



**FINAL**

**MINUTES**

**Legislative Advocacy Committee of the  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District**

*June 18, 2020*

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm. This was a virtual meeting conducted via WebEx.

**Committee members present:**

David Potter, Chair  
Jeanne Byrne  
Alvin Edwards (joined at 2:13 pm)

**Committee members absent:**

None

**Staff members present:**

David J. Stoldt, General Manager  
Arlene Tavani, Executive Assistant  
Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Division Manager

**District Counsel present:**

David Laredo

**Legislative Consultant:**

John Arriaga, A&E Associates  
Laurie Johnson, A&E Associates  
Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group  
William Ferguson Jr., The Ferguson Group  
Chris Kearney, The Ferguson Group  
Stephanie Missert, The Ferguson Group

**Comments from the Public:**

No comments.

**Action Items**

**1. Adopt Minutes of December 12, 2019 and March 24, 2020 Committee Meetings**

On a motion by Byrne and seconded by Potter, the committee meeting minutes were approved on a vote of 2 – 0 by Byrne and Potter. Edwards was absent for the vote.

**Discussion Items**

**2. Report from JEA & Associates on Legislative Status and Bill Tracking**

Johnson reported that due to the COVID 19 pandemic, budget constraints and closure of legislative offices have impeded progress on legislation. The focus was on adoption of COVID 19 related legislation such as housing, rent relief and all-mail voting. JEA & Associates identified several California bills to be tracked. There was consensus from the committee to support the following bills. AB1958, Cooper, an ACWA supported bill that would prohibit altering or modifying levies. It was intended to prohibit the proliferation of homeless encampments on levies. AB2560, Quirk, an ACWA supported bill that would require the SWRCB to comply with notification requirements related to water quality standards. AB2954, Rivas, regarding reductions to greenhouse gas emissions associated with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB3005, Rivas, regarding Leroy Anderson Dam and Reservoir, permitting, and public contracting. SB1099, Dodd, regarding rules on installation

of backup generators for critical facilities. A bill to place on the watch list was SB1293, regarding the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank: Sea Level Rise Revolving Loan Program.

**3. Report from The Ferguson Group on Federal Legislative Status and bill Tracking**

Roger Gwinn reported that the focus at the federal level was law enforcement reform and COVID 19 relief. There was an effort by California representatives to ensure that Special Districts receive COVID 19 relief and funding for fire management. Chris Kearney and Stephanie Missert reviewed water infrastructure related legislation including reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act and additional funding that may be available under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act.

The committee reviewed a summary of proposed legislation submitted by The Ferguson Group on June 18, 2020 that is available for review on the District's website. One bill of interest was HR2, the Moving Forward Act, which had just been introduced. The language of the bill was not available at the time of the meeting, but it was expected to include funds for water infrastructure including water recycling. There was consensus among committee members that the following bills should be supported. HR1162, Napolitano, the Water Recycling and Investment and Improvement Act. HR2313, Huffman, Water Conservation Rebate Tax Party Act which clarified that homeowners who received rebates from water utilities for water conservation fixtures would not pay income tax on the rebate. HR2665, McNerny, Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Act of 2019, that would award grants for development of water, wastewater and water reuse systems. HR4891, Xochitl Torres Small, Western Water Security Act of 2019 that would provide additional funding for the Department of Water Resources WaterSMART program. Stoldt noted that the District previously sent a letter of support for HR7073, Garamendi, that would amend the Social Security Act to include special districts in the coronavirus relief fund.

**4. Report from General Manager on Recent or Upcoming Legislative Actions**

Stoldt summarized information provided in the staff report.

**5. Strategy for Advocating with State Agencies to Solve the Inconsistency between Condition No. 2 and State Housing Authorities**

Stoldt reported that SB330, the California Housing Crises Act of 2019, stated that no local government could declare a moratorium on housing, and that development of affordable housing could not be prevented except for specific reasons including lack of water or wastewater infrastructure. The jurisdictions needed water to meet housing requirements established by the State. The District developed a plan for distribution of 75 acre-feet of water conservation savings to the jurisdictions for development of housing. The goal was to coordinate with the Department of Housing and Community Development and Nancy Skinner, the author of SB330, and determine if the issue of health and safety could be prioritized so that a negotiated settlement with the State Water Resources Control Board would result in authorization to distribute the conservation savings. JEA & Associates were tasked to schedule multiple virtual meetings with State representatives in order to gain support for this proposal.

**6. Suggest Items to be Placed on Future Agendas**

No discussion.

**Other Items:** District Counsel should report to the Board on the requirement that the City of Monterey indemnify the District against legal challenge related to allocation of water to the project at 2000 and 2600 Garden Road.

**Adjournment:** 3:30 pm.