

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
STATE AND FEDERAL CONTRACTORS WATER AGENCY**

The Citizen Hotel

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MEETING AGENDA

January 16, 2014

11:30 a.m.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

- 1-1 The Board will Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items Requiring Immediate Action that have come to the Attention of the Board after Posting the Agenda
- 1-2 Public Comment – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Agency on matters within the Agency’s jurisdiction (as required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))

2.0 ACTION ITEMS (30 MIN)

- 2-1 Consider Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2013– Attachment (Nelson)
Recommendation: Adopt the Board minutes for December 19, 2013 by minute order.
- 2-2 Consider Proposed Revised Draft Budget and Optional Budget Reduction Strategies of 10 and 20 Percent – Attachment (Buck)
Recommendation: Consider the budget options and provide staff guidance on preparing a final recommendation for the February Board meeting.
- 2-3 Consider Approval of SFCWA Science Program 2014-15 Research Plan, Request for Proposals, and Request for Qualifications – Attachment (Fong)
Recommendation: Approve the above mentioned items.
- 2-4 Consider Approval of contract with USGS, et al. for “Disentangling the Roles of Abiotic and Biotic Components of Habitat as Drivers of Delta Smelt Abundance and Distribution” – Attachment (Fong)
Recommendation: Approve the contract with USGS and others named in the amount of \$150,000.
- 2-5 Consider Authorizing the Executive Director to Submit Delta Stewardship Council Certification of Consistency with Delta Plan for the Lower Yolo Restoration Project and Provide Public Notice of Same
Recommendation: Authorize the Executive Director to submit the DSC Certification of Consistency.
- 2-6 Consider Receipt of Fiscal Year 2013 Audit Report and Management Recommendations – Attachment (Buck/Julie Ramsay/Williams-Olds – Auditors)
Recommendations: Receive the Audit Report

3.0 INFORMATION REPORTS (60 MIN)

► ADMINISTRATION (10 MIN)

- 3-1 Board Chair's report (Nelson)
- 3-2 Executive Director's Report (Buck)
- 3-3 General Counsel's Report – (Miller)
- 3-4 SFCWA Income/Expense Report for December, 2013 – Attachment (Peltier)
- 3-5 Significant Correspondence

► **COORDINATED SCIENCE (15 MIN)**

- 3-6 Science Program Manager's Oral Report – (Connor)
- 3-7 Making Links to the Estuaries Portal – (Fong)

► **HABITAT PROGRAM (20 MIN)**

- 3-8 Manager's Habitat Committee Oral Reports - (Buck/Schmutte)
 - a. Yolo Ranch Project status - Attachment
 - b. Tule Red Project status
 - c. McCormack Williamson Project status
 - d. Cal Marsh Farms Project status

4.0 CLOSED SESSION (15 MIN)

- 4-1 Government Code 54956.8: CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
Properties:

- 1) Yolo Ranch;
 - 2) Potential Intertidal Habitat Lands in Yolo and Solano County (-5 and +5 foot sea level elevation in Suisun Marsh or Delta Perimeter).

Agency Negotiator: To be Announced

Negotiating Parties: State and Federal Contractors Water Agency

Under Negotiation: Yolo Ranch and Potential Intertidal Habitat Lands

- 4-2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 1 Case: Yolo Ranch, Yolo County.

5.0 REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

6.0 Identification of Upcoming Major Agenda Topics; next meeting date

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

NOTE:
Requests for a disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Agency Administrator in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation. At the discretion of the Board, all items appearing on this agenda and all committee agendas, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the Board.

Mission: Develop and support programs to produce robust science and habitat restoration projects that improve the Bay-Delta ecosystem, and assist SFCWA member agencies in assuring an adequate, reliable and high quality water supply.

The mission shall be pursued consistent with the following implementation strategies.

