

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, August 17, 2023

2:00 p.m.

(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 in person, by teleconference, and remotely - Conference Access Information: Phone Number: (669) 444-9171, Code: 83819300970#, <https://dcdca-org.zoom.us/j/83819300970?from=addon> at 2:02 pm.

President Palmer noted that item six (6)d, Adopt Resolution Approving the Amended Procurement Policy, was removed from the agenda and would be brought to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Board members in attendance from the DCA Boardroom were Sarah Palmer, Martin Milobar, Robert Cheng, and Miguel Luna. Adnan Anabtawi participated from Mojave Water Agency Boardroom, Tony Estremera participated from Valley Water Headquarters Boardroom and Gary Martin participated from the Santa Clarita Boardroom.

Alternate Directors in attendance remotely were John Weed, Royce Fast, Bob Tincher, Barbara Keegan, Dennis LaMoreaux and Dan Flory.

DCA staff members in attendance were Graham Bradner and Joshua Nelson.

Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff member in attendance was Katherine Marquez.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Sarah Palmer convened the open session at approximately 2:04 p.m. and led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Palmer dedicated this meeting to the residents of the island of Maui, Hawaii.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Palmer opened the Public Comment item for all items not on the agenda, there were no public comment requests received and she proceeded to close the comment period.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 15, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, and June 15, 2023, Special Board Meeting

Recommendation: Approve the June 15, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, and June 15, 2023, Special Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes from June 15, 2023, as

Noted: Milobar
 Second: Martin
 Yeas: Palmer, Milobar, Martin, Luna, Estremera, Cheng, Anabtawi
 Nays: None
 Abstains: None
 Recusals: None
 Absent: None
 Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as MO 23-08-01).

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a) **August DCA Monthly Report**

Informational Item

Executive Director, Graham Bradner, presented an overview of the monthly board report. He started with Section 1: Work Performed, highlighting July as being the first month of the new fiscal year. The Program Controls team is working on finishing closeout activities including completing and closing any invoices from fiscal year 22/23. DCA is continuing to assist and prepare all the new task order amendments and new contracts for FY 23/24. DCA is also working on procurement strategy planning and any other budget preparation activities that are associated with execution of the year. At the same time, there has been great progress on DCA’s programmatic standard operating procedures and management plans. The goal is to not only capture the way that DCA works and operates currently, but to also to prepare and be ready for the potential next phase of project evolution.

Mr. Bradner moved on to the administrative functions, stating that the Administrative team continues to assist with the DCA Board of Directors meetings and manage the change management board processes. The Administrative team activities have a close connection with the program management and sop development work for the program. Mr. Bradner touched on the summer internship program and how pleased he is with the outcome and how successful it has been this year. He informed the Board that Marcie Scott, DCA’s Human Resource Manager, will give updates on the program later in the agenda.

Regarding engineering, the Engineering team continues to focus on supporting DWR and the Delta Conveyance Office (DCO) with all the permitting efforts by helping the department respond to comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), providing updates on requests for clarification around the conceptual designs, as well as any other activities that the department may need support with through the various permit initiatives.

Mr. Bradner went on to update the Board on fieldwork activities and how the spring fieldwork was completed last fiscal year. There is still a continuation of the laboratory testing and reporting associated with that work which will be expanded on in Item 6b of discussion. The program does need to roll over some funds and scope from last year into the current fiscal year to cover the continuing work. In addition, there is now the summer investigation program that is currently active and planning activities for the fall program. Once the fall program is completed, that will wrap up all the investigative work that is being done under the initial study mitigated negative declaration to support DWR's evaluation of alternatives and have a better understanding of real conditions Delta-wide.

Director Luna inquired about lab tests performed on the samples collected, and what we are looking for?

Mr. Bradner stated that there is a range of testing that is being performed. Broadly it would first be put into two categories, whether it is environmental profiling or characterizing of the soils versus engineering properties associated with the soils and within that there's a long list of potential tests. Switching back to the environmental side, we are testing for metals and other constituent of concerns. On the engineering front, there is gradation analysis which evaluates the material distribution within the soil, and more advanced testing to test the strength of the soil by obtaining very high-quality soil samples and putting it through high pressure to see how it reacts. This testing will allow DCA to have a better understanding of subsurface conditions and validate assumptions that were made under the draft EIR. All the support work that has been provided to DWR through environmental impact analysis and the concept design.

