

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WATER POLICY COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT**

April 18, 2017

A meeting of the Water Policy Committee of Westlands Water District was held on April 18, 2017, at 11:00 a.m., at the District's Fresno Office, 3130 N. Fresno St., Fresno, California 93703.

Committee Members present:

Dan Errotabere, Chairman
Gary Esajian
Todd Neves
Don Peracchi, ex-officio

Staff present:

Tom Birmingham, General Manager
Dan Pope, Chief Operating Officer
Jose Gutierrez, Deputy General Manager – Resources
Bobbie Ormonde, Director of Finance and Administration
Johnny Amaral, Deputy General Manager – External Affairs
Gayle Holman, Public Affairs
Phillip Williams, General Counsel
Jeffery Mitchell, Special Counsel
Shelley Ostrowski, Associate General Manager - Water Policy
Russ Freeman, Supervisor of Resources
Mark Rhodes, Resources Analyst

Approval of the Minutes

There being no additions or corrections, the minutes of the Committee's Regular Meeting held on March 21, 2017 were accepted as circulated.

Review/Consider Participation in the Tracy Groundwater Storage Bank Project

Mr. Gutierrez presented to the Committee information for a proposed storage project by AKT Development (AKT), which is investigating the feasibility of building a 75,000 acre-foot (AF) groundwater banking project south of the City of Tracy. AKT is seeking investment from interested parties to fund the planning costs, which are estimated at \$630,000. The total project cost to plan, design, permit and build the groundwater storage bank is estimated at \$50 to \$75 million. The project would operate similarly to the Semitropic Water Storage District's groundwater storage bank. Staff believes that the District should continue to coordinate with AKT about becoming a future banking partner. However, without information on banking rates or program principles, the project concept is not developed sufficiently to invest District funds for the planning investigation. No action was taken and the item was presented for information only.

Projections of Water Supply and Use

Mr. Rhodes updated the Committee on the status of the District's water use and supply.

Pending Action Items

None

Consider Board of Directors March 21, 2017 Agenda Items

7a: Resolution No. 107-17 Authorizing Execution of Warren Act Contracts

7b: Support for ACWA Policy Statement on Bay-Delta Flow Requirements

7c: 2016/17 Groundwater Conditions Update

7d: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update

Public Comment

Mr. Will Coit commented and suggested that the District should consider utilizing Exchange Contractor facilities such as the Firebaugh Canal to convey San Joaquin and Kings River water to be stored in water banking facilities.

Closed Session

The Committee met in Closed Session. Upon returning from Closed Session it was reported that the Committee provided direction to real property negotiators.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m.