



2016-17 Legislative Advocacy Plan Adopted April 18, 2016

This plan establishes the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District legislative and government affairs priorities for FY 2016-17.

Federal Strategy

- 1) Evaluate hiring federal legislative consultant: Evaluate hiring a Washington DC consultant that offers a deep understanding of the federal budget, legislative process, funding opportunities, and regulatory setting. Both Congress and regulatory departments related to water, including but not limited to BLM, NOAA (NMFS), USBR, USDA, and EPA. Need to consider whether there is sufficient federal crossover with District activities (Pure Water Monterey, Los Padres Dam, other?) and what the “pay-off” might be.

Consider development of a scope of work, including but not limited to:

- Identifying legislation or proposed regulatory changes that may impact the District.
- Consult with staff to develop positions on relevant legislation.
- Advocate the District’s position on bills and matters of interest.
- Represent the District in meetings with staff, directors, or independently with congressional members and staff, administration officials, regulatory agencies.
- Coordinate federal outreach with District’s State governmental outreach
- Identify funding opportunities and notify of timing, requirements, and advocate on behalf of District
- Direct contact with associations including ACWA, WateReuse, etc.
- Prepare materials for briefing – talking points, briefing books, letters, as necessary
- Coordinate with other water district lobbyists and organizations
- Maintain close relationships with Monterey legislative delegation

Consider opportunities to cost share or issue share – County, MRWPCA, other?

Potential firms:

The Ferguson Group (Roger Gwinn)
The Furman Group (Hal Furman)
Nossaman (Brent Heberlee)

- 2) Maintain Washington DC profile:
 - Work with consultant hired above to organize timely trips as needed, but at least once a year separate from ACWA trip.
 - Attend ACWA trip each year
 - Consider ACWA Legislative Affairs Committee
- 3) Provide support for relevant legislation: Already provided letter of support for Feinstein drought relief bill. That bill is likely to be reworked into a joint bill. Need to track process and provide input and support where possible to ensure Pure Water Monterey's interests are protected. A "West-wide" bill is also expected. Need to position Pure Water Monterey to benefit.
- 4) Expedite Pure Water Monterey permitting process: Intervene where possible on water rights protests (NMFS), biological opinion (NMFS, USFS), EPA review for CEQA+, stream-bed alteration (Corps) to ensure timely response.
- 5) Monitor and pursue grant opportunities.
- 6) Perform on existing federal grants:
 - Drought Contingency Plan (\$200,000 USBR 2-year project)
 - Salinas and Carmel Rivers Basin Study (\$900,000 USBR 3-year project)

State of California Strategy

- 1) Pure Water Monterey: Effort already started to ensure approval at CPUC. Letters of support being secured and will be sent directly and filed with testimony. Intervene where possible on water rights protests (CDFW) to ensure timely response. Secretary Laird meeting has occurred and available to intervene if asked.
- 2) Prop 1 Funding:
 - IRWM: The Department of Water Resources is receptive to agreements among hydrologic regions about how Proposition 1 (Prop 1) funds for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program are shared among individual planning regions. Recently, representatives of each Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) in the Central Coast hydrologic unit have discussed the potential for an agreement to allocate \$43 million of Prop 1 funds for the Central Coast among the six planning regions. The IRWM grant program is competitive, and in the past (i.e., with Prop 50 and Prop 84 funds), agencies in the Central Coast region have expended significant resources to develop competitive proposals.

A draft agreement has been circulated and is close to adoption. If an allocation agreement can be reached, it would give each region assurance of some funds

from Prop 1 and would provide a definite schedule for when those funds might become available. This would allow agencies in each region to focus resources on projects and plans. For the Monterey Peninsula region, proposed splits range from a low of about \$2 million (based on acreage and population) to a high of about \$6 million (equal split among regions). The Monterey Peninsula region has received just over 1% of the IRWM funds awarded to the Central Coast since 2006. Given the large differences in size and populations among the six Central Coast regions, it would appear unlikely that an agreement would be reached to split funds equally among regions. Larry Hampson is coordinating.

- Storm water: Funds are available for multi-benefit storm water management projects which may include, but shall not be limited to: green infrastructure, rainwater and storm water capture projects and storm water treatment facilities. Storm Water Resource Plans, or functionally equivalent plan(s), are required to obtain grant funds for storm water and dry weather capture projects. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the final Storm Water Resource Plan Guidelines and the Prop 1 SWGP Guidelines on December 15, 2015. Pure Water Monterey return pipeline for the Salinas Industrial Ponds will be a candidate.

A Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) is required to be eligible for implementation or project-specific planning funding. The SWRP will be due within 90 days of award of an implementation grant. The District's Local Project Grant to the City of Monterey will lay groundwork for this plan which MRWPCA will prepare.

The District will need a lobbying plan to ensure success. Round 1 of Implementation Grants is expected summer 2016.

- Pure Water Monterey: The project has already qualified for a 30-year State Revolving Fund Loan, but a potential \$15 million grant hangs in the balance. District will work with MRWPCA to ensure eligibility and timeliness.
- 3) Maintain Sacramento profile:
 - Work with JEA Associates to organize timely trips as needed, but at least once a year separate from needs-based visits.
 - Attend CSDA, ACWA, and/or WaterReuse legislative days
 - 4) Provide support for relevant legislation.
 - 5) Monitor and pursue grant opportunities.
 - 6) Resolve Carmel Valley Alluvial Aquifer and SGMA issues with DWR and SWRCB

Local Strategy

- 1) Maintain District role in regional water issues related to:
 - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 - Pure Water Monterey – CSIP expansion and expansion for MCWD
- 2) Participate in County-wide OES infrastructure team
- 3) Maintain outreach to local associations' government affairs committees (Chambers, MCAR, MCHA, Coalition of Peninsula Businesses, jurisdictions' mayors and councils)