President Palmer asked in terms of layering if there has been much difference in the constituents or textures that have been obtained?

Mr. Bradner stated that it's a complex environment and changes are to be expected as it is natural for an alluvial setting. They are all sediments deposited through fluvial actions through flowing water depositing and leaving soils behind. There is variability and patterns that do emerge. Yes, it is expected to encounter variability, but nothing out of the realm of what would be expected in this type of condition.

Mr. Bradner continued to Section 2: Community Engagement and mentioned that DCA has created and posted several informative pieces of information. First, are the Closer Look fact sheets that have been produced in English, Spanish and Chinese. These are a quick read and get a succinct understanding of what the different features and considerations are with respect to the project. They have been posted on the DCA website to improve accessibility to this type of information. In conjunction with the fact sheets, there have been several closer look videos that have been created that provide an overview from key subject matter experts that the DCA has within the program. Valerie Martinez, DCA's Communication Manager will be introduced to the Board at the next Board meeting through the senior leadership spotlight and intends to report regularly on the activities around our community engagement and other information that is being put out of the program.

Director Martin stated that he trusts that all this new information is readily available on the DCA website and would like to know if DCA is getting any feedback or comments from the public regarding all this information that is on the website.

Mr. Bradner stated that there are social media statistics listed on the page showing there is engagement, however he is unsure how much. He will ask Valerie to provide more detail at the October meeting.

Director Cheng stated that the tours are a great success with over 150+ attendees and asked if the tours are generally for Staff or Board members.

Mr. Bradner stated that the tours have been a mixture of Staff, regulatory agencies, and representatives from service areas who receive water from the State Water Project (SWP) and are interested in understanding more about the project.

Mr. Bradner continued to Section 3: Budget and stated that the FY23/24 DCA budget has been approved for \$39.96M. To date the DCA has committed \$32.67M and has about \$7M uncommitted for the year. Currently, the incurred to date only has a few basics items, such as rent, utilities and a few invoices that go out early that are just now being collected but are not currently on the report.

Mr. Bradner continued to Section 3a and presented the FY 22/23 Financial Reports. The FY22/23 DCA approved budget was \$31.16M. We are in the final stages of closing out FY 22/23 and currently have an Estimate at Completion (EAC) of \$25.34M, and an underrun of \$5.8M. DCA does not anticipate these numbers to change. He mentioned that the underrun is an indication of good performance, nothing that we should have done that we were not able to do, and there were a couple of activities that we intentionally deferred based on the status of the program.

Mr. Bradner noted that as part of the summary for FY 22/23 includes a request which will be covered in the next agenda item. The request is to move \$488K from FY 22/23 budget over to the current FY 23/23 budget for fieldwork that was intentionally deferred. This will need to be de-scoped from last year and roll into the current year, which will reduce the top line budget by \$488K and the surplus will be reduced to \$5.33M.

Mr. Bradner continued to Section 5: Program Schedule. The Program Management Office (PMO) continues to work on program support activities as planned. The Engineering team continues providing permitting support to the DCO and progressing supplemental concept validation studies to better understand concepts that were considered and ruled out during the alternative's evaluation. This prevents going over the same grounds' years from now if there's future design contracts. At the same time, other concepts are being considered that are believed to have merit and should be considered in future design phases and documented. The Fieldwork has been very active, the summer program is underway now and the environmental clearances associated with the program. Fieldwork activities, laboratory analysis and documentation that will follow upon completion of the summer program. We are currently planning for the Fall 2023 Investigation Program.

Mr. Bradner noted that if the Board does consider and approve to move the funds from last year and move that scope into the current fiscal year for the Spring 2023 lab testing and documentation, it will be added to the schedule as a continuation of the Spring program so that we are fully complete in terms of all the fieldwork activities.

Director Cheng asked Mr. Bradner to remind him with the completion of this year's exploration activities, is the program done for the initial phase?

