

Agenda Number 6ei

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MEETING DATE: March 1, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of Action to Approve the Excess Water Task Force Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve the Excess Water Task Force Recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Impact on Budget: None

Impact on Reserves: None

Impact on Rates: No impact on recharge rates

LINKAGE TO STRATEGIC PLAN, POLICY, STATUTE OR GUIDING PRINCIPLE:

- CAWCD 2016 Board of Directors Strategic Plan
 - Water Supply—Optimize reliability and sustainability of CAP water supply

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION/ACTIVITY:

- August 17 – Excess Water Task Force Meeting #1, covering authorities and policies regarding CAP Excess Water.
- September 6, 2017 – Excess Water Task Force Meeting #2, covering scheduling and operations.
- October 18, 2017 – Excess Water Task Force Meeting #3, covering options and proposals.
- January 31, 2018 – Excess Water Task Force Meeting #4, covering staff recommendation.

ISSUE SUMMARY/DESCRIPTION:

On January 31, 2018 the Excess Water Task Force unanimously approved a set of recommendations, for consideration by the full Board, to increase the frequency and type of information available on Excess Water, and to initiate a process in mid-2018 to update and expand the scope of the Board's Access to Excess Policy. The consensus recommendations are reflective of views expressed by Task Force members and concepts advanced by stakeholders.

The Task Force's recommendations are an outgrowth of a process that began with two meetings in the fall of 2017. Those meetings provided a common set of facts on authorities and policies regarding Excess Water, as well as scheduling and operational considerations. The third Task Force meeting, held on October 18, 2017, was dedicated to proposals developed by stakeholders.

The Excess Water Task Force received two stakeholder proposals; one from AMWUA, and a joint proposal from Environmental Defense Fund ("EDF") and American Rivers. At the conclusion of the third meeting, the Task Force directed CAP Staff to meet with AMWUA, EDF and American Rivers to further discuss their proposals and to develop a recommendation that could be presented to the Task Force for its consideration and possible advancement to the full Board.

CAP Staff developed an initial proposal that focused on expanded accounting, reporting and publication of information regarding CAP water, including Excess Water and the elements of the Annual Operating Plan. Those were key elements of both stakeholder proposals, and also responsive to comments from the Task Force members for increased transparency in reporting. The proposal also included recommendations about the timing for initiating an update to the Board's Access to Excess policy.

In November of 2017, CAP Staff, along with Directors Taylor and Graff, met with AMWUA, EDF and American Rivers to discuss the initial Staff proposal. The meeting was productive, with positive feedback, but Staff were requested to further consider the concepts proposed by EDF and American Rivers about dedicating additional Excess Water to Lake Mead. In early December, a follow-up meeting was held with the same participants to discuss a revised Staff proposal that acknowledges the desire for Excess Water to be considered in the broader context of target volumes for Lake Mead and system conservation.

The revised CAP Staff proposal was presented to the Task Force at the January 31, 2018 meeting. The proposal, which has been turned into the attached draft "Excess Water Task Force Recommendations," was well received and was supported by AMWUA, EDF and American Rivers.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board of Directors approve the Excess Water Task Force Recommendations.

Attachment

Excess Water Task Force Final Recommendations January 31, 2018

Recommendations Related to Expanded Accounting, Reporting and Publication

1. CAP staff will compile and publish an Annual Operating Plan (AOP) online in a format that provides details regarding the upcoming year's water operations, including:
 - a. The water supply outlook for the CAP system
 - b. Projected monthly Colorado River diversion schedule
 - c. Projected monthly CAP system demands
 - d. Water orders by category (Federal, M&I, Excess)
 - e. Anticipated Lake Mead conservation activities, including the sources of the contributed water
 - f. Projected Lake Pleasant operations
 - g. Identification of significant, future O&M work
2. CAP staff will hold an annual meeting or webinar to present the AOP, the water supply outlook for the Colorado River and other relevant O&M information.
3. CAP staff will provide quarterly updates to the Board, including intra-year schedule changes, turnback water, and changes in water supply condition that affect the Excess supply. CAP staff will also provide an accounting of the disposition of Excess Water for the four preceding years.
4. CAP staff will seek additional input from customers and interested parties during the first quarter of 2018 regarding the content and format of the enhanced reporting identified above, and the preferred timing of an annual webinar/meeting. CAP staff will report back to the Excess Water Task Force during the second quarter of 2018 regarding the input received from customers and interested parties and present a proposed format for enhanced reporting.

Recommendations Related to the Board's Access to Excess policy:

5. The Excess Water Task Force should convene a stakeholder process in mid-2018 to develop a recommended Board policy to replace the current Access to Excess Policy. The recommended policy could include provisions regarding turnback water. A staff recommended policy should be developed for Board consideration and approval by the second quarter of 2019. Staff recognize and support the desire to have Excess Water more explicitly included in decisions regarding voluntary contributions to Lake Mead. To advance that goal, staff support the development of a comprehensive approach to system conservation that includes: adaptive targets, an ongoing system conservation program, and defined contributions of Excess Water, as part of the recommended Board policy.
6. For 2018 and 2019 operations, CAP shall continue the current business practice of using CAP priorities and the existing Access to Excess policy to guide the disposition of turnback water.