



**Final Minutes
Legislative Advocacy Committee of the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Wednesday, October 19, 2022**

Pursuant to AB 361, the meeting was conducted with virtual participation via Zoom.

Call to Order

Chair Paull called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Committee members present: Karen Paull, Chair
Alvin Edwards
Safwat Malek

Committee members absent: None

Staff members present: David J. Stoldt, General Manager
Joel G. Pablo, Committee Clerk

District Counsel present: David C. Laredo with De Lay and Laredo

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

Comments from the Public: No comments were directed to the committee.

Action Item

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

The committee considered adoption of the meeting minutes as presented. The Committee Clerk mentioned the December 7, 2021 meeting minutes were sent under separate cover and not included in the committee packet for consideration. Paull, Malek and Edwards agreed to table and consider adoption of the December 7, 2021 and June 16, 2022 committee meeting minutes at its next scheduled meeting of the Legislative Advocacy Committee.

No public attendees; no comments were directed to the Committee.

Discussion Items

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

Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group provided a brief overview of Exhibit 2-A: Quarterly Legislative Report and answered committee questions. He made the following points to include, but are not limited to:

1. Congress in recess until November 14, 2022 following the mid-term elections.
2. **Fiscal Year 2022-23 Appropriations**
 - a. Congress adopted a stopgap spending bill (commonly referred to as a continuing resolution) to continue funding the government past September 22, 2022.
 - b. Gwinn anticipates a FY 2023 Appropriations bill to be adopted by end of year.
3. **\$20 Million for Small Water Storage Projects:** Cost-sharing grants are available through the Bureau of Reclamation for small surface and groundwater storage projects of not less than 2,000 Acre Feet (AF) and not more than 30,000 AF. Application for funding is due by December 9, 2022.
4. Announced Cybersecurity grants and educational opportunities are available through the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.
5. *Other Legislation*
 - a. **Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act (H.R. 5118)** that includes provisions of the FUTURE Western Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act (Huffman) was adopted by the House authorizing additional federal funding for water reuse, desalination and drinking water projects in underserved communities.
 - b. **STREAM Act, S. 4231 (Feinstein)**, additional hearings are expected on the matter.
 - c. Expects passage of **FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act** by December 2023.
 - d. **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA):** Anticipates bill to be passed by end of CY 2022. Includes \$20 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to invest in water supply, wastewater and environmental restoration projects on the Monterey Peninsula and as requested by Representative Panetta.

Stoldt stated that on the **WRDA** effort, Monterey Peninsula water agencies and cities

will meet to discuss and identify several potential projects. Stoldt commented that he has received information from Gwinn on the Corps project requirements and hopes to send a series of projects for their consideration.

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

David J. Stoldt provided introductory remarks. JEA & Associates provided an overview his memo and answered committee questions. Arriaga stated the (1) The CA Legislature finished its 2021-22 session on August 30 and the new 2023-24 session will commence in December 2022; and (2) Briefly covered a number of bills covering climate change, farm worker legislation; (3) Mentioned that he will be monitoring for any funding opportunities that may be of interest to the District; (4) Assemblymember Dawn Addis mentioned to Arriaga that she would like to know more and spend more time learning about the District. Johnson covered the Drought Response and Water Resilience Package and commented that she is monitoring and will learn about the guidelines to obtain funding for the District.

No public attendees; no comments were directed to the Committee.

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

David J. Stoldt, General Manager will work with Laird on the following: (1) Drafting special legislation pertaining to the LAFCO denial of the District's application; specifically, to clarify the sell of potable water; (2) Discussing options and securing State funds for the Seaside water basin; and (3) Provide a progress report of the \$4.8 million for Pure Water Monterey- Well No. 6.

No public attendees; no comments were directed to the Committee.

Other Items

5. Suggest Items to Place on a Future Committee Agenda

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Paull adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

/s/: Joel G. Pablo

Committee Clerk

MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee

Adopted by the Legislative Advocacy Committee on June 28, 2023

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