Mr. Bradner confirmed that with the completion of this year and the completion of the Fall program that will conclude the investigative work being performed under the initial study mitigated negative declaration. At that time, DCA will wait for DWR to consider the project through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and pending their decisions about any preferred project moving forward, DCA would then pivot to the project as included in the EIR.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

b) **Initial Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget Adjustment**

Approve by Minute Order

Mr. Bradner presented the request for the revised budget pending the request would be \$40.44M, which reflects an increase of \$488K transferred over from FY 22/23 to the current FY 23/24 Budget. He reminded the Board that in previous years we encountered the same issue with drilling performed in the Spring and not being able to fully complete the work by the end of the fiscal year. This is because of the other activities that trail the fieldwork, such as laboratory testing after collecting the samples, preparing the boring logs, reporting. In past years we have extended task orders for this reason, to ensure the effort stayed attached to the money that was authorized. Moving forward we will be more rigid in terms of our fiscal year task orders and not extend task orders beyond the end of the fiscal year, which comes with pros and cons. We will be able to close out the fiscal year sooner.

President Palmer asked if there were any task orders going forward.

Mr. Bradner informed the Board that this is to not have any extensions beyond the end of the fiscal year. The project starts a new task order at the beginning every fiscal year and will close each task order at the end of each fiscal year. The project will not be reporting on last year's financials once it is closed out. It does streamline and cleans up some of the items that linger far into the next fiscal year. The program scoped all the fieldwork investigations programs last year and included it in their task order to fully complete it even though it was unclear on if everything would be completed. That allowed the team to find a spot that was logical to create a clean break within their work and now de-scope it from last year's task order and last year's budget to roll it over and initiate new task orders and budgets for this amount for the current year.

Director Cheng stated that he fully supports this request and inquired if the task order extensions were flagged during a previous audit?

Mr. Bradner stated that it created some complexity, but the DCA still obtained a clean audit.

Treasurer Katano Kasaine stated that she supports this request.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

Recommendation: Approve the Initial DCA Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget Adjustment

Motion to Approve Initial DCA Fiscal Year 2023/24 Budget Adjustment, as

Noted: Luna
 Second: Estremera
 Yeas: Palmer, Milobar, Martin, Luna, Estremera, Cheng, Anabtawi
 Nays: None
 Abstains: None
 Recusals: None
 Absent: None
 Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as MO 23-08-02).

c) Adopt Resolution Approving the Amended Procurement Policy

Approve Resolution

DCA Chief Contracting Officer, Kathleen Murphy, informed the Board that there is a request to approve the amended DCA Purchasing and Procurement Policy. When the policy was adopted in 2019, the background of the policy was originally approved based on Metropolitan Water District’s (MWD) procurement policies. In the last 4 years, certain elements of the procurement procedure and processes have evolved and no longer align with the policy as was written a few years ago. In reviewing the policy, there were several items and policy goals that were reviewed. The goals were to establish a purchasing and procurement authorization and delegation of authority to the DCA, ensure that the policy and the procurement processes were compliant with the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA), Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), and applicable procurement laws, ensure that there is an effective documentation process, ensure that the procurement activities are transparent and that there is an open and competitive process.

Ms. Murphy explained that the overview of changes generally falls into three (3) categories. The first change was clean up edits, grammatical errors and other routine edits that needed to be changed. Followed by adding information regarding Information Technology (IT). Lastly, definitions were added to further enhance the definition section of the policy.

Ms. Murphy explained that assuming the board takes action and improves this change, the next step would be to implement a policy training module, have training sessions in the Fall of this year for current staff, and to include it in the onboarding process for new staff members.

Director Luna asked if there was anything that may have triggered the update or any incident that is causing the policy to change.

Ms. Murphy responded that there was no incident or any relation to an audit. The change was due to staff reviewing what is currently being done now compared to the policy as written and realizing that updates needed to occur.

Director Luna asked if there is a particular process as to how often procedures are reviewed to ensure that the project is on track in keeping up with trends.

Mr. Bradner stated that those are part of the items that DCA is working through in terms of the organizational growth and developmental activities as staff starts to create the structure around

change management, ensuring that DCA is consistent with the way the program is to be ran. This amendment is in sync with that, and this type of thinking has triggered some of the policy updates and policy creations that the Board is seeing. There are several management plans that are being developed that support these policies.

Director Luna appreciates the responses and supports the need to formalize when items get reviewed and need to be updated.

Mr. Bradner stated that DCA is starting to lay out timelines for when plans will systematically be looked at with that type of view, change and processes for folks to introduce items that DCA believes should be changed. There is a lot that is being developed and all within the sphere of organizational development.

Mr. Nelson stated that Mr. Bradner and Ms. Murphy covered the policy amendment request.

President Palmer stated that sometimes things do not need to be updated but setting it out in the policy that DCA would review them regularly would be a good thing to state.

