



## 2019-20 Legislative Advocacy Plan

Adopted April 15, 2019

This plan establishes the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District legislative and government affairs priorities for FY 2019-20.

### **Federal Strategy**

#### 1) Continue relationship and services with The Ferguson Group

- Identifying legislation or proposed regulatory changes that may impact the District.
- Track additional Title XVI and WIIN Act funding for Pure Water Monterey
- Track Trump Administration budget actions and Infrastructure Funding/Financing Proposals
- Consult with staff to develop positions on relevant legislation.
- Advocate the District's position on bills and matters of interest.
- Identify funding opportunities and notify of timing, requirements, and advocate on behalf of District or District's partners (e.g. WaterSMART) for, but not limited to:
  - ✓ Fisheries and watersheds
  - ✓ Pure Water Monterey Expansion
  - ✓ CSIP Annexations
  - ✓ Desalination (if proceeding)
- 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

#### 2) Maintain Washington DC profile:

- Work with The Ferguson Group to organize timely trips as needed, but at least once a year separate from ACWA trip
- Both Congressional delegation and regulatory departments related to water, including but not limited to BLM, NOAA (NMFS), USBR, USDA, and EPA.
- Develop relationships with new staff, e.g. Rep. Panetta's water person moved on. Emphasis on developing staff relationship with Senator Harris office
- Attend ACWA trip each year (Discuss: Every other year?)
- Direct contact with associations including ACWA, WaterReuse, etc.

- 3) Provide support for relevant legislation.
- 4) Perform on existing federal grants:
  - Drought Contingency Plan (\$200,000 USBR to be completed in 2019)
  - Salinas and Carmel Rivers Basin Study (\$900,000 USBR to be completed in 2020)

### **State of California Strategy**

- 1) Monitor and pursue grant opportunities:
  - Proposition 68 (2018): Research allocation of moneys and determine eligibility. Position District to compete for funds.
  - Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP): Projects that monitor status and trends that directly contribute to population viability assessments for ESA-listed anadromous salmonids will be administered through a separate solicitation process outside of the 2019 Fisheries Habitat Restoration solicitation. The District's weir project falls in this category and we need to position the District to apply. Also position the District for a 2020 application for Monitoring Watershed Restoration (MO) for Carmel River in the aftermath of the San Clemente dam removal.
  - IRWM: Update the IRWM Plan, perform project solicitation, prioritize projects. Will maintain our lobbying effort to retain the funding agreement to ensure we receive over \$3 million in the next IRWM rounds of Prop 1 moneys
  - Storm water: Funds are available for multi-benefit storm water management projects. A Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) is required to be eligible for implementation or project-specific planning funding. The SWRP has been finalized and will be appended to the updated IRWM Plan. The District's Local Project Grant to the City of Monterey assisted funding this plan.
- 2) Maintain Sacramento profile:
  - Work with JEA Associates to organize timely trips as needed, but at least once a year separate from needs-based visits.
  - Meet Governor Newsom's new appointee's in relevant key positions
  - Meet with legislative team locally
  - Attend CSDA, ACWA, and/or WaterReuse legislative days
- 3) Provide support/opposition for relevant legislation.
  - Maintain JEA bill-tracking
  - Provide letters of support or opposition on legislation and regulations that affect

the water industry. Current effort on SB 669 as alternative to water tax and proposed SWRCB permanent conservation regulations.

- 4) Develop helpful relationships: ACWA, WaterReuse, Latino Water Coalition

### **Local Strategy**

- 1) Maintain District role in regional water issues related to:
  - Pure Water Monterey – CSIP expansion and expansion for MCWD
  - Los Padres Dam and Reservoir studies
  - Funding plan for portion of desal project
  - Manage local IRWM effort
  - Groundwater Sustainability and Regionalism generally
- 2) Encourage information flow and public participation in Rule 19.8/Measure J feasibility analysis where possible.
- 3) Participate in County-wide efforts (CEQA, OES, Water planning, Carmel River/Lagoon)
- 4) Maintain outreach to local associations government affairs committees (Chambers, MCAR, MCHA, Coalition of Peninsula Businesses, jurisdictions' mayors and councils); Meet new councilmembers and board members.
- 5) Better articulate CPUC activities to local ratepayer groups