A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yuba County Water Agency was held on the above date, commencing at 9:00 A.M. This meeting was conducted by Zoom Video Conference and Audio Teleconference Only.

The Yuba County Water Agency supports the orders and directives from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor’s Office in the effort to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 enables meetings of legislative bodies to be conducted by way of a teleconference.

**ROLL CALL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directors</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Randy Fletcher (Chair)</td>
<td>☒</td>
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<td>Left meeting at 10:01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Hastey (Vice Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Bradford</td>
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<td>Mike Leahy</td>
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<td>Doug Lofton</td>
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<td>Charlie Mathews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andy Vasquez</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Staff in Attendance
Willie Whittlesey, General Manager
Terri Daly, Administrative Manager
DeDe Cordell, Communications Manager
Geoff Rabone, Projects Manager
Alex Boesch, Public Information Specialist
Curt Aikens, Sr. Executive Advisor
Nistar Sandher, Administrative Assistant
JoAnna Lessard, Project Manager

Bonnie Dickson, Sr. Public Information Officer
Kurtis Crawford, Finance Manager
John James, Water Operations Project Manager
Jackie Sillman, Community Impact Specialist
Richard Shanahan, Agency Counsel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Fletcher.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Director Hastey, seconded by Director Bradford, to approve the Consent item shown on the agenda and duplicated below for reference purposes.

Vote:
YES: Bradford, Fletcher, Hastey, Leahy, Lofton, Mathews, Vasquez

1. Approval of the Minutes the regular meeting of October 6, 2020.

2. Receive and file the Agency Budget Summary and Grant Budget Report through August 2020 as recommended by the Administration, Budget, and Personnel Committee on October 6, 2020.

3. Consider approval of the updated FY2021 Salary Chart reflecting previous personnel actions approved by the Board of Directors subsequent to approval of the annual budget on June 16, 2020.
DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Consider adoption of Resolution 2020-11 approving CEQA Project-Specific Analysis/Addendum for Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project, making CEQA findings, approving Project, and approving related actions.

JoAnna Lessard provided an overview of the purpose of this matter and Heather Blair of Ascent Environmental was available for questions.

A motion was made by Director Hastey, seconded by Director Bradford to adopt Resolution 2020-11 approving CEQA Project-Specific Analysis/Addendum for Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project, making CEQA findings, approving Project, and approving related actions.

Vote:
YES: Bradford, Fletcher, Hastey, Leahy, Lofton, Mathews, Vasquez

5. Consider joining a coalition to defend a US Fish and Wildlife Service decision to not list the California Spotted Owl as an endangered species.

Willie Whittlesey provided an overview of the recommendation to join one or more coalitions.

A motion was made by Director Vasquez, seconded by Director Lofton to authorize staff to join one or more coalitions to defend a US Fish and Wildlife Service decision to not list the California Spotted Owl as an endangered species.

Vote:
YES: Bradford, Fletcher, Hastey, Leahy, Lofton, Mathews, Vasquez


Willie Whittlesey highlighted the Energy Risk Management Annual Report and was available for any questions. The Board briefly discussed varied aspects of the report and expressed appreciation to staff for their continuing leadership efforts.

No formal action taken.


Kurtis Crawford shared the background on the purpose of adding the proposed language to the Purchasing and Contracting Procedures Manual as outlined in the staff report.
A motion was made by Director Hastey, seconded by Director Lofton to approve the amendment to the Purchasing and Contracting Procedures Manual adding references to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Uniform Guidance as proposed.

Vote:
YES: Bradford, Fletcher, Hastey, Leahy, Lofton, Mathews, Vasquez

8. Discussion regarding the Board of Director’s goals for the proposed watershed experience center (also referred to as the water education center).

Terri Daly provided background and initial discussion. DeDe Cordell led a question and answer session focusing on primary questions summarized below.

- Describe top 2 or 3 major goals of the water education center
- What does success look like five years from now?