Chief of Staff, Claudia Rodriguez, stated that DCA has made it a goal in the overarching plan to revisit the plans on an annual basis to make sure that whatever is outlined in the plan is consistent with how DCA is operated.

President Palmer asked if the review of the plans for changes is in the overall policy.

Mr. Bradner responded to President Palmer's question, that it is not part of this policy, but is part of the Program Management Plan (PMP) and Change Management Process (CMP) and it would address all policies.

Director Cheng thanked Ms. Murphy for her presentation and inquired if the DCA is expected to have the same pattern for updates as MWD?

Mr. Bradner stated that DCA adopted MWD policies but now DCA is starting to adopt policies more in line with the way that DCA conducts business. DCA has a unique circumstance now and will continue to have changes in circumstances in the future.

Director Cheng asked if controversial contracts that are less than \$250k would be brought to the Board for deliberation even though the Executive Director has awarding capabilities.

Ms. Murphy stated that yes, the Executive Director has the right to bring any procurement item to the Board not solely dependent on the dollar value.

President Palmer asked if there were any guidelines for procurement item?

Mr. Bradner stated that there are no guidelines for procurement items, it's more of a judgement call.

Mr. Nelson stated that this item is in the current policy and that is how it has been operated in the last few years.

President Palmer stated that many items within the policy address IT and some of the specifics that are needed for IT are unique to DCA's situation.

Director Martin stated that he appreciates the presentation that Ms. Murphy created, and it was made very easy to understand. He supports the item.

Director Anabtawi stated that he appreciates the changes and the updates on how DCA does procurement in an effort towards fairness and ensuring that DCA gets the best value. He also stated the procurements are different from the traditional construction or design type of procurements and appreciates the recognition that the procurements in the IT space are different and allowed for that consideration.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution Approving the Amended Procurement Policy

Motion to Adopt Resolution Approving the Amended Procurement Policy, as amended, as

Noted:	Cheng
Second:	Martin
Yeas:	Palmer, Milobar, Luna, Martin, Estremera, Cheng, Anabtawi
Nays:	None
Abstains:	None
Recusals:	None
Absent:	None
Summary:	7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as Resolution 23-09).

d) Adopt Resolution Approving the Amended Travel Policy

Approve Resolution

Mr. Nelson informed the Board that under the amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA), the DCA is required to adopt and utilize a Travel Policy for its contractors and consultants. This policy must be approved by the Board of Directors by resolution and then forwarded to DWR. The Board previously adopted a policy that was approved by DWR.

This item proposes two edits to the policy. First, the policy authorizes the Executive Director to provide any approvals, including potential deviations, from the policy. This item would propose adding an exception to this rule for the Executive Director. For the Executive Director's travel and other expenses, the draft revisions would allow the Board President to provide any approvals.

Second, the policy currently provides that reimbursements are subject to the Federal General Services Administration (GSA) requirements. This edit would clarify that all foreign travel would require prior written DCA approval and be subject to applicable GSA requirements.

Any proposed staff foreign travel would need to be approved prior by DCA by the Executive Director or by the Board President if it was for the Executive Director.

No comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution Approving the Amended Travel Policy

Motion to Adopt Resolution Approving the Amended Travel Policy, as

Noted: Palmer
 Second: Cheng
 Yeas: Palmer, Milobar, Martin, Luna, Estremera, Cheng, Anabtawi
 Nays: None
 Abstains: None
 Recusals: None
 Absent: None
 Summary: 7 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent. (Motion passed as Resolution 23-10).

e) **Sr. Leadership Spotlight, Ann-Ariel Vecchio, Sustainability Lead**

Information Only

DCA Sustainability Manager, Ann-Ariel Vecchio, informed the Board of her current role and background experience. Ms. Vecchio grew up in the San Joaquin River Basin growing up between the San Joaquin and Kings rivers. She had family in Stockton and now is coming from San Francisco where she has been for over 10 years.

