

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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# MINUTES

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**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

**10:30 AM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors was called to order remotely - Conference Access Information: Phone Number: 1 (916) 262-7278 Access Code: 1487921622#, <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1487921622>

**2. ROLL CALL**

Board members in attendance were Richard Atwater, Martin Milobar, Tony Estremera, Sarah Palmer, Gary Martin, Robert Cheng, and Adnan Anabtawi constituting a quorum of the Board.

Alternate Board members in attendance were Royce Fast, Barbara Keegan, Bob Tincher and Dennis LaMoreaux.

Staff members in attendance were Kathryn Mallon and Joshua Nelson.

Staff member from the Department of Water Resources, Deputy Director, Cindy Messer.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Richard Atwater convened the open session at approximately 10:32 a.m. and led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The DCA received no public comment requests.

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a) New DCA Board of Directors Introductions and Orientation: Overview of DCA Structure, Services and Meetings**

Ms. Mallon introduced DCA's staff, DWR Deputy Director, and the new Board members.

Ms. Claudia Rodriguez, DCA Chief of Staff and Board clerk, said she looks forward to working with the Board.

Mr. Josh Nelson, DCA General Counsel, welcomed the new Board.

Ms. Cindy Messer, DWR Deputy Director, congratulated the new Board on behalf of DWR Director Karla Nemeth who was not able to attend this meeting. Ms. Messer highlighted the DCA's background, which was able to quickly pivot its efforts in planning when the state shifted to a one tunnel proposed project. DWR and the DCA have worked collaboratively as a team at all levels. Ms. Messer emphasized the importance for DWR to build on this collaboration as we move through one of the most important water infrastructure projects in modern times. Ms. Messer discussed the quality time spent together building stakeholder relationships. The SEC meetings are one of many avenues to have ongoing engagement. Looking forward, DWR is working towards a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to be released mid-2022. Additionally, DWR will continue conducting impact analyses and working on ways to fine tune project design in order to further address any potential impacts. Ms. Messer emphasized the Board being one of the key avenues to have channels of communication. DWR recognized the work of the DCA's member agencies' boards and the time put in at the end of 2020 in obtaining approvals for planning funds. These approvals are a sign that this project is moving in a positive direction.

Mr. Atwater thanked Ms. Messer and the whole leadership team at DWR for working collaboratively with the DCA.

Director Martin Milobar, Kern County Water Agency, has a background in civil and agriculture engineering. Mr. Milobar said he is excited to get through the planning and get to the construction phase of the project.

Director Tony Estremera, Santa Clara Valley Water District, served as the Chair of the DCA Board for nearly two years. Mr. Estremera's objective is to ensure we build this project right and to be sensitive to the Delta community and working with them collaboratively.

Director Sarah Palmer, Alameda County Flood Control & Zone 7 Water District, has a Ph.D. in biochemistry. She has enjoyed being the Chair of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC). Ms. Palmer expressed excitement for the seven-person Board and the many more minds to be represented.

Director Gary Martin, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, has 44 years of experience as a civil engineer. Mr. Martin's goal is to help move this vitally important project forward.

Director Robert Cheng, Coachella Valley Water District, has a PhD in Civil Engineering and has worked in the water industry for more than 30 years. Mr. Cheng emphasized his responsibility of taking input from the Class 8 agencies that he represents.

Director Adnan Anabtawi, Mojave Water Agency, has a background in civil engineering with a focus on water resources and hydraulics. Mr. Anabtawi emphasized the importance of the Delta Conveyance Project for the state. The DCA's role has been tremendous with connecting all of the various groups.

Alternate Director Royce Fast, Kern County Water Agency, is a fourth-generation farmer. Mr. Fast expressed his interest in having an effective project that is affordable.

Alternate Director Barbara Keegan, Santa Clara Valley Water District, is a civil engineer and is the Vice Chair of the SEC. Ms. Keegan reinforced the importance of the SEC as it creates an opportunity to have a dialog about the project to educate others and ourselves.

Alternate Director Bob Tincher, San Bernardino Valley Municipal District, is a civil engineer and has been with the district for 29 years. Mr. Tincher expressed the importance for this project.

Alternate Director Dennis LaMoreaux, Palmdale Water District, said he was very interested in the success of this project and getting it done right.

Moving through the presentation for the orientations, Mr. Nelson provided an overview of the JPA and JEPA.

In addition, Ms. Mallon provided a general overview of the program.

Lastly, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Malone, and Mr. Nelson gave an overview of general housekeeping items of the DCA and board specific items.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

President Atwater adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. remotely - Conference Access Information:  
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