



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
MEETING OF  
THE  
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018  
10:00 A.M.**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Steven J. Elie, President  
Michael Camacho, Vice President;  
Jasmin A. Hall, Secretary/Treasurer  
Paul Hofer  
Kati Parker

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Halla Razak, General Manager  
Christopher Berch, Executive Manager of Engineering/AGM  
Kathy Besser, Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Development/AGM  
Christina Valencia, Executive Manager of Finance & Administration/AGM  
Tina Cheng, Budget Officer  
Jason Gu, Grants Officer  
Chander Letulle, Manager of Operations & Maintenance  
Alex Lopez, Senior Financial Analyst  
Craig Proctor, Source Control/Environmental Resources Supervisor  
Shaun Stone, Manager of Engineering  
April Woodruff, Board Secretary/Office Manager

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jean Cihigoyenette, JC Law Firm  
Steven Corrington, MIH Water Treatment Inc.  
Peter Kavounas, Chino Basin Watermaster  
Edgar Tellez Foster, Chino Basin Watermaster

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency\* was held at the office of the Agency, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Bldg. A, Chino, California on the above date.

President Elie called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and President Elie led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. A quorum was present.

President Elie stated that members of the public may address the Board. There was no one desiring to do so.

President Elie asked if there were any changes/additions/deletions to the agenda. There were no changes/additions/deletions to the agenda.

## **WORKSHOP**

### **CHINO BASIN CONJUNCTIVE USE ENVIRONMENTAL WATER STORAGE/EXCHANGE PROGRAM WORKSHOP**

Executive Manager of Engineering/AGM Chris Berch started the Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Environmental Water Storage/Exchange Program presentation by stating that this project has been in discussion for over a year and it is part of the Proposition 1 application. \$2.7 Million was authorized for water storage projects, with the surface water storage projects eligible for up to 50 percent grant funding, and conjunctive use projects eligible for up to 100 percent grant funding. IEUA submitted a concept paper in 2016, was invited to submit a formal application in August 2017, and General Manager Halla Razak and former General Manager P. Joseph Grindstaff presented on the project to the California Water Commission (CWC) in Sacramento in December 2017. He stated that today's discussion will be a follow-up with the Board of Directors as he will go through the presentation that was presented to the CWC. He gave an overview of the vision, benefits, and unique aspects of the project, and the collaboration that has taken place. He highlighted the Nature Conservancy as one of the partners/supporters of the Chino Basin Project, stating that it's unique that the application was put together in collaboration with an environmental organization. This non-profit organization has a great deal of influence in different aspects of how the delta is managed and has added considerable value to the application.

President Elie stated his agreement that the Nature Conservancy has been great partners on this project and he stated that this is a great project for the region and for the future of southern California water. Mr. Berch added that this has been an effort to build a multi-benefit project that benefits both the water supply and the environment. Director Paul Hofer requested for the copies of the letters of support from the project partners/supporters. President Elie also suggested to provide the Chino Basin Water Bank Planning Authority: Joint Powers Authority Agreement to the Directors for context.

*(Director Camacho entered the meeting at 10:17 a.m.)*

Executive Manager of External Affairs & Policy Development/AGM Kathy Besser stated that a big next step is to work to educate people who are in a position to help advance this Program. She stated that she will be creating a two page fact sheet that will be ready next week that will easily and simply explain what this project is. Staff will be working with West Coast Advisors to initiate meeting with certain agencies, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and state legislators. Staff will also reach out to all our city councils and ask them for support letters. Staff has already obtained support letters from some agencies such as Western Municipal Water District, Southern California Water Committee, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Staff will go up to Sacramento and meet with the legislators and their staff, as well as work with additional groups to get additional letters of support. CWC expects to have the project ranking and scoring available in May 2018. The Agency is hoping to have support letters in hand and complete by the middle of February 2018. The Agency should know by June 2018 if we have received funding and how much funding we have received. Until this happens, staff will be working behind the scenes to gain as much traction as possible by campaigning the worthiness of this project.

Director Hall asked a question about how different entities such as the Fontana Water Company, a private company regulated by a public utilities commission, can play role in this project. Mr. Berch answered by stating that each member agencies, including the Fontana Water Company, is provided a list of infrastructures that they would need to help deal with drought conditions and water contamination. Fontana Water Company has provided a list of several points that they would want to install well head treatment or install new wells. A list has been compiled and a process of working with each of our member agencies will take place to find the best components, portfolio of projects throughout the Chino Basin that meet the project needs and help fund those projects.


General Manager Halla Razak stated the she wants to ensure that CWC understands the advantage of our project. It's a project that is dealing with completely different water that no one is competing for and it is water that will can later available for this region and for the state of California. She stated that this is a complicated project with many moving parts and Jay Ziegler from the Nature Conservancy who spoke on our behalf, did an excellent job on explaining in layman's terms and staff is aiming to do the same of educating the public of this projects benefits and goals. Ms. Besser will be working on getting more people to understand what we are doing and for them to advocate for this program to get funding because it will benefit all our partner and member agencies. Ms. Razak stated that in the following week, some staff will be going to Sacramento to present the more technical aspects of the project.

#### **COLLECTION SYSTEMS WORKSHOP**

Source Control/Environmental Resources Supervisor Craig Proctor gave a brief history and overview of the Agency's Collections Systems and all the work that goes into maintaining this valuable asset. He also spoke about the Brine Sewer System and Regional Sewer System.

Manager of Operations and Maintenance Chander Letulle spoke about the Sewer System Management Plan, Collection Systems O&M, and future topics that will be brought to the Board throughout this year.

With no further business, President Elie adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

  
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Jasmin A. Hall, Secretary/Treasurer

**APPROVED: FEBRUARY 21, 2018**