Throughout her career she has worked in sustainability in a range of angles, from conducting environmental assessments, to evaluating projects with multi-criteria, to developing infrastructure concepts specifically focused on improving sustainability and resilience. Most recently with Parsons, she supported the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Sewer System Improvement Program for the last 10 years as the lead resilience and integrated planning manager. She also worked abroad directly with communities through the Peace Corp in Nicaragua. She also worked at the National Park Service, helping communities think through how they can use cultural and environmental resources to create economic development and foster tourism for their communities. Ms. Vecchio also worked on regulating several hydro power projects, many of them upstream in the rivers that are coming to us today. She has been able to work on smaller projects related to communities, creating community outreach materials, working to create carbon assessment tools and thinking about what our choices actually mean for the larger environment, and thinking through redevelopment of brown fields. She expressed that she has had a fulfilling career and is excited to be on the program and will leverage her experience with this program moving forward.

Ms. Vecchio has always had a multidisciplinary focus, from choosing her undergraduate degree in environmental studies and international relations before sustainability was a common offering to recent projects she has worked on. She provided an example of an environmental justice area of concern project she led in San Francisco were the community experiences flooding. Her team engaged with the community to understand concerns beyond flooding and design a project that addressed a range of issues in addition to flooding. Through her work experiences she has been able to work with various teammates from economists to civil engineers. She has been able to

share her experiences, lessons, and perspectives, as well as what it means to work together on something that is technically sounds but where it is nested in people and place, and how that all needs to work together to make a successful project.

Ms. Vecchio shared that her focus has been through her experience at SFPUC and working within a larger team and being embedded with the program delivery and program management team. Working on a program that was really oriented towards delivering key services, and in her role to maximize those investments to maximize public good across a range of issues. Her tenure and experience at SFPUC have given her the ability to take information and analyze and synthesize it for decision makers, policy makers, general manager, and the public. She also mentioned that she loves mapping on GIS and doing analysis. Using her range of experience and personal interest on working on a range of scales, where big ideas need to be concrete enough so that people understand the impacts of day-to-day decisions. The reverse also applies in the sense that what we do every day on the ground needs to roll up to big ideas. Having that experience is key for sustainability.

Ms. Vecchio went on to further highlight some of the work she did at the SFPUC. She worked on the implementation of their custom multicriteria tool, the team worked and sought to evaluate project alternatives across financial, social, and environmental criteria. Most recently, with the development of the new corrido concept, she worked with others to update criteria that they were using to evaluate the project. This enabled them to think through new methods to measure flood resilience across different storm types, as well as some of the community impacts the project would produce. They focused on changes to urban heat, increase in biodiversity, and access to open space. They summarized the analysis to communicate from a core performance perspective and a broader selection of criteria, and what that means for our communities.

Ms. Vecchio expressed that she is excited to be part of the team and builds on her experience. As the Sustainability Manager, she will oversee delivery of the Sustainability Policy, Programmatic Sustainability Plan and Project Sustainability Management Plan.

President Palmer was very impressed with Ms. Vecchio's presentation and happy to have her on the team. President Palmer stated that the approaches that are needed in this project really demand Ms. Vecchio's input.

Director Luna asked Ms. Vecchio how she decided to take on a career in environmental planning.

Ms. Vecchio stated that culturally because she grew up in the Sierras and being close to the rivers it is always important to be connected to land. Ms. Vecchio stated that the connection between people and land is very important and has always been a core interest to her.

Director Cheng was very impressed with Ms. Vecchio's presentation and would like to know how her expertise may help with the project.

Ms. Vecchio stated that minimizing resources in terms of emissions, minimizing resources in terms of the materials that are used and how it all is part of sustainability. The process is to go through and understand what is in the scope and what can be done.

Director Martin is very happy with Ms. Vecchio's presentation and believes that she is focused on the many aspects of sustainability for the program.

Vice President Milobar stated that he is glad Ms. Vecchio is on the team and hopes that she is successful.

President Palmer stated that with Ms. Vecchio's background she will bring many great aspects to the project.

Ms. Vecchio shared that she is happy with the support of the Board.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

f) **DCA Intern Program Update**

Informational Item

Human Resource Manager, Marcie Scott, presented to the Board the Summer DCA Internship Program and how this year has been the third year offering such program to outstanding Sacramento-area students. It is a wonderful opportunity to give back in the form of offering out time and experience to prepare students for life after graduation. Smart, creative, and thoughtful workers are needed in the future work force to solve large issues which include how to design and build the best infrastructure for the State of California. This is also a great opportunity to provide education around Statewide water issues as well as issues around the Delta. DCA is preparing a sustainable organization to meet future demands for our work plan.

