

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, October 15th, 2020

2:00 PM

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors was called to order remotely - Conference Access Information: Phone Number: (916)262-7278 Access Code: 1486467856# <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1486467856>.

2. ROLL CALL

Board members in attendance were Richard Atwater, Tony Estremera, Sarah Palmer, and Steve Blois constituting a quorum of the Board.

DCA staff members in attendance were Kathryn Mallon, Joshua Nelson, Nazli Parvizi, and Katano Kasaine.

DWR staff member in attendance was Carrie Buckman.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Richard Atwater convened the open session at approximately 2:05 p.m. and led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Atwater opened Public Comment, limiting speaking time to three minutes each.

No public comment request were received for non-agendized items.

President Atwater closed Public Comment.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 17, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the September 17, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Move to Approve Minutes from September 17, 2020 as

Noted: Palmer

Second: Blois

Yeas: Estremera, Palmer, Blois, Atwater

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Recusals: None

Absent: None
Summary: 4 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as MO 20-10-01).

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Consider Passing Resolution to Approve Amendment #4 to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Determine Approval is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Recommendation: Pass Resolution to Approve Amendment #4 to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Determine Approval is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act

Mr. Nelson informed the Board the Amendment previously approved at the September Board meeting included a clerical error in the amount of the initial contribution. Mr. Nelson recommended that the Board accept the revised Amendment, correcting the total initial contribution amount from \$48.8M to \$43.2M.

Move to Pass Resolution Adopting Amendment #4 to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and Determine Approval is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act

as Noted: Palmer
Second: Estremera
Yeas: Estremera, Atwater, Palmer, Blois
Nays: None
Abstains: None
Recusals: None
Absent: None
Summary: 4 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as Resolution 20-11).

b. Fiscal Year 19/20 Closeout Report

Ms. Mallon provided a brief overview of the 2019/2020 closeout report.

c. DCA Planning Phase Update

Ms. Mallon presented the anticipated work of the DCA during the upcoming three (3) fiscal years. This will provide the State Water Contractors (SWC) with information on the proposed funding needs of the DCA as they move forward with seeking Board approval for participation in the planning phase of the Delta Conveyance program.

Ms. Mallon reviewed the new planning schedule released by Ms. Buckman, indicating a 1.5-year delay from the originally proposed schedule for the CEQA process. This reflects the negotiations to identify a lead Federal Agency, and then incorporating the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) scheduling requirements for their parallel National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process into our overall program schedule. There are also delays in the water rights approvals

and Delta Plan Consistency approvals. These changes in the planning have a residual effect on the DCA's planned work and delaying our start of engineering services on the program for an alternative. The core of DCA's current work is producing the engineering documentation that serves as the basis for DWR's environmental assessment work. The DCA has been asked to produce concept plans for the East and Central Corridors Alternative. Both routes share the same intake and end in the same southern complex facilities near Clifton Court Forebay. The DCA was also been asked to assess the Bethany Alternative extending from the same intake locations and utilizes much of the Eastern alignment but terminates further south at the Bethany Reservoir. The DCA delivers their work products in two phases beginning with a set of environmental data sheets that DWR can begin to review and incorporate into their analysis followed by detailed project engineering reports that are included in the draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) as the engineer documentation for the project description. Work for East and Central Corridor Alternative will be completed by the end of this year and the Bethany Alternative by April 2021. The workload for the DCA will be substantially reduced after April and we begin to transition into as needed support service to Ms. Buckman's team. There will be less focus on deliverables and more focus on Ms. Buckman's team as her analysis work begins.

Ms. Mallon presented the interface between DWR's environmental planning schedule in the upcoming three (3) year period, the main activities the DCA will be responsible for, and the associated budget estimates to complete the work. The DCA will be launching the geotechnical program that will help confirm our design assumptions. Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the next 3 years, reflecting continued commitment to a transparent dialog with Delta stakeholders. The proposed budget for the current fiscal year is \$27M. Ms. Mallon noted that next year we will be maintaining our core staff to answer questions from the environmental team and to make requested modifications to the document. Some of the engineering work deferred from this current fiscal year will be completed and we will also continue to complete our deferred field work. Estimated budget for the next fiscal year is \$21.5M. The third year of the planning period, Ms. Buckman is completing her analysis and releasing the draft documents for comment. The DCA will ramp up their services to support Ms. Buckman's team preparing for the public hearings and responding to public comments. Estimated budget for fiscal year 2022/2023 is \$33M.

Ms. Mallon discussed the areas where the DCA reduced the current budget, saving \$7M. Reduced legal, human resources, & treasury services saves \$300K. The non-critical studies will be shifted to the next fiscal year saving roughly \$2M and shifting field work to the next fiscal year saves \$2.8M. The remaining savings include \$150K for reducing meeting frequency and graphics support, \$920K to reduce controls staff and IT system support to reflect reduced workload, \$250K for reducing office administration costs to reflect continued at-home work, and \$520K to reduce available contingency for unanticipated services. Ms. Mallon clarified that these reductions will not diminish the DCA's ability to complete the necessary work for Ms. Buckman's team.