In summary, the Board members shared their thoughts as follows:

**Director Hastey** - Likened the effort to the Turtle Bay Exploration Park in Redding, CA. The center would have educational aspects ranging from kindergarten to doctorate levels. The center would be a source of pride and economic development opportunities throughout the state and beyond. In five years, the hands-on educational facets will be the most beneficial.

**Director Vasquez** - Cautioned against placing this project ahead of more focused efforts related to economic development. Facility construction and maintenance are costly endeavors. Cited a major issue in the county is poverty and this period of time is ideal for creative economic solutions. In five years, the center would be an opportunity to bolster local employment and improve the tax base.

**Director Bradford** - Co-equal goals of improving the educational outcomes of Yuba County students and to increase tourism in the county. Agreed that costs will be considered and at this stage the effort is to express the vision for the project. In five years, students at all levels will be excited to attend their annual trip to the center. The center will equal the economic development draw of the Bishop’s pumpkin farm.

**Director Leahy** - Priorities should focus on the educational and tourism aspects to attract interest from local residents and beyond. In five years, the center will improve the educational base and economic outlook and serve as an attraction for many years to come.

**Director Lofton** - Shared his confidence that staff will be resourceful in managing the project. Agreed that education and tourism are key factors moving forward. In five years, plans to be a volunteer docent at the center to share his experiences and inspire visitors.

**Director Fletcher** - Hands on experiences are key and the project would attract students and educators as well as regional and state leaders. In five years, the center puts the county “on the map” through the hands-on educational programs and experiences. Agreed on the vision that the center would have visitors from all over the world.
Director Mathews – The center should include a demonstration of how the agency’s power systems and water distribution methods and sales generate revenue for the agency. In five years, he hopes to see the center’s popularity equal or exceed the Bishop’s pumpkin farm.

9. Closed session conference with legal counsel for anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4) - consider initiation of litigation involving two potential cases.

In closed session, the Board by unanimous vote authorized Agency attorneys to file lawsuits to challenge the State Water Resources Control Board issuance of a water quality certification for the Yuba River Development Project. There will be two lawsuits, one filed in federal court and one filed in state court.
MANAGER’S REPORT

**Project Operations:** The project continues to operate within regulatory requirements.

Start Date: 00:00 10/19/2020  
End Date: 00:00 10/20/2020

Storage data are instantaneous values at the end of the period; flow data are average values for the period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>New Bullards Bar Reservoir</strong></th>
<th><strong>Englebright Reservoir</strong></th>
<th><strong>Stream Flows</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elevation (Ft): 1,867.66</td>
<td>Flood Space Reqd (AF): 125,871</td>
<td>Critical Storage Line (AF): 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage (AF): 600,058</td>
<td>Flood Space Avail (AF): 366,045</td>
<td>Target Storage Line (AF): 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Total Capacity: 62</td>
<td>Flood Space Reqd (%) : 291</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Usable Capacity: 50</td>
<td>Excess Flood Space (AF): 240,174</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NERC / WECC:** The agency continues to operate in compliance with NERC/WECC Electricity Reliability Standards.

**Power Systems Revenue Monthly Highlights:**  
Power Systems revenue for September totaled $6.8 million and we generated approximately 50 thousand MWhs during the month. Average day ahead energy price was $41/MWh. Prices continue to be strong due to above average temperatures. Net CAISO earnings per MWh of generation was $89/MWh, more than twice the average day ahead energy price. This additional value is due to increased activity in ancillary services and to real time activity.

Power Systems revenue year to date totals $25.6 million, $6.7 million more than the same three-month period last year and $6.6 million more than budget. We have
generated 326,709 MWhs year to date, 22% higher than forecasted. Other than generation, increased revenue is attributable to the dryer conditions which has enabled us to participate more in the ancillary services market, earning $2.1 million year to date, $1.3 million more than last year and $650 thousand more than budget. In addition, our resource adequacy capacity revenue year to date, $6 million, is $3.8 million more than last year and $567 thousand more than budget.