DCA hosted five (5) outstanding student interns this year, representing UC Davis and Santa Clara University. This program was not possible without the help of DCA's exceptional mentors who were assigned interns within their field. The mentors assigned work on specific assignments within their area of study, in addition the interns worked as a group on two (2) projects, and they also attended a variety of career talks.

The first project that the interns worked on was developing creative ideas for visual aids and use of technology for Delta Tour participants. The second group project was to provide feedback on the intern recruitment process and help the DCA improve outreach strategies for future summer programs. DCA will review the materials the interns produced and strategize how DCA can apply them as we go forward.

Another component was career talks, the interns attended about seven (7) career talks and participated in four (4) other forums with experts in environmental justice and sustainability. Ms. Vecchio had the opportunity to sit and have coffee with the interns to talk about all things sustainability. An alumni intern from last year's summer program, who has been selected as a California Senate Fellow this coming year. DCA Tunnel Lead, Steve Dubnewych, held a career talk with the interns and along with great information of the DCP tunnel, Mr. Dubnewych spoke about an earlier tunnel project in his career in Lesotho, a country in South Africa. Mr. Dubnewych and his family lived in Lesotho and had the opportunity to enmesh in the culture. DCA PMIS Solutions Architect, Rob McCarthy, and DCA Program Risk Manager, Sangyoon Min, created a presentation for the interns providing an overview of the program controls function at the DCA. They introduced the interns in risk management and how critically important it is.

DCA had the opportunity to have the interns attend a few excursions, they explored the SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity, the Geotech Site Field and a Delta Tour.

This program allows interns to see and experience work in their field in real life, they experience work in a professional environment and many other important elements to allow them to grow professionally. The interns have been able to make a lot of connections with people in all kinds of fields.

In the final analysis the interns were hard-working, anxious to learn, passionate about their futures and want to make a positive impact in the future work force.

Director Cheng asked if this program was an all-year-round program.

Ms. Scott stated that this was only a summer program.

Director Cheng asked how selective the program is and if there were multiple candidates for these positions.

Ms. Scott stated that there were more applicants than positions and there is limited work that can be provided to interns due to it being time intensive for DCA mentors. Other challenges were that the DCA work is not all in public facing. DCA provides assignments to interns that they can do, and our mentors are able to oversee and partner with them.

DCA was able to be selective and have a robust review period and process for selecting interns. The interns had to submit a writing sample and were also interviewed. There was a great pool of applicants that were well qualified but unfortunately DCA was unable to obtain all applicants.

Director Luna asked if the internships are paid.

Ms. Scott stated that the internships are paid.

Director Martin stated that this is a great investment for DCA and benefits the overall water industry in California by strengthening and building the reservoir of young professional talents that will be needed in the future. Director Martin shared his experience as an intern himself prior to becoming a professional Civil Engineer. Overall, very pleased with the program.

Ms. Scott stated that this is meaningful work for all agencies to continue to educate and invite students into the DCA world.

President Palmer stated that she is very pleased with Ms. Scott's input and working the interns together and compliments all the mentors.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

7. STAFF REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. General Counsel's Report

DCA General Counsel, Josh Nelson, informed the Board the General Counsel continues to provide legal assistance as requested. This has included assisting staff with the Procurement and Travel Policies on the Agenda this afternoon. The DCA also continues to respond to public records requests from an interested landowner and anticipate providing a final response prior to the Board meeting.

In addition, he provided an update on SB 537. As discussed in June, this bill allows “multijurisdictional,” cross-county bodies to utilize more flexible remote meeting rules. Importantly, Directors of these bodies could attend from publicly accessible offices and buildings without making those locations official teleconference locations if they were located more than 40 miles from the in-person meeting location. The bill was approved by the Committee on Local Government in the Assembly in July, and he will continue to monitor it.

President Palmer asked how flexible that allows DCA to be.

Mr. Nelson stated that it would allow any Director to attend a meeting from the public office of their member agency without making that remote location a complete teleconference location.

President Palmer asked if this doesn’t require them to have a quorum in the room.

Mr. Nelson stated that President Palmer is correct, and it does not require a physical quorum in the room, unlike AB 2449 where that is a requirement.

No further comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

b. Treasurer’s Report

Bernadette Robertson presented on behalf of DCA Treasurer, Katano Kasaine. Ms. Robertson informed the Board that the report is preliminary pending the result of the Authority’s Financial audit that is currently ongoing. The beginning cash balance for the DCA on June 1, 2023, was \$709,976. Receipts for June 2023 totaled \$3,271,373 representing contributions from the Department of Water Resources, Delta Conveyance Office (DCO) for payment of the DCA’s obligations and total disbursements for the same period were \$2,568,512 resulting in an ending cash balance of \$1,412,837 on June 30, 2023.