Mr. Blois complimented Ms. Mallon for the hard work it went into trimming the budget.

Ms. Palmer inquired about the Board status after April. Mr. Atwater mentioned that was a discussion for the SWC.

d. October DCA Monthly Report

Ms. Mallon noted the change requests in this monthly report which shifted money into various scope items.

e. DCA Leadership Spotlight – Nazli Parvizi, Community Engagement Manager

Ms. Nazli Parvizi, DCA’s Community Engagement Manager, has an educational background in Anthropology, receiving her BA from Barnard College and was a chef for some years to follow. Immediately after 9/11 happened, Ms. Parvizi went to ground zero to cook for rescue workers and recruited volunteers. This led her to running the NYC Mayor’s Volunteer Center for 5 years. Ms. Parvizi then became the Commissioner for the NYC Community Affairs Unit. Next, Hurricane Sandy hit shifting the Mayor’s focus on emergency response. Ms. Parvizi assisted with recovery in Brooklyn and then when this turned into long-term recovery, she created the External Affairs office for housing recovery where she implemented a program called “Build It Back”. Years later after taking time off to have a baby, an Engineering firm asked her to run their Government Affairs office. Some other major projects Ms. Parvizi has worked on include the 2nd Ave Tunnel, 9/11 Families Memorial and Recovery, NYCHA Sandy Response, Barclays Center, and Interfaith Breakfast. Ms. Parvizi’s role on the DCA has focused on stakeholder engagement, participating in leadership meetings, and working closely with Ms. Mallon. Launching the Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC) is a key accomplishment for her on this project. This has been a unique opportunity to day light the work of the DCA and get public input. Ms. Parvizi also helped with the launch of the new DCA website and social media outlets.

Mr. Atwater commented on Ms. Parvizi’s impressive resume.

Ms. Palmer expressed her appreciation for working with Nazli on the SEC. Ms. Parvizi has helped make the SEC useful and functional with her ability to act diplomatically, focus the upset and empathize with it, and really show she cares.

f. Stakeholder Engagement Committee Update

Ms. Parvizi reported that we received one application for the SEC Hood representative, of which community members in Hood decided to support for the position. The last SEC meeting included a presentation from DWR’s communications team discussing the Environmental Justice (EJ) survey circulating in the Delta. There was an update on the Bethany Alternative with details about the RTM. The SEC were able to identify the community of Mountain House who would be affected by this alternative. The DCA has attempted to contact the managers of this community a few times but have not received a response yet. Ms. Parvizi noted the change in meeting dates for the SEC being November 5th and December 9th.

g. Stakeholder Engagement Report Out

Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla, SEC member, commended DCA & DWR staff for their professionalism and efforts working with Delta stakeholders. Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla discussed the EJ survey developed by DWR and felt this is the first step toward understanding where and how we fail collectively to incorporate EJ communities in water planning throughout California. She spoke about the challenges of the last couple SEC meetings regarding the disagreement about the reuse of

reusable tunnel materials (RTM) for levee reinforcement. Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla expressed concern about contaminants found in the soils and said the DCA & DWR need to make efforts in releasing more information about soil quality findings at various land and surface levels. She also proposed using 3rd party independent testing. Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla referenced the significant amount of truck trips for the Bethany Alternative RTM and is concerned about air quality from this, specifically in South Stockton. Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla suggested we reroute truck traffic to more rural destinations, affecting less people. She asked if state and water districts that make up the DCA can use their muscle for fleet development of electric trucks now rather than after the project is finished. Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla stated that without an equal plan to improve water quality, affordability, and accessibility for EJ communities, she fears the Delta will not bring equity to water management, let alone Delta communities.

Mr. Estremera thanked Ms. Barrigan-Parrilla for her participation in the SEC.

Ms. Palmer encouraged her to continue to offer these useful suggestions.

8. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. General Counsel's Report

A written report was provided in the Board package. Mr. Nelson provided an update on the latest Covid-19 health order in Sacramento County.

b. Treasurer's Report

A written report was provided in the Board package. Ms. Kasaine noted as of October 7th, the DCA has a cash balance is \$579K. The audit is nearly complete and will presented at the November Board meeting.

c. DWR Environmental Manager's Report

A written report was provided in the Board package. Ms. Buckman noted that anyone interested in providing comments to the USACE for their Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must do so by October 20th. Additionally, the DCA & DWR have been working on soil investigations as apart of the Initial Study/Mitigated Declaration of Soil Investigations. The non-invasive geophysical studies have begun and hoping to start soil borings and cone penetration tests during the next month. DWR has been working to obtain Temporary Entry Permits (TEP's) to continue to investigate private parcels next year. Mr. Buckman noted the EJ survey will be open for at least 8 weeks.

Ms. Osha Meserve, Local Agencies of the North Delta, expressed disappointment about there not being a full analysis of alternatives. If these alternatives could meet the project objective, they should be considered. In regards to the Geotech investigations, there is a concern from landowners that they do not want to allow DWR onto their property.

d. Verbal Reports

None.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

President Atwater adjourned the meeting at 3:05p.m., remotely - Conference Access Information:

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