Board Strategic Development Committee Meeting and Special Board of Directors Meeting

Date:       Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Time:       Scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.
Location:   Virtual Meeting, Online
AGENDA
BOARD STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
AND SPECIAL SMUD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar Link: Join Strategic Development Committee and Special Board of Directors Meeting Here
Webinar/Meeting ID: 160 647 0080
Passcode: 215327
Phone Dial-in Number: 1-669-254-5252 or 1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)

Pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) and the Emergency Board Meeting Procedures adopted by the SMUD Board of Directors, the regular Board meeting and other public meetings are currently conducted solely via virtual (online/teleconference) meeting to align with state, local, and federal guidelines for the containment of the coronavirus.

Live video streams and indexed archives of meetings are available at:
http://smud.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=16

Members of the public may register to provide verbal comments at an upcoming Board or Committee meeting by emailing a request to speak to PublicComment@smud.org. Please include the date of the meeting, name, and topic or agenda item the requestor wishes to speak on. The request may also be submitted while the meeting is in progress during the standard time for the agenda item or topic. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged by no later than 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Members of the public may provide written public comments on a specific agenda item or on items not on the agenda (general public comment) by submitting comments via e-mail. Comments may be submitted to PublicComment@smud.org and will be placed into the record of the meeting.

Members of the public that are listening to or watching the live stream of a Committee meeting and wish to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard may submit their comments, limited to 250 words or less, to PublicComment@smud.org, noting the agenda item number in the subject line. The Committee Chair may read comments for items on the agenda into the record, in his discretion, based upon such factors as the length of the agenda or the number of e-mail comments received. General public comment for items not on the agenda will not be read into the record but will be provided to the Board and placed into the record of the Board meeting if it is received within two hours after the meeting ends.

This Committee meeting is noticed as a joint meeting with the Board of Directors for compliance with the Brown Act. The Strategic Development Committee will review, discuss and provide the Committee's recommendation (if applicable) on the following informational items, and the Board of Directors will take action on the Discussion Calendar:
DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Laura Lewis

Make findings pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to continue holding meetings virtually during proclaimed state of emergency (recurring item, every 30 days).

Presentation: 2 minutes
Discussion: 3 minutes

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. Rachel Huang

Provide the Board with external and internal presentations followed by a panel discussion on plans and opportunities for ecosystem services and carbon sequestration in support of regional carbon neutrality and the achievement of SMUD’s **2030 Zero Carbon Plan**.

*Presenters and Panel Participants:*
Jessica Fox, Senior Technical Executive, Power in Pollinators
**ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (EPRI)**

Dr. Rebecca R. Hernandez, Assistant Professor of Ecology and Earth System Science
UC DAVIS AND
Founder, **WILD ENERGY LAB**

Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
**SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA CONSERVANCY**

Presentation: 40 minutes
Discussion: 30 minutes

3. Public Comment

4. Gregg Fishman

Summary of Committee Direction.
Discussion: 1 minute

Pursuant to Resolution No. 20-06-08 adopted on June 18, 2020, Emergency Board Meeting Procedures are in effect:

*Members of the public may make either a general public comment or comment on a specific agenda item by submitting comments via email. Comments may be submitted to PublicComment@smud.org. Comments will be provided to the Board and placed into the record of the Committee meeting if it is received within two hours after the meeting ends.*

*Members of the public that are listening or watching the live stream of a Board meeting and wish to comment on a specific agenda item as it is being heard, may submit their comments, limited to 250 words or less, to PublicComment@smud.org. The Committee Chair may read the comments into the record, in his discretion, based upon such factors as the length of the agenda or the number of email comments.*
received. Comments will be provided to the Board and placed into the record of the Committee meeting if it is received within two hours after the meeting ends.

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ADA Accessibility Procedures: Upon request, SMUD will generally provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so that they can participate equally in this virtual meeting. If you need a reasonable auxiliary aid or service for effective communication to participate, please email Toni.Stelling@smud.org, or contact by phone at (916) 732-7143, no later than 48 hours before this virtual meeting.
**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**
**STAFFING SUMMARY SHEET**

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**Consent Calendar**: Yes | X | No (If no, schedule a dry run presentation.)

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**Requested Action**: Make determination pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) to continue meetings via virtual (online/teleconference) meeting for the next 30 days.

**Summary**: Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, and Executive Order N-35-20 issued on March 21, 2020, as well as the Emergency Board Meeting Procedures adopted by this Board via Resolution No. 20-06-08 on June 18, 2020, this Board has conducted regular Board meetings and other public meetings via remote (online/teleconference) meetings.