As of June 30, 2023, the DCA’s receivables totaled \$2,970,023 consisting of 13 invoices to the DCO.

Balances for prepaid expenses and accounts payable, as of June 30, 2023, were \$73,934 and \$3,575,137, respectively. For the same period, advances totaled \$800,000 and total net position was \$81,657.

No comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

c. DWR Environmental Manager’s Report

DWR’s Program Manager, Katherine Marquez presented on behalf of DWR’s Environmental Manager, Carrie Buckman. Ms. Marquez informed the Board that Staff is continuing to work to finalize the EIR, which is expected to be certified by the end of the year. As reported on Mavens,

there was a Delta commands project update which included information on a recent agreement between DWR and Contra Costa water district. The Impact Analysis identified some effects to Contra Costa water quality based on the secret thresholds that impact was less than significant. In acknowledgment of that effect and consistent with the approach taken in California Water Fix, DWR has agreed to include a mitigation measure that consists of a new pump and interchange that would connect to a currently proposed Delta Conveyance Project maintenance shaft to an existing Contra Costa Water District facility. This interchange does not provide new capacity but will provide an alternate command sprout for water that Contra Costa Water District has an existing water right.

Regarding CEQA, the subject matter experts have made a first pass through at the individual comments and are now working to refine those responses and pull them together into complete letters to include in the final EIR.

DWR is also continuing to prepare responses that address themes from multiple comment letters and the next steps are to make appropriate edits to the draft EIR to be included in the final EIR.

The Army Corps of Engineers is working on a similar process for responding to comments and making appropriate edits to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as they are scheduled to finalize the EIS early next year.

The soil investigations that the DCA is conducting are continuing under the initial study mitigated negative declaration for the soil investigations in the Delta project. The current focus is over water borings and DWR continues to update their two-week look ahead schedule look ahead and map on their public website for the public to see where DWR is working.

No comments or questions were received from the Board, nor were any public comment requests received.

d. Verbal Reports

President Palmer had a letter that she wanted to read out loud and ensure it was captured as part of the record. President Palmer decided to skip reading the introduction of the letter.

Governor Newsom’s proposal to streamline the environmental review and construction process on large infrastructure projects initially included the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), but after several weeks of negotiations the final package of bills does not. The DCP already has undergone an extensive analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act and nothing in the governor’s streamline proposal would have changed or abrogated that the draft environmental impact report does what the law requires and much more. It thoroughly informs decision makers and the public about the potential significant effects on the physical environment of the proposed project and includes methods to avoid or substantially reduce the significant environmental effects to the extent feasible. A significant effort has been made to be responsive to local concerns related to effects of the project on the people of Delta, tribes, and disadvantaged members of historic and legacy communities. Valuable input from the Delta-based stakeholder engagement committee helped us develop a suite of effective methods to considerably avoid or minimize potential environmental effects and other local concerns, this includes minimizing noise traffic, power needs, aesthetic effects, boating, water ray affects, land disturbance and overall project footprint. It is important to note that the proposed DCP has not been eliminated or delayed in any way, it will be funded entirely by its beneficiaries, users and public water agencies participating from the Bay Area, Central Coast San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. The planning and permitting for

the project will continue to move forward in the same manner as before. The large-scale infrastructure projects take time and require a great deal of community and stakeholder input. This project is vital to California's water security as this year we saw extraordinary levels of precipitation for our state's water supply. There is still a challenging and uncertain future and must be prepared for dramatic swings in annual weather challenges from drought to flood. This project is critical to ensuring there is safe affordable water for communities throughout California, which is why Governor Newsom the legislature and our partners across the state continue to push this project forward. The broadening of the partnerships with all stakeholders is looked forward to as the Delta Conveyance Project continues to move forward towards completion.

Director Martin asked if President Palmer could share the letter with the Board.

President Palmer stated she would share the letter.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

No future agenda items requested.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

President Palmer adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m., remotely-Conference Access Information:
Phone Number: (669) 444-9171, Code: 85979129742#, <https://dcdca-org.zoom.us/j/85979129742?from=addon>