Delta Governance & Water Management

- 1. Assist in development and implementation of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.*
- 2. Assist in development and implementation of the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program.*
- 3. Participate in joint media outreach team comprised of SWP and CVP member agencies.*
- 4. Communicate SFCWA member agency interests before the Delta Conservancy and Central Valley Flood Protection Board.*
- 5. Assist member agencies in supporting solutions related to carrying out water project obligations in Suisun Marsh.*
- 6. In coordination with member agencies, monitor and engage effectively with activities of the Delta Conservancy, Central Valley Flood Protection Board, Delta Science Program, Delta Regional Monitoring Program, Delta Independent Science Board, and Interagency Ecological Program.*
- 7. Maintain coordination efforts with statewide and regional water interests regarding strategies to recover salmonid stocks (Salmon Recovery Group).*

Habitat

- 1. Implement and facilitate habitat restoration projects including related monitoring and adaptive management.*
- 2. Implement select BDCP conservation measures to address regulatory requirements.*

Science

- Coordinate research resulting in published findings on Delta ecosystem stressors toward developing management actions that further California's co-equal goals of a restored Delta ecosystem and water supply reliability.*
- Facilitate the dissemination and understanding of Science findings.*
- Participate in collaborative research that supports the SFCWA research plan and promote multi-disciplinary and co-incident studies to leverage resources.*
- Partner with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as academia, to address specific science questions of common interest.*
- Participate in and support science conference forums and work efforts to increase mutual collaboration and understanding of multiple stressor effects on the Delta ecosystem.*

Strategic Objectives:

As directed by the SFCWA Board of Directors, SFCWA will pursue the following 2014-2015 objectives in support of its mission and consistent with adopted implementing strategies:

Delta Governance and Water Management

1. *Seek partnerships with the Conservancy and others to advance habitat improvement in the Delta. Support the growth of the Delta Conservancy's capacity to develop and manage habitat projects.*
2. *Seek proposals for Board consideration of a study of the use of Delta geometry changes and hydraulic operations as a tool to manage Delta water quality. Seek partners for investigation and present a recommendation to the Board by May 2014.*
3. *Seek Incorporation of SFCWA's water supply and habitat conservation interests into local and regional flood management priorities prior to the release of the Basin-Wide Feasibility Studies state preferred option in October of 2014 and the Central Valley Flood System Conservation Strategy in December 2014.*

Habitat

1. *Complete environmental review, permitting, Delta Plan Conformance finding and DWR funding agreements and design of the Yolo Ranch habitat restoration project by May 2014. Determine interim funding strategy and provide for construction bidding and contracting for a summer 2014 construction.*
2. *Revisit the habitat program funding strategy upon completion of a Conditional Habitat Credit Purchase credit agreement with DWR for the Lower Yolo Ranch Restoration Project.*
3. *Complete planning studies, permit applications, and environmental documentation to allow for the Tule Red Restoration Project to begin construction in 2015.*
4. *Evaluate final feasibility of pursuing the McCormack-Williamson restoration project based upon final habitat credit estimates as provided by FAST agencies by February 2014.*
5. *Support early small-scale restoration projects in the Yolo bypass in partnership with Cal Marsh Farms and others, by serving as the agency sponsor for FAST agency review beginning in 2014.*
6. *Pursue development of additional habitat lands acquisition strategy through a potential funding agreement with DWR by June 2014.*

Science

1. *Provide comments on and support significant and relevant Delta Science documents being produced in 2014 such as the Delta Science Plan, Delta Action Agenda, Update to the State of Bay-Delta Science, the State of the Estuary Report, the Delta Regional Monitoring Program's monitoring plan, and science-related portions of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (e.g., monitoring and adaptive management sections).*
2. *Award and implement contracts for studies that support the SFCWA Research Plan in SFCWA's first call for proposals by July 2014.*
3. *Continue collaborative efforts with Delta science entities to improve monitoring, assessment and reporting of Bay Delta monitoring and research results through the participation in the California Estuary Monitoring Workgroup and California Estuaries Portal. The next phase of the Portal will include additions to the Water and Ecological Processes sections by February 2015.*