



**Final Minutes
Legislative Advocacy Committee of the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Thursday, March 9, 2023**

The meeting was conducted via Teleconference – by Zoom.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Paull.

Committee Members Present: Karen Paull, Chair
Mary L. Adams (*Left at 12:09 p.m.*)
Ian Oglesby

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: David J. Stoldt, General Manager
Joel G. Pablo, Board Clerk

District Counsel Present: None

Legislative Consultant: John Arriaga, JEA &
Associates
Laurie Johnson, JEA &
Associates
Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group
Chris Griffin, The Ferguson Group

Comments from the Public: Chair Paull opened public comment; *no comments were directed to the committee.*

Action Item

1. Consider Adoption of the December 7, 2021 and June 16, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Paull introduced the matter. Board Clerk Pablo stated at the last meeting the committee members tabled the December 7, 2021 and June 16, 2022 to a future meeting date. He explained that since the October 2022 meeting both sets of minutes have been transmitted electronically for review and received no substantive edits to the draft sets of minutes.

A motion was offered by Adams with a second from Paull to approve the December 7, 2021 and June 16, 2022 Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed on a roll-call vote of 3-Ayes (Paull, Adams and Oglesby), 0-Noes and 0-Absent.

Discussion Items

2. Report from The Ferguson Group on Federal Legislative and Regulatory Activities

David J. Stoldt provided introductory remarks. He spoke briefly about the Stormwater Master Plan developed by Monterey One Water (M1W) and The Ferguson Group's work on securing an allocation of \$20 million from the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Roger Gwinn made the following points that included, but are not limited to:

1. The District plans to submit a \$2.15 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations process for the Stormwater Master Plan developed by Monterey One Water.
2. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
 - a. Explained that the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) allocation of \$20 million and authorization are for projects tied to water supply, infrastructure, and investments on the Monterey Peninsula.
 - b. Shared the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) internal processes for reviewing submissions and draft projects.
 - c. Stoldt shared that Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer is compiling a list of projects that may fit the Corps requirements. He plans to work and coordinate with the San Francisco Regional Office of the Corps to secure WRDA funding.
 - d. "Monterey Peninsula Stormwater Diversion and Recycling Program" has been coined as a term to use to obtain federal funding and to cover a broad range of current and future District projects.
3. Stated TFG's intention to work with the District on the Infrastructure Package and other opportunities as they arise. \$18.1 Billion has been allocated to the State of California.
4. The Bureau of Reclamation will be announcing a new program entitled the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Project and is modeled under the Corps authority.
5. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in May 2023: Currently, in its 2nd year of funding opportunity for fish passage and for barrier removals.
6. President Biden released the FY 2024 Budget and plans to circulate a memo to committee members covering specific highlights from the budget.

7. U.S. Senator Padilla will be serving as the next Senate Environment and Public Works - Chair to Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife. Briefly described his new role as Chair and his background in assisting the District on WRDA appropriations.

David J. Stoldt, General Manager mentioned a press conference was organized by the U.S. Department of Interior on March 6, 2023 to discuss and share the achievements of the Pure Water Monterey project. He shared that the conference is part of a tour orchestrated by the U.S. Department of Interior to make known how monies from the Infrastructure law is benefiting local communities. He commented those in attendance included Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science (U.S. Dept. of Interior); Representative Jimmy Panetta; Paul Scuito of Monterey One Water; and Joaquin Esquivel, Chairman of the State Water Resources Control Board. *Paull, Adams and Oglesby asked District staff to make the Board members aware of any and all future press conferences and see if an opportunity exists to extend the invite to at least one Board member.*

Chris Griffin covered the federal bills being covered by the TFG on behalf of the District to include, but not limited to:

1. STREAM Act (Feinstein, Kelly and Sinema) – Will need to be reintroduced to the 118th Congress
2. 2023 Farm Bill
 - a. Focus on nutrition and conservation programs to include land, forestry and water.
 - b. Currently being deliberated on in various committee hearings in the House and Senate
3. The Building U.S. Infrastructure Through Limited Delays and Efficient Reviews (H.R. 2515) or Builder Act

No public comments were directed to the Committee.

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

John Arriaga provided introductory remarks and welcomed Oglesby to the committee. Arriaga provided the following highlights to include, but not limited to:

1. State Legislature commenced the start of a new two-year session in December 2022.
2. Met with Incoming Speaker Robert Rivas to make him aware of the District's issues.
3. Touched upon the January and March 2023 rains and flooding issues.

4. Homeless, Housing and Opioids are areas of focus for the legislature.

Laurie Johnson provided an overview of Exhibit 3-A: JEA & Associates Memo dated March 29, 2023 and Exhibit 3-B: Legislative Tracker. She noted that the State Legislature has introduced approximately 2,600 bills and are honed-in on bills related to water storage, water bills and bond bills. She provided an update on the Governor’s proposed 2023-24 Budget and noted the budget continues its multi-year investments in the amount of \$8.6 billion in Water & Drought. Johnson touched upon the state’s continuing efforts to update Water Rights Data for CA Project. *In response to Paull*, Johnson stated that ACWA is an active and a highly influential group at the state level. Johnson mentioned that JEA & Associates have been participating in ACWA stakeholder groups focused on policy priorities and to develop water storage policies. She noted, unlike previous years there is now interest in bonds focused on water, wildfires and forest management. Johnson anticipates the Governor’s office will be issuing a new Executive Order rescinding Stage 2 water restriction. Stoldt stressed that the District has advocated and pushed for regional approach to water orders as opposed to Statewide approach or a “one size fits all” approach.

Arriaga mentioned that he has an upcoming meeting with Representative Addis slated for March 16th to provide her a brief on MPWMD issues and a tour of the Pure Water Monterey Project. He noted his connections and ongoing interactions with U.S. Senator Padilla, CA State Senator Laird and Representative Rivas directly and/or their staff on various issues to include water, flooding and agriculture. Stoldt stated that he had met with Senator Laird in October 2022 on the District’s legislative interests to include the District’s “LAFCO issue” or to clarify the sell of potable water AND statewide funding for purchased water for protective groundwater levels in the Seaside Basin.

No public comments were directed to the Committee.

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

None.

5. Discuss and Recommend a Legislative Outreach Plan for 2023

David J. Stoldt, General Manager provided an overview of Exhibit 5-A: Draft 2023 Legislative Advocacy Plan, answered committee questions and recommended approval to the full board.

No public comments were directed to the Committee.

Other Items

6. Suggest Items to Place on a Future Committee Agenda

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Paull adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

/ s/: Joel G. Pablo

Joel G. Pablo, Committee Clerk to the
MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee

Approved by the Legislative Advocacy Committee on June 28, 2023

Received by the MPWMD Board of Directors on July 17, 2023