



## QUANTIFICATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

### MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Commissioners and Alternates present:**

Jim Barrett, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) – Commissioner  
Arturo Delgado, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) – Chair  
Dan Denham, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) - Commissioner  
Henry Martinez, Imperial Irrigation District (IID) – Commissioner  
Kelly Rodgers, SDCWA – Alternate Commissioner  
Tina Shields, IID – Alternate Commissioner

#### **JPA staff present:**

Jeff Ferre, Best, Best, and Krieger – Legal Counsel  
Kara Mathews, SDCWA – Chief Administrator Officer

#### **Others present:**

Katie Burnworth, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District	Mike Cohen, Pacific Institute
Wendy Joplin, SDCWA	Jessica Humes, IID
Alan Okewole, SDCWA	Gail Sevrens, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Ivory Reyburn, CVWD	Chris Woidzik, SDCWA
Jessica Schroeder, CNRA	

#### PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order

Chair Delgado called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

There was a quorum of the Commission present at the time of the meeting.

3. Public Comment

Sylvia Montenegro from the Salton Sea Restoration Committee made comments on the current elements and conditions of the Salton Sea and its air quality.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

4. Action: Approval of Minutes of Regular JPA Meeting Held April 8, 2020

Commissioner Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Chair Delgado. The minutes were approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 5. Information: Treasurer's Report ending March 31, 2020

Mr. Woidzik provided a review of the Treasurers' Report ending March 31, 2020. The month ended with \$45.5 million in cash and investments. The yield on investments was 1.75%, which was down due to COVID 19. Interest earned for the fiscal year to date was \$725,564.

He announced Chandler Investment had started investing and would be invited to attend an upcoming meeting to give a review of the investment strategy.

### 6. Information: Financial Report ending March 31, 2020

Mr. Woidzik provided a review of the Financial Report ending March 31, 2020. Total assets were at \$112.8 million with \$2.5 million in liabilities. Total revenues were at \$10.8 million, expenditures at \$3.9 million with a fund balance of \$43.5 million. About 18% of the budget was spent to date. More expenses to come in by the end of the year will change the spent budget amount significantly.

### 7. Action: Review and consider approval of QSA JPA Fiscal Year 2021 Budget & Work Plan

Ms. Mathews presented the proposed QSA JPA Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget and Work Plan. She stated the proposed budget was \$14,994,760. She reviewed the remaining water agency payment schedule, FY 2020 expenditures, FY 2020 budget summary, FY 2020 projected fund balance, summary of agency payments, FY 2021 projected fund balance, and FY 2021 major expenditures. She also explained tasks with major expenditures, five-year cash flow projections, description of the appendices, and the staff recommendation to approve the proposed budget.

Mr. Barrett moved to approve the budget.

Mr. Martinez expressed concerns about putting a lot of money in the budget and then having projects not accomplished. Ms. Humes explained Task 24 Salton Sea Air Quality was the only task that there could potentially be projects not completed in the budget timeframes, but if no delays and no environmental snags interfered, Task 24 items should be able to get accomplished. Mr. Martinez expressed a hope for projects to stay on track and to make sure projects were achievable within the budget timeframe.

Patricia Leal, Alianza Coachella Valley, requested explanation of Task 24 on Air Quality on what were some of the existing locations and processes for future locations as it related to the entire Salton Sea. Ms. Humes explained in slide #2 on a map shown that all areas in orange were projects that had been implemented or plan to be implemented and more information could be found in the Proactive Dust Control Plan. Ms. Shields provided more information as to where to find the content on IID's website. Patricia thanked her and mentioned she would follow up with Ms. Humes for further conversation.

Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion to approve the budget. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

### 8. Information: Update on completed and ongoing budget tasks

Ms. Mathews provided information and explained a table that shows required task measures associated with the programs, current status of the items, and how they relate back to the budget.

### 9. Information: Status report on implementation of mitigation measures

Ms. Humes provided an update on a few mitigation measures:

- Task 8 – Aquatic Drain Habitat at Managed Marsh: Crews are steadily working on construction of Phase 3. There had been delays due to rain and to COVID 19, but projects are now back on track. She announced trees would arrive in October.
- Task 20 – Pupfish Construction & Maintenance Conservation: All staff members that were trained by CDFW have passed the pupfish exam. CDFW and the US Fish and Wildlife service will review the monitoring plan for pupfish around the Salton Sea. IID committed to intensely monitoring all drains west of the New River and should have a schedule out soon of those monitoring efforts.
- Task 24 – Salton Sea Air Quality: Formation Environmental teams conducted groundwater boring at Bombay Beach, San Felipe wash, and clubhouse project areas. All results look promising for available groundwater and Formation will continue to develop plans and go through the permitting process as well as groundwater development process for Imperial County for use of water for vegetation enhancement. There was recently a high wind event that prompted staff to put up monitoring equipment at New River West and Poe Road area to analyze dust and wind. Site plans are being developed for Alamo South project areas for implementation this summer. Approval was received for jurisdiction determination for some of those project areas and will finalize site plan as soon as possible.
- Task 42 – Brown Pelican Sea: IID received internal options for brown pelican roosts and will be discussing at the next implementation meeting.

10. Information: Update on Salton Sea mitigation water

Ms. Mathews stated there was supporting documentations in the packet on page 12. Ms. Shields stated the 2010 issue was resolved and the balance of mitigation money will be included in the next invoice.

11. Information: Update on State's Salton Sea Management Program

Chair Delgado announced that future updates will be provided by Jessica Schroeder or Gail Sevrens. He shared that there is progress being made on the Species Conservation Habitat Project, and proposals for review had been received, and would be scheduled to award a contract by the end of summer. He stated the Dust Suppression Action Plan is scheduled to be complete by the end of June and will be posted on CNRA's website. Chair Delgado explained a project description for the 10-year plan is being developed and intend to release a draft for public review in July. He announced an upcoming Engagement Committee meeting would be held June 17, 2020, 10-12:30 via Zoom.

Governor Newsom submitted his May revised budget proposal and it included \$18 million funding in long term general funds and \$10 million in Prop 68 funds to support the New River Improvement Project. In addition, the May revision included resources to draft air quality habitat restoration objectives of the SSMP including 10 positions across the Department of Water Resources, CDFW, and CNRA.

There are \$19 million of Prop 68 local assistance funds being provided to the Salton Sea Authority for the North Lake Pilot Project. This will supply the Salton Sea Authority its full allotment of Prop 68 funding for habitat restoration and air quality impacts at the surrounding communities.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 2:50 p.m.