



FINAL MINUTES
**Legislative Advocacy Committee of the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District**
March 22, 2012

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am in the conference room of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District office.

Committee members present: David Potter, Chair
Bob Brower
Judi Lehman

Committee members absent: None

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

District Counsel present: David Laredo, De Lay and Laredo

Legislative Consultant: John Arriaga, JEA and Associates

Comments from Public

No comments.

Action Items

1. **Receive Minutes of November 16, 2011 Committee Meeting**
On a motion of Brower and second by Lehman, minutes of the November 16, 2011 committee meeting were approved unanimously on a vote of 3 – 0.

Discussion Items

2. **Update on CPUC Activities related to User Fee – Verbal Report by General Manager and General Counsel**
Stoldt had nothing new to report on the California Public Utilities Commission decision re cancellation of the 8.325% user fee California-American Water had collected for the District. During the discussion, it was suggested that District staff and directors should meet with as many community groups as possible to explain why an alternative form of fee collection is needed, such as a water supply charge on property owners within the Cal-Am service area. Stoldt plans to brief representatives from the Monterey County Hospitality Association on the alternative collection proposal.
3. **Report by Director Potter on meeting with SWRCB Chairman Charlie Hoppin and Michael Lauffer**
There was no discussion of this item.

4. **Sacramento Meeting: Cal-Desal Legislative Action Day Overview by JEA & Associates, Cal/Desal sponsored legislation AB 2595(Hall) regarding desalination (Legislation attached)**
Arriaga reported that CalDesal, the only advocacy group in California solely focused on advancing the use of desalination, has promoted this bill as a means to streamline the process for development of desalination projects. Groups representing environmental interests have opposed the bill.
5. **Sacramento Meeting: JEA & Associates to give a brief overview on the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) annual 2012 Legislative Symposium held on March 7, 2012. There was discussion on the 2010 Water Bond, Pension Reform, and on SB 1146 (Pavley). This bill SB 1146 (Pavley) regarding well logs, might be of interest to MPWMD. (Bill language is attached)**
Arriaga updated the committee as follows. **Water Bond** – The future of the water bond is uncertain. If Governor Brown does place a bond measure on the ballot, the water bond may not go forward. Also, there is a move among some interest groups to rewrite the water bond, which would delay a vote. **Pension Reform** – Governor Brown has a twelve-point proposal for reform. Arriaga will track the issue, but there may not be much action until the state budget is approved. **SB-1146** – District staff will review the legislation and if they agree with the proposal, Stoldt will submit a letter of support.
6. **Sacramento Meeting: The State Water Resources Control Board considered adoption of a General Exception that includes special protections for selected storm water and nonpoint source discharges into Areas of Special Biological Significance, as well as a Program Environmental Impact Report for the regulatory action. This meeting was held on March 20, 2012 at Cal/EPA Headquarters building. (JEA & Associates will give a verbal report)**
Arriaga reported that concerns were expressed at the hearing re the cost to conduct on-going studies, and that there is lack of scientific evidence that the proposed regulations would be effective. The SWRCB adopted the rules with amendments. Staff was directed to fine-tune the regulations over the next 90 days. Attorneys representing interested parties retained the right to litigate at the end of the 90-day period. Stoldt stated that the District would track this issue.
7. **Sacramento Meeting: On March 20, 2012 Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife held an information and oversight hearing *Untapped Potential: Water Reuse for California's Future Water Supply Reliability* (JEA & Associates will give a verbal report)**
Arriaga reported that recent hearings focused on policies to streamline regulations related to use of recycled water. Legislation is forthcoming that will require the state to meet goals for use of recycled water by 2020.
8. **Legislation: JEA & Associates has provided a legislative track (attached) of potential legislation of significance to MPWMD. The Legislative Committee may want to consider taking positions on legislation of interest.**
The committee reviewed the list of pending legislation and determined that the following bills should be monitored: AB 1569, AB 2011, AB 2157, AB 2180, AB 2398, AB 2595, SB 52, SB964, SB965, SB1364 and any proposed legislation regarding pension reform. The committee agreed that a report could be made to the Board that lists the legislation of interest.
9. **Legislation: MPWMD has expressed interest in SB 52(Steinberg) regarding environmental quality: jobs and economic improvement. (Attached is the bill language and first analysis of the legislation) Verbal report by General Manager**
The committee discussed this legislation and recommended that the bill be amended. The phrase “a minimum investment of \$100,000,000 spent on planning...” could be amended to state, “a minimum investment in conjunction with other projects totaling over \$100,000,000.” This would

facilitate construction of the proposed groundwater replenishment and desalination projects. It was also suggested the language could be changed to state, “\$100,000,000 or \$75,000,000 could be included for groundwater recharge with environmental benefit.” Another option would be to revise the definition of “environmental leadership project” to incorporate groundwater replenishment. The committee suggested that Stoldt confer with the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency on development of amendments, and request that their staff meet with legislators regarding inclusion of amending language into the proposed legislation.

- 10. Lobbying efforts: JEA & Associates will provide a list of committee members from the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife and Senate Natural Resources and Water committees which are believed to be worth meeting with and introducing David Stoldt, General Manager to in the coming months. This will be an ongoing effort to develop support for grant opportunities that MPWMD may be interested in pursuing. (List attached)**
- Stoldt suggested that two members of each of the Senate and Assembly committees listed be identified for staff to work with over the next year. District staff could schedule appointments with legislators and John Laird, Natural Resources Secretary. Stoldt reported that the most recent issuance of grant funds available for Integrated Regional Water Management in the Central Coast Region totaled less than \$6 million and the subsequent release of funds would be only \$12 million.

Other Items

No discussion.

Schedule Next Meeting Date

No date set.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 am.