



**FINAL MINUTES**  
**Legislative Advocacy Committee of the**  
**Monterey Peninsula Water Management District**  
*February 8, 2017*

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am in the MPWMD conference room.

**Committee members present:** Andrew Clarke, Chair  
Robert S. Brower, Sr.  
Molly Evans

**Committee members absent:** None

**Staff members present:** David J. Stoldt, General Manager  
Arlene Tavani, Executive Assistant

**District Counsel present:** David C. Laredo

**Legislative Consultant:** John Arriaga

**Comments from the Public:** No comments.

**Action Items**

1. **Adopt Minutes of December 12, 2016 Committee Meetings**  
On a motion by Brower and second of Clarke, the minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting were approved on a unanimous vote of 3 – 0 by Brower, Clarke and Evans.

**Discussion Items**

2. **Report from John Arriaga on Legislative Status and Tracking**  
Arriaga reported the following. Governor Brown submitted a \$179 billion budget on January 10, 2017. It reflects a 1.5% increase from the previous year budget and also includes \$3.2 billion in budget cuts. The state estimates there will be a 3% increase in sales tax receipts from last year. A revised budget will be presented on May 10, 2017. One budgetary concern is how to plan for the response to future actions by the federal government. If the Affordable Care Act is repealed and no new plan is put in place, California would face a \$16 billion deficit. Also, there is a move in the legislature to designate the entire state as a Sanctuary State, which could result in a loss of federal funds. The Governor's priority is affordable housing. He has vowed that he will not sign housing legislation unless it includes streamlining measures for permitting. By January 2018 a plan for regulation of cannabis must be developed. Water issues related to cannabis production will be handled by the Department of Agriculture. Arriaga recommended that if the District is still interested in proposing or supporting legislation that would tax water use for cannabis cultivation, it should contact Anna Caballero chair of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, and Bill Monning who is a member of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. The proposed budget contains \$8.8 billion for programs to fund natural resources, including water. Drought response funds are focused on disadvantaged communities, water conservation, water rights management and tree replacement. This budget also includes \$240

million for regional cooperation projects. Arriaga noted that Hertzberg introduced SCA 4 that would authorize government owned utilities to establish tiered rate structures. Hertzberg also introduced SB231 that adds a missing definition of “sewer service” to state law to include stormwater, so local governments can more easily finance and build those projects such as through the Proposition 218 funding mechanism. There have been calls for the Governor to reconsider drought response legislation, but he has refused to do so.

Stoldt reported that AB 313, introduced by Adam Gray, proposes to restructure the administration and enforcement of water rights in California.

**3. Development of 2017-18 Legislative Advocacy Plan**

The committee reviewed the draft 2017-18 Legislative Advocacy Plan. Evans and Clarke agreed to meet on a regular basis with legislators at their local field offices, or in Sacramento. Brower said that he could meet with legislators in Washington DC. Arriaga suggested that meetings with legislators in Sacramento should be scheduled in March 2017 and noted that meeting with Kamala Harris and Anna Caballero should be a priority. Stoldt stated that it will be important for the District to develop relationships with legislative staffers. Arriaga could assist in setting up those meetings. It was mentioned that the District has been criticized for not being a stronger advocate for local rate payers. Possibly the Public Outreach Committee could work to inform the public of the District’s mission, and that the agency does not regulate California American Water. It was suggested that the District should publish a weekly update or some other column on a regular basis in a local newspaper.

**Other Items** – No discussion.

**Set Next Meeting Date** – No date was set.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10 am.

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