Executive Order N-08-21 was issued on June 11, 2021, to phase out various Executive Orders issued in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, including the temporary authority allowing local agency bodies to hold remote meetings under N-29-20. Under this Order, the temporary authority expired on September 30, 2021.

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), which became effective immediately upon signature, containing language similar to the Governor’s previous Executive Orders that eased Brown Act requirements to allow local agencies to meet remotely. AB 361 allows meetings to continue to be conducted by teleconference, similar to the process used during the current COVID-19 pandemic, but only when there is a declared state of emergency that makes it unsafe to meet in person.

On July 29, 2021, the Sacramento County Public Health Officer issued an Order, effective July 30, 2021, finding the significantly more transmissible Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has become the predominant strain in the County of Sacramento, and directing all individuals in the County to wear a face covering indoors in workplaces and public settings regardless of vaccination status. This Order is currently in effect.

It would be impractical to ensure all public meeting attendees are vaccinated and have appropriate face coverings that are worn correctly.

Staff’s recommendation is to continue to hold regular Board meetings and other public meetings via solely virtual (online/teleconference) meeting and continue to monitor developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to AB 361, this Board must make findings every 30 days that conditions warrant continuing to meet virtually instead of in-person.

**Board Policy**: Governance Process GP-3, Board Job Description – j) Take such other actions as may be required by law.

**Benefits**: Making the determination to continue remote meetings will allow for efficient conduct of SMUD business.

**Cost/Budgeted**: Contained in Business Unit budget for internal labor.

**Alternatives**: Take no action and comply with all original Brown Act requirements.
**Affected Parties:** SMUD, Board of Directors, Public

**Coordination:** Executive Office, Board Office, Legal Department, Information Technology, Communications

**Presenter:** Laura Lewis, Chief Legal & Government Affairs Officer

**Additional Links:**

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<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>Make Determination to Continue Online/Teleconference Meetings (AB 361)</th>
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ITEMS SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.
WHEREAS, SMUD is committed to preserving public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors and to the safety of meeting attendees; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Board of Directors are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov't Code, §§ 5495054963) (“Brown Act”), so that any member of the public may attend, participate in, and watch SMUD's governing body conduct its business; and

WHEREAS, the newly enacted Government Code section 54953(e) authorizes a local agency’s governing body, during a proclaimed state of emergency, to participate in its public meetings using remote teleconferencing without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), under specified conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, another condition is that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to the threat of COVID-19; despite
sustained efforts, the virus continues to spread and has impacted nearly all sectors of
California; and

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2021, the Sacramento County Health Officer
issued an order intended to help limit the spread of COVID-19, and among other things,
required face coverings in indoor public spaces for vaccinated and unvaccinated people
alike; and

WHEREAS, under current state of emergency conditions it would be
impractical for SMUD to take steps necessary to prevent imminent risks to the health
and safety of attendees, such as by holding public meetings outdoors, ensuring public
meeting attendees are vaccinated, have appropriate face coverings, and wear them
consistent with public health guidance; and

WHEREAS, all meetings, agendas, meeting dates, times, and manner in
which the public may participate in the public meetings of the SMUD Board and offer
public comment by telephone or internet-based service options including video
conference are posted on the SMUD website and physically outside of SMUD’s
Headquarters Building; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT:

Section 1. Risks to Health and Safety of Attendees. The Board hereby
finds that holding its public meetings in person would present imminent risks to the
health and safety of attendees.

Section 2. Remote Teleconference Meetings. SMUD staff are hereby
authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose
of this Resolution, including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 3. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) November 13, 2021, or (ii) such time the Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the SMUD Board may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.
### NARRATIVE:

**Requested Action:** Present a panel discussion on plans and opportunities for ecosystem services and carbon sequestration in support of regional carbon reduction and the achievement of SMUD’s Zero Carbon Plan.

**Summary:** Panel discussion presenting EPRI Power in Pollinators initiative, context of ecosystem service evolution with renewable energy projects, new partnership with UC Davis for multi-year research project at Rancho Seco II and an update on carbon sequestration plans in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Review of SMUD’s past work and opportunities as our ZCP roadmap is developed. This panel will feature the following speakers:
- Jessica Fox, Senior Technical Executive & Director, Power in Pollinators, Electric Power Research Institute, to share overview of EPRI’s pollinator work;
- Dr. Rebecca Hernandez, Associate Professor of Ecology and Earth System Science, UC Davis & Founder, Wild Energy Lab, with a summary of the planned research at Rancho Seco II;
- Campbell Ingram from Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy on carbon credits for wetlands restoration completed under the ACR protocol (which SMUD co-sponsored) and other opportunities in the Delta;

**Board Policy:** SD-7 Environmental Leadership, SD-9 Resource Planning, SD-10 Innovation

**Benefits:** Expand board and stakeholder awareness of the power of climate solutions that leverage SMUD’s large land holdings and contracted renewable energy projects to achieve ZCP goals and deliver significant regional co-benefits.

