

**CalDesal Regulatory Committee Meeting Notes**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020**

**3:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Members present:**

Chair Kevin Thomas, Kimley-Horn

Kim Adamson, Liberty Utilities

Hannah Ake, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Charles Busslinger, Metropolitan Water District of Orange County

Alejandra Cano, West Basin MWD

Jeremy Crutchfield, San Diego County Water Authority

Eric Miller, Miller Marine Science

Joe Monaco, Dudek

**Guests:** Wendy Ridderbusch, Executive Director

Chair Kevin Thomas was unable to participate due to a client meeting conflict. Wendy Ridderbusch informed the committee that the time of the last three committee meetings of the quarter: October, November, and December, would be moved back to accommodate Chair Kevin Thomas’ schedule. Wendy chaired the meeting in his absence and called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**Agenda**

**Regulatory Items:**

* **State Water Board Tweet Follow-Up** – Wendy is going to set up meetings with some SWRCB staff and members to try and proactively open lines of communication for early 2021. She asked if committee members have working relationships with any of the State Water Board members or staff to please let her know as she begins calendaring these “meet and greet” meetings in the regulator community. Chair Thomas asked whether these meetings would be held with any additional agencies besides the SWRCB. Wendy replied that CalDesal will start with the Water Board due to the concern about the next wave of change to the Ocean Plan Amendments.
* **Ocean Plan Subcommittee Briefing –** Warren Teitz and Hannah Ake with Metropolitan Water District have asked their attorneys that have subject matter expertise in California Public Records Act (PRA) law examine the MOU to see if it provides a loophole to agencies to avoid disclosing communications amongst state/federal agencies.
* **CUWA & CA WateReuse Project Update** – CalDesal is partnering with the following organizations on this study:
	+ Martha Tremblay, L.A. County Sanitation Districts
	+ Paul Lieu, LADWP
	+ Lesley Dobalian, Southern California Salinity Coalition & San Diego County Water Authority
	+ Julie Minton, Water Research Foundation
	+ Raymond Jay, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
	+ Jennifer West, WateReuse California

CalDesal will submit edits to the initial draft once Wendy receives feedback from members and associates. **Warren Teitz** has sent proposed edits for consideration. She asked the Regulatory Committee to please submit any comments directly to her at wendyr@caldesal.org

**Recent Regulatory Activity:**

* Project Regulatory Permitting Updates:
* CalAm, Huntington Beach, Doheny, El Segundo and Carlsbad Lagoon Dredge
* **Eric Miller** stepped in and gave a brief update on the **Huntington Beach** project. He noted that Governor Newsom appointed a new member to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Letitia Clark Tustin City Councilmember, in the vacancy that was created when Director Von Blasingame term expired. Eric noted that the project sponsors are still responding to the large list of requests which originated from the August 7, 2020 hearing. The next hearing looks like it may spill over into 2021.
* **Chair Thomas** talked about how the Doheny project is continuing to move through the regulatory process with no major updates.
* **Alejandra Cano** noted that they were still working on the El Segundo project
* **Jeremy Crutchfield** shared that Peter MacLaggan worked his magic and that the Carlsbad plant lagoon dredge did make it onto the California Coastal Commission November agenda which would allow maximum time for dredging to occur. He also reminded the Committee that San Diego County Water Authority was engaging in a wedgewire intake screen demonstration project for passive vs. active screens for full compliance with the Ocean Plan Amendment. They are looking at the performance and operation and maintenance requirements to keep the screens clean. An active screen rotates slowly and has both external and internal scrapers to prevent fouling.  **Eric** **Miller** noted that this will be the first big demonstration of this technology in the marine environment.

**CalDesal Update**

* **Virtual Townhall Stats and Feedback –** 76 people registered for the Townhall and 50 folks ended up staying on the Zoom program until the conclusion which is a good turnout. Many organizations are experimenting with program schedules to see which formats produce the greatest number of registrants and participants. California Water Association was holding its conference in the same 1 ½ hour time slot on subsequent days during the same week. Texas Desal decided to chop up its conference into one program a week over a period of six weeks.
* **CalDesal Annual Conference** going virtual – **February 10 & 11, 2021** (Wed p.m./Thurs a.m.). Look for registration link but in the meantime please save the date on your calendar.
* **Women In Desal** – Unfortunately, this gathering in person has been postponed again. CalDesal will be working with Women In Desal to find a date in 2021 post-vaccines, most likely in summer to meet in Los Angeles.
* **2021 Policy Issue Focus? Chair Thomas** asked if CalDesal had a priority list of focus heading into next year. Wendy responded that the Strategic Plan will be adopted by the Executive Committee in November and she will plan to share that with the Regulatory Committee.
* **Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel – Eric Miller** wanted to alert the committee regarding a public meeting which was going to take place and talk about water resources at the plant.

**Any other issues?**

2020 Meeting Dates: 11/18, and 12/16

Next Regulatory Committee Meeting: **November 18, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (new time is an hour later)**

**Kevin Thomas adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.**