Public Policy Committee Meeting  
November 3, 2016

President Lisa Atkins called to order a meeting of the Public Policy Committee of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (“CAWCD” or “CAP”) on November 3, 2016, at 9:06 a.m. The meeting was held at Central Arizona Project Headquarters located at 23636 N. 7th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85024.

Committee members present were President Lisa Atkins, Maricopa County; Karen Cesare, Pima County; Guy Carpenter, Maricopa County; and Heather Macre, Maricopa County.

Jim Hartdegen, Pinal County, was absent.

Staff members present were Ted Cooke, General Manager; Bridget Schwartz-Manock, Director of Public Affairs; and Danielle Humphrey, Executive Secretary.

CONSIDERATION OF ACTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 5, 2016 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

By unanimous consent, the Committee approved the minutes of the May 5, 2016, Committee Meeting.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED 2017 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS

Ms. Schwartz-Manock stated that the State Legislature will reconvene session on January 19, 2017, and provided an overview of the proposed draft 2017 State Legislative agenda.

Protect Lake Mead – Continue to support water conservation and similar efforts that protect the water elevation in Lake Mead and help to avoid Colorado River shortage, including implementation of the Lower Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan, or DCP.

Support legislation as needed to implement multistate agreements relating to the Colorado River, including the DCP.

Arizona Water Resources - Continue to collaborate with various stakeholders on efforts to address in-state and interstate water resources.

Monitor legislative actions that directly impact CAP water supplies and operations.

Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Funding – Support the Arizona Game and Fish Department's efforts to collect and maintain revenues sufficient to continue its annual contribution toward the costs of the MSCP.
Monitor legislative and executive proposals that impact dedicated annual state funding of the MSCP.

**Funding of State Water Agencies and Commissions** – Support the efforts of the Arizona Department of Water Resources and the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission to secure sufficient state General Fund appropriations in order to carry out statutory functions.

Monitor legislative actions that propose to use funds available to the Arizona Water Banking Commission for other purposes.

**Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD)** – Monitor any proposed CAGRD-related legislation to ensure its operations are not adversely impacted.

Promote awareness of CAGRD’s statutory functions, operations, and funding to inform lawmakers of its critical contribution to Arizona’s water management and economic development.

Ms. Schwartz-Manock provided an overview of the proposed draft 2017 Federal Legislative agenda.

**Colorado River Sustainability Legislation** – Continue to engage in legislative and funding solutions to promote Colorado River sustainability, including efforts to address the structural deficit and prolonged drought conditions such as the Lower Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), in cooperation with the State of Arizona, Arizona stakeholders, Basin States, federal agencies, Tribes, and other Colorado River water users.

Support legislation as needed to implement multistate agreements relating to the Colorado River, including the DCP.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to add the “Protect Lake Mead” text from the state legislative agenda into this section of the federal legislative agenda.

**Navajo Generating Station** – Continue efforts to engage elected officials, stakeholders, and governmental agencies regarding federal activities that affect the Navajo Generating Station.

**Cybersecurity Threats and Legislation** – Monitor legislative efforts to address cybersecurity and potential threats to critical infrastructure and vital computer systems.

**Central Arizona Project Water Supply** – Continue to collaborate with Federal, State, Tribal, and other stakeholders to mitigate potential impacts on the CAP water supply and support efforts to supplement and augment water supplies with desalination, weather modification, innovative conservation programs, and water reuse and recycling programs.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to add support for the finalization of the System Use Agreement to this legislative agenda item.

**Energy Legislation** – Monitor legislative efforts that may impact CAP power operations, including CAP’s ability to secure affordable energy and ensure reliable transmission delivery.
After discussion, the Committee agreed to remove the word “power” from this legislative agenda item.

**Colorado River Basin Salinity Issues** – Continue to support the operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant or suitable alternatives to reduce system losses.

Support the activities of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, including efforts to secure adequate funding and improve water management.

**Indian Water Rights Settlement Legislation** – Continue to collaborate with Arizona Tribes and other stakeholders on issues related to resolving water rights claims.

Support legislation necessary and appropriate to enact the Hualapai Tribe water rights settlement.

After discussion, the Committee added “continue to” support legislation for the Hualapai Tribe water rights settlement.

**Federal Rulemaking** – Continue to monitor federal rulemaking and implementation related to energy, emissions, water quality, and other issues that may affect CAP operations.

**Water Quality** – Monitor water quality issues impacting the Colorado River that may affect CAP operations.

**UPDATE ON FEDERAL ISSUES THAT COULD AFFECT CAP AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE BOARD TAKE ACTION ON FEDERAL ISSUES THAT COULD IMPACT CAP**

Ms. Schwartz-Manock reported on the current congressional schedule and actions occurring before the federal congressional recess.

The Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act was introduced by Senators Flake and McCain and a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing on Sept. 14.

The Senate passed the Water Resources Development Act, containing a $48-million reauthorization (over five years) of the Water Desalination Act. The House version also passed, and both versions will need to be reconciled.

The Senate Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill and Sen. Flake’s drought bill that was passed by a Senate committee on July 13 contain funding for the Pilot System Conservation Program (PSCP). PSCP funding could be added to year-end spending measure(s).

The Senate passed the Water Resources Development Act, containing a $48-million reauthorization (over five years) of the Water Desalination Act. House version also passed, and both versions will need to be reconciled.
PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Lisa A. Atkins

Lisa A. Atkins, Acting Chairman

“All documents distributed in conjunction with this meeting are on file at CAWCD headquarters.”