



## FINAL MINUTES

### **Legislative Advocacy Committee of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District** *Monday, February 22, 2021*

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair Riley. *This was a virtual meeting conducted via Zoom.*

#### **Committee members present:**

George Riley, Chair  
Karen Paull  
Division 3 – Director, *Vacant Seat*  
Alvin Edwards, Alternate

#### **Committee members absent:**

None

#### **Staff members present:**

David J. Stoldt, General Manager  
Joel G. Pablo, Board Clerk

#### **District Counsel present:**

David Laredo, Esq.

#### **Legislative Consultant:**

John Arriaga, JEA & Associates  
Laurie Johnson, JEA & Associates  
Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group  
William Ferguson Jr., The Ferguson Group  
Chris Kearney, The Ferguson Group  
Stephanie Missert, The Ferguson Group  
Rebecca Bliss, The Ferguson Group

#### **Comments from the Public:**

No comments.

#### **Action Items**

##### **1. Consider Adoption of September 22, 2020 Committee Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Edwards and second by Paull to approve the committee meeting minutes of September 22, 2020. The motion passes unanimously on a vote of 3-Ayes (Edwards, Paull and Riley), 0-Noes and 0-Absent.

##### **2. Adopt 2021 Meeting Schedule**

A motion was made by Edwards and second by Paull to approve the 2021 Meeting Schedule. The motion passes unanimously on a vote of 3-Ayes (Edwards, Paull and Riley), 0-Noes and 0-Absent.

## Discussion Items

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

John Arriaga and Laurie Johnson with JEA & Associates presented this item, summarized the memo and highlighted a few legislative items on the bill tracking matrix included with the packet. Arriaga provided introductory remarks, covered state-wide executive and legislative actions as it relates to COVID-19 and provided a positive outlook on the state's current financial condition. Arriaga mentioned to the committee that as bills are being placed and considered at the state-level his group is working on identifying bills of interest to the district with various water groups like ACWA and in partnership with Dave Stoldt. Laurie Johnson with JEA & Associates re-iterated Arriaga's talking points and explained further on state-wide efforts as it relates COVID-19. Johnson explained that legislation being considered by the state are heavy on climate change and infrastructure and include other proposals such as wildlife mitigation and funding, land clearing, Brown Act- Zoom option and the housing moratorium just to name a few. Johnson stressed that she will have to sift through approximately 1600 bills as it relates to the district and bring those back to the committee for further discussion. Johnson outlined a few bills being considered to include Senate Bill (SB) 5- Atkins, SB 45 Portantino, Assembly Bill (AB) 1500 and noted that other elected representatives are working on their climate measures. Johnson highlighted and elaborated on Assembly Member Rivas's work as Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee and the broad, yet important undertaking the committee has in dealing with sustainable agriculture, wildlife, prescribed burnings, food insecurities and potentially some water provisions. As these bills are introduced Johnson explained her reviewal process, her work with ACWA and bringing them to light with the District.

### 4. **Report from The Ferguson Group on Federal Legislative Status and Regulatory Activities**

Roger Gwinn with the Ferguson Group provided introductory remarks and welcomed Stephanie Missert to provide a report on Federal Legislative Status and Regulatory Activities. Stephanie presented via MS PowerPoint Presentation. *A copy of the presentation is available upon request at the district office and can viewed on the district's webpage.* Missert covered 2020 Election Outcomes, FY2021/FY2022 Appropriations/Budget, FY2021 WaterSMART- WIIN Act Funding Updates, Water Infrastructure Bills with the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, MPWMD Priorities and Biden Administration Updates and answered questions from the committee.

Public Comment: None

### 5. **Report on Legislative Outreach for Calendar Year 2021**

GM Stoldt provided an overview of outreach efforts locally, state-wide and federally. Stoldt explained efforts to reach out locally have been made difficult due to Covid-19 and generalized on potential reasons why the district has not been invited to the Monterey County Hospitality Association or the Business Coalition. However, he did stressed participation at the local level is integral to the district. Stoldt acknowledged JEA & Associates and the Ferguson Group as outreach partners monitoring legislation at the state and federal levels and in facilitating the Legislative Advocacy Plan for the district.

Public Comment: None

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

*No report was provided for Item No. 6 was provided.*

Public Comment: None

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

The General Manager and the committee via consensus agreed to have the Legislative Advocacy Plan to be considered for adoption at the MPWMD Board of Director's meeting on March 15, 2021.

**Other Items**

No discussion.

**Adjournment:** Chair Riley adjourns the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

*Joel G. Pablo*

---

Joel G. Pablo, Board Clerk

Reviewed and Approved by the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee on May 25, 2021

Received by the MPWMD Board of Directors on June 21, 2021

U:\staff\Boardpacket\2021\20210621\Informational Items\39\Item-39-Exh-A.docx