**Maintenance Update:**

**Recreation**
Routine maintenance continues at the Water Treatment Plant. Set up Plumb Bob equipment for monthly readings in the dam to verify dam tilt. Work continues improving the marina parking lot and drainage. Support GEI for the auxiliary spillway. Removed our service building known as the “Chapel” off the lake for annual maintenance and inspection. Siding was stained, pontoons inspected, and the building was returned to the lake.

**Electrical / Communications**
Narrows 2 exciter installation is wrapping up and “Vibro” sensors were installed by contractor and tested. Installation work for “Vibro” is complete and ready for testing during unit startup which is scheduled for the last week in October. The 48vdc battery backup inverter installation is completed at N2 which will maintain 120vac critical systems during loss of power and station service swaps. We are performing a black plant outage to clean and check station service connections which were found to be operating above the expected temperature range during routine infrared heat checks. These connections will be inspected, cleaned and returned to service the same day.

**Mechanical / Utility**
Various routine maintenance is ongoing at Narrows 2 and will be wrapping up this week. The Narrows 2 governor was charged back up after maintenance and the wicket gates closed for measurements and then the waterways closed in preparation to water up the unit. Assisted the electrical department with replacing the lightning arrestors on the main unit transformer at N2. Worked on Lake Francis cleaning the spillway chute and repairing various expansion joints and concrete grouting.

**Operations Update:**

**Training:** The operations staff recently participated in a training exercise for the New Bullards Bar Emergency Action Plan (EAP). The EAP is a collaboration between YWA and varies outside agencies on collaboration that needs to occur in the event of an issue that may arise with New Bullards Bar Dam. Training exercises help our operational staff be prepared on what to do in the event of an emergency due to precipitation or issues with New Bullards Bar Dam.

**Colgate Units 1 and 2:** Both units are online.
**Narrows 2:** Narrows 2 is currently in its annual maintenance outage with an anticipated return to service date of 10/30/2020. On 10/14/2020 maintenance personnel were leaving Narrows 2 and noticed a small fire off the road. The substance burning was a stack of mail. Maintenance personnel called operations and the fire was put out. The sheriff’s department was called in to investigate this incident as a possible arson incident. The mail was collected by our maintenance personnel and will be turned over to the sheriff’s department.

**Narrows 1:** On 10/5/2020 Narrows 1 had its wicket gates close while the unit was online. The gates were closed due to a mechanical lever used for the mechanical overspeed device falling over on its own. We think vibration was the cause for the lever falling loose. The operators at Colgate caught the loss in flow and quickly reacted by opening the fixed cone valve at Narrows 2 to make up the flow we lost at Narrows 1 and tripped Narrows 1 offline. The normal operation is that if the unit were to go overspeed the cable would be pulled, extracting the lever, closing the wicket gates and closing off water flow to the turbine. The closure of the wicket gates will not initiate opening bypass valve (Lerner Johnson “LJ valve”) to supply bypass flow. The LJ opens (in auto) if the unit breaker opens. For this event, the generator breaker did not open and the unit was “motoring”. This unit was designed to motor so there are no issues with it motoring during this event. Maintenance machined a better latching device in order to keep the lever from falling on its own again. Narrows 1 was put back online a couple of hours after the incident and after operations and maintenance inspected the unit for any damage or abnormalities. Engineering is also looking at alternatives for overspeed protection that would eliminate the lever mechanism altogether.

**Lake Francis:** On 9/28/2020 a car entered Lake Francis. Our operator was driving by the lake and noticed a car in the water. He pulled over and called the control room. Operations then notified maintenance personnel who drove down to the lake with oil containment equipment just in case the car started leaking oil. Luckily, everyone was safe, and no oil was spilled into the lake.

