

**CalDesal Regulatory Committee Meeting Notes**

**Wednesday, August 26, 2020**

**2:00-3:00 p.m.**

**Members present:**

Kim Adamson, Liberty Utilities

Hannah Ake, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Alejandra Cano, West Basin Municipal Water District

Gilad Cohen, IDE Technologies

Tim Hogan, TWB-ERC

Mak Shatilla, Michael Baker

Rich Svindland, CalAm

Warren Teitz, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

**Guests:** Wendy Ridderbusch, Executive Director

Chair Kevin Thomas was absent on vacation. Wendy Ridderbusch chaired the meeting in his absence and called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**Agenda**

* **Ocean Plan Review Subcommittee** **Update**– Highlights from the first August 4 Subcommittee meeting. The entire nine-member Subcommittee met and had a productive discussion. Wendy noted that the State Water Board has not yet moved on any of the top five priorities, including the fourth priority which is reopening the Ocean Plan Amendment.
* The Subcommittee has scheduled its second meeting in late September so that a deeper dive can occur into the MOU language and what appears to be an exemption of the Public Records Act (PRA) so that communications between these state agencies and entities may be hidden. The Subcommittee also identified the issues that were not addressed and resolved during the last Ocean Plan Amendment process: grandfathering in projects in the midst of the development process if rules are changed and allowing maximum flexibility of intakes, including surface and subsurface.
* The Subcommittee also talked about issues that CalDesal and its members were able to deflect during the last exercise including fending off wedge wire screen size being less than 1 millimeter, 1% benefit mitigation calculation, requirement for subsurface and surface intakes for a single project.
* **L.A. Waterkeeper v State Water Resources Control Board** – Wendy attached the press release regarding this decision. This decision may pave way for return of Senator Hertzberg’s ocean discharges state legislation.
* **Joint CUWA & CA WateReuse Study project** – Request to CalDesal to participate both financially and in a collaborative study to produce an issue brief and accompanying slide document (sample attached) regarding brine management as a challenge towards increased water recycling and desal in the state. Wendy asked for feedback and input from committee members regarding this possible collaboration. She also attached an example of what the study format and accompanying power point slide deck would look like.
* Warren Teitz noted that he plans to bring this issue to the Southern California Salinity Coalition as he thought they may be interested as well. Gilad Cohen also weighed in that we should be a part of this and try and mitigate the study if it is going forward.
* **Seawater Desal FAQ progress**
* Discussion regarding attached DRAFT Seawater Desal Myths & Facts document and timeline for completion. The yellow highlighted sections are where more refinement and input is needed from the Regulatory Committee.
* Tim gave input on Desal Myth #3 Devastates Marine Resources, where his expertise lies. He offered that we were not necessarily talking about invertebrates, but all forms of marine life. He offered to help work on this section by adding more descriptive copy.
* Warren also commented that he wanted to read through the document more carefully, particularly the greenhouse gas section again. He wants to verify the number of .01%. He expressed concern that if CalDesal got that number wrong, it could undermine credibility. Another sentence that he felt could be reworded was the true concept that as the grid decarbonizes most of the greenhouse gas emissions for reverse osmosis driven seawater desal projects is electricity. The emissions for those desal plants will also go down.
* Kim offered that we should think about adding the language, “Through the use of renewable energy.” As that ties into the sentence above. As the grid decarbonizes, by default the plants will decarbonize because of the use of that renewable energy power. We are making an effort to use green power but as the entire system goes green this will no longer be a concern.
* Receive continued input from committee members on second half to finish document and send to Outreach and Communications Committee.

**Recent Regulatory Activity:**

* **Relevant Project Regulatory Permitting Updates**:
* **CalAm** – Rich asked committee members to send letters in support of the Monterey Project to the California Coastal Commission for the upcoming special hearing scheduled for Thursday, September 17th.
* **Huntington Beach** – Gilad mentioned that the vote has been delayed to later in 2020.
* **Doheny** – Mak gave an update on the project from his vantage point. They are still in discussions with the Regional Water Quality Control Board finalizing their NPDES permit with the discharge and sharing the outfall and permit. Brine discharge modeling is being revised to address potential sea life mortality with the more focused approach that they recommended. They are going to the State Water Board with the results. They will find out how they feel about the analysis. Everything is moving forward.

2020 Meeting Dates: 9/23, 10/28, 11/25, and 12/16

Next Regulatory Committee Meeting: **Wednesday, September 23, 2020**

**Wendy Ridderbusch adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m.**