



FINAL MINUTES
Legislative Advocacy Committee of the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
December 12, 2016

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 pm in the MPWMD conference room.

Committee members present: David Potter, Chair
Robert S. Brower, Sr.
Andrew Clarke

Committee members absent: None

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

District Counsel present: David C. Laredo

Comments from the Public: No comments.

Action Items

1. **Adopt Minutes of March 18 and March 29, 2016 Committee Meetings**
On a motion by Brower and second of Clarke, the minutes were approved as presented on a vote of 3 – 0 by Brower, Clarke and Potter.

2. **Develop Recommendation to the Board of Directors on Retention of Federal Legislative Consultant**
Brower offered a motion that was seconded by Clarke, to recommend that the Board of Directors authorize a contract with The Ferguson Group for up to \$40,000 to be paid at an hourly rate. The General Manager will work with the contractor on development of a scope of work for services through June 30, 2017. The goal will be to develop a full scope of work and contract with The Ferguson Group under retainer for the next fiscal year. The committee also suggested that the General Manager speak with Nossaman LLP about services it might provide related to grant funding.

Discussion Items

3. **Report from John Arriaga on Legislative Status and Tracking**
John Arriaga reviewed a report titled, 2016 Budget and Legislative Report: Highlights and Emerging Issues that is on file at the Water Management District website. He stated that during that 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions, water legislation addressed the continuing drought. He noted that transportation and housing will be the focus in the upcoming legislative session, and that one of Governor Brown's priority projects is the proposed Delta water tunnel. Arriaga expressed concern that the California legislature will not be focused on water issues, instead it will be responding to edicts from the incoming Federal administration.

4. Development of Legislative Platform

The committee members agreed that a state and federal legislative agenda must be developed for the upcoming two-year legislative session. There should be a focus on educating regulatory and policy agency managers about Water Management District priorities, and developing relationships with legislators.

5. Update on State Water Bond

Stoldt reported the following. (a) The City of Salinas received a \$10 million grant from the Proposition 1 Water Bond that will facilitate construction of a return pipeline from the Salinas industrial ponds, so that stormwater could accumulate in the winter and be transmitted for treatment in the summer and utilized in the dry months. This will benefit the Pure Water Monterey project. (b) The Central Coast planning regions involved in the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program agreed that any money awarded to the regions would be split based on an agreed upon formula. When funds are awarded, it is unknown if the Department of Water Resources will allow the “formulaic” distribution because the first round of funding was set aside for “disadvantaged communities.” Negotiations are underway regarding distribution of those funds. (c) A financing package to qualify for \$15 million in grant funding for Pure Water Monterey should be submitted by the January 15, 2017 deadline.

6. Discuss Status of Feinstein Rider to Water Resources Development Act

Stoldt stated that at the request of ACWA, the Water Management District sent letters of support for passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 to Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and Representative Sam Farr. The Act was approved and sent to President Obama for signature. The Act includes \$550 million for California water projects. Of that amount, \$30 million is set aside for desalination. However, distribution is limited to 25 percent of costs and may only fund “state sponsored” projects. Funding is available in the Act for water recycling projects, so Pure Water Monterey may be eligible. The Act also includes de-authorization of previously funded projects that have not been developed. The amount that would be available for California is less than \$100 million.

7. ACWA Washington DC Conference/Meet with Sacramento Legislators

No discussion.

Other Items: No other items were discussed.

Set Next Meeting Date

No meeting scheduled.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.