**Flow Updates:** Currently, total releases to the lower Yuba River at the Smartsville gage are now approximately 1030 cfs well above the minimum required flow of 700cfs. Flows at the Marysville gage are approximately 550 cfs. Irrigation demands have increased over the previous week with corresponding increases at Smartsville. We still anticipate remaining at these approximate flow values through the fall. As irrigators’ water requirements change, releases from Englebright Reservoir will be adjusted to ensure that the minimum required flow at the Marysville gage is met. Currently there is water from Lake Wildwood (Deer Creek) flowing into the Yuba River below NY-28 as part of the Lake Wildwood Public Works annual maintenance cycle. This is causing additional water at Marysville NY-50 above our minimum requirements.
Colgate Admin Building: PG&E initiated a PSPS event from Wednesday 10/14/2020 through Friday 10/16/2020. Staff will be working from home due to most of the offices at the admin building not having power.

New Bullards Bar Mini Hydro: The mini hydro was taken out of service on 10/12/2020 for approximately six hours due to pole work being conducted by PG&E.

HR Update:
Recruitments:
Applications are being accepted for the Health & Safety Officer and Supervising Communications Technician. The screening process is underway for the Hydrologist, Health & Safety Officer, Utility Worker, and Operator positions. We are in the final stages of the interview process for both Supervising Communications Technician as well as the Heavy Equipment Mechanic.

Transfers:
It is with great pleasure we welcome Laken Shattner to our HR Team. Laken recently transferred into Human Resources after 3 years in the Administrative and Purchasing departments. Welcome Laken!

Open Enrollment:
Agency employees just completed another successfully automated Open Enrollment period which ended last Friday, October 16, 2020.

Weather Forecast Update:
Current:
Pattern of warm, dry continues through the end of October. Drought conditions and high fire risk persist.

Yuba County is now showing D3 (extreme) drought conditions in the lower elevations and D2 conditions elsewhere per the U.S. Drought Monitor.
Short-term Forecast:
Cooler weather compared with previous weeks forecast for remainder of the week, but still no significant precipitation forecast.

Medium Range Forecast:
1-3 month climate outlooks continue to show an above average temps and below average precipitation in fall especially through early November.

Long Range Forecast:
NOAA provided first 2020/21 Winter Outlook on October 15th which confirmed Northern California on the border of “dry” and “normal” precipitation. Specific storms and small variations in the jet stream will likely determine the water year performance. Moderate La Nina conditions now forecast to continue through Spring 2021.

Farmer’s Almanac for 2021 also predicts dry conditions for most of Northern California!
Community Impact:
We continue to work on setting economic development priorities and developing a long-term capital improvement plan. Planning work continues on several key projects, including: development of a River Parkway; broadband infrastructure throughout the county; workforce development; and water conservation. Jackie Sillman continues to assist the County’s YES Team (Yuba Enterprise Solutions) on re-opening businesses, as well as working closely with the Adventist Health Board of Directors to identify opportunities for improving economic and housing stability in the county.

We’d like to specially acknowledge two employees who have invested many hours over the past few months volunteering their time for the Yuba-Sutter Food Bank. Vangie Flores and Jackie Sillman were able to assist in serving 1,210 food insecure residents in Yuba County at the September monthly food distributions.

Communications:
Community relations: we are sponsoring Wheatland High’s football program by buying a banner for the stadium, and Marysville High’s basketball program, buying branded promotional items that they hand out at games.

Communications: We have been shooting the next videos in our mission series, working on one about hydropower and one about water supply. Those will be coming out in a few weeks. We are launching our new external digital newsletter this week, in conjunction with CA flood preparedness week, in which we will be introducing a cool new story about Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations and our secondary spillway plans. We also just shot a segment for the Water Education Foundation’s virtual Northern California Tour, talking about the secondary spillway, our water supply mission, forest health initiatives and more.

Upcoming Meetings:
November 3, 2020 Regular Board of Director’s
Project Operations and Development Committee
Administration, Budget, and Personnel Committee
DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Director Vasquez requested a list of current standing and ad hoc committees.

No other reports were provided.

ADJOURNED AT: 10:13 A.M

Minutes Approved: Randy Fletcher, Chair
Date signed: ____________

ATTEST: James Mitrisin
Clerk of the Board of Directors