's Pooling Plan Amendment motion.
- Staff also updated the committee regarding Ag Pool contest and legal expenses. The Ag Pool recently filed a request to hearing officer, Kurt Berchtold, for the special public hearing scheduled for July 29 to be continued to a later date. The Ag Pool cited that because their legal fees and expenses are under dispute by the AP, which a few appropriators (Chino, MVWD, and Ontario) have taken the lead, they

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would like this matter resolved before the hearing could proceed. The hearing officer granted the continuance request. It was also updated to the committee that AP is working on a multi-agency letter regarding Ag pool legal expenses, taking a position on judgment and peace agreement terms.

- Staff also briefed the committee on the Watermaster/IEUA California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Optimum Basin Management Plan Update (OBMPU). The District submitted a comment letter in which it urged that CEQA should focus on the elements that increase groundwater storage. The Inland Empire Utilities Agency Board of Directors elected to continue the public hearing to their August 19 Board meeting, citing significant comments and more time required to respond.
- Chair Curatalo and Director Cetina commended staff and legal counsel for their diligent work and leadership on difficult Watermaster and other basin-wide issues. Director Cetina also acknowledged Chair Curatalo's leadership role as a Watermaster Board member.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:07 p.m.