**Cost/Budgeted:** This informational item has no direct budgetary impact.

**Alternatives:** Do not hold the panel discussion; receive an update via written report.

**Affected Parties:** Enterprise Strategy, Energy Delivery and Operations, Power Generation, Zero Carbon Energy Solutions, Environmental Services, Vegetation Management

**Coordination:** Board Office, Executive Office, Enterprise Strategy

**Presenter:** Jessica Fox, Senior Technical Executive & Director, Power in Pollinators, Electric Power Research Institute  
Dr. Rebecca Hernandez, Associate Professor of Ecology and Earth System Science, UC Davis & Founder, Wild Energy Lab  
Campbell Ingram, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

### ADDITIONAL LINKS:

- [Additional Information](#)
Ecosystem Services and Carbon Sequestration

ITEMS SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.
Jessica Fox
Sr. Technical Executive
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

Jessica Fox is Sr. Technical Executive at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), where she has been leading initiatives, technical teams, and complex client projects related to water and ecosystems for the last 17 years. She has led EPRI's $15M annual Water & Ecosystem research area, is an individual expert in environmental markets and “credit stacking”, ecosystem services, and corporate sustainability. Her projects on ecosystem services focus on creating a business case in day-to-day corporate decision making, including using models, cost-benefit considerations, and executive perspectives. Ms. Fox created the EPRI Ohio River Basin Water Quality Trading Project, which is the world’s first interstate trading program for nutrients (http://wqt.epri.com) which won the United States Water Prize in 2015. Ms. Fox led EPRI’s Energy Sustainability Interest Group from 2011 through 2016 to become the largest collaborative forum in the industry to advance key sustainable electricity issues, including facilitating consensus of 45 utilities on sustainability metrics to benchmark company performance, a first for the electric power industry (www.epri.com/sustainability). In 2017, Ms. Fox was recognized as Top Innovator (The Fantastic Forty) by Public Utilities Fortnightly. Recently in 2018, Ms. Fox launched the Power-in-Pollinators Initiative, which quickly became the largest effort in North America focused specifically on pollinator conservation at electric power companies (www.epri.com/pollinators). She has a Bachelor’s of Science from University of California at Davis, and a Master’s of Science from Stanford University.
Dr. Rebecca Hernandez
Assistant Professor of Ecology and Earth System Science, UC Davis and
Founder, Wild Energy Lab

Dr. Rebecca R. Hernandez is Assistant Professor in the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources. Dr. Hernandez earned her Ph.D. in Earth System Science from Stanford University. Her research focus includes the study of soils, energy, and global environmental change emphasizing water-limited ecosystems and human environments. Her work on interactions among energy, land, and the environment have been featured in Nature Climate Change, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Environmental Science & Technology, and Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews.
Campbell Ingram
Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Campbell became the first Executive Officer of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy in March of 2011. The Conservancy is tasked with being a lead agency for ecosystem restoration in the Delta and supporting efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. Previously, Campbell was an Associate Director of The Nature Conservancy’s California Water Program where he participated in statewide efforts to balance water needs of ecosystems and human use. He previously worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he was responsible for implementing several CVPIA restoration programs and the CALFED Environmental Water Program; and prior to that was employed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation working directly for the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program.
### BOARD AGENDA ITEM

**STAFFING SUMMARY SHEET**

**BOD 2021-005**

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**NARRATIVE:**

**Requested Action:** Provide a summary of committee direction from the Board to Staff.

**Summary:** During a Board discussion at the January 2017 Policy Committee, the Board requested having an on-going opportunity to do a wrap up period at the end of each committee meeting to summarize various Board member suggestions and requests that were made at the meeting in an effort to make clear the will of the Board. The Committee Chair will summarize Board member requests that come out of the committee presentations for this meeting.

**Board Policy:** GP-4 Agenda Planning states the Board will focus on the results the Board wants the organization to achieve.

**Benefits:** Having an agendized opportunity to summarize the Board’s requests and suggestions that arise during the committee meeting will help clarify what the will of the Board.

**Cost/Budgeted:** N/A

**Alternatives:** Not summarize the Board’s requests at this meeting.

**Affected Parties:** Board of Directors and Executive Staff

**Coordination:** Donna Lofton, Special Assistant to the Board

**Presenter:** Gregg Fishman, Strategic Development Committee Chair

**Additional Links:**

**ITEM NO. (FOR LEGAL USE ONLY)**

**SUBJECT**

Summary of Committee Direction

**ITEMS SUBMITTED AFTER DEADLINE WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.**