



**Final Minutes
Legislative Advocacy Committee of the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Thursday, June 16, 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, Board Clerk

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

Legislative Consultant: None

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

Action Items

1. Consider Adoption of March 29, 2022 Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Paull introduced the matter.

Opened Public Comment; no comments were directed to the Committee.

A motion was offered by Edwards with a second from Malek to approve the March 29, 2022 Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed on a roll-call vote of 3-Ayes (Paull, Edwards and Malek), 0-Noes and 0-Absent.

Discussion Items

2. Discuss Federal Lobbyist Consultant Contract

David J. Stoldt, General Manager introduced the matter, provided a brief overview of past accomplishments by The Ferguson Group (TFG) and answered committee questions. He commented TFG would like to continue working with the District and they recognized the needs of the District has been reduce thus they have agreed to reduce their monthly fixed rate fee to \$6,000.

Based on discussions had, Director Paull and Edwards are comfortable with keeping TFG as the District's federal lobbyist. Director Edwards stated he would like for the District to conduct an RFP for a federal lobbyist in the future and who can provide grant writing services to find funding opportunities for replenishment in the Seaside Basin. *In response to Committee Member Edwards*, Stoldt commented TFG can be tasked with writing grants on behalf of the District. After much deliberation, committee consensus was reached to keep TFG as the District's federal lobbyist for the current Fiscal Year.

Opened Public Comment; no comments were directed to the Committee.

3. Discuss State Lobbyist Consultant Contract

David J. Stoldt, General Manager provided introductory remarks, provided a brief overview of past accomplishments by JEA and Associates with the District and the Association of California Water Agencies, and answered committee questions. Director Edwards requested for JEA and Associates to provide: (1) Grant Writing Services; and (2) lobby and attempt to receive funding to subsidize replenishment water in the Seaside Basin. After much deliberation, committee consensus was reached to keep JEA and Associates as the District's state lobbyist for the current Fiscal Year.

Opened Public Comment; no comments were directed to the Committee.

4. Update on Recent Legislative and Regulatory Activities

David J. Stoldt, General Manager introduced the item, provided an overview of his staff note and answered committee questions. The following points were made:

1. SB1157 (Hertzberg): The District signed onto a coalition letter of opposition to the bill. The bill changes the standards for interior water use and commented going from 52 to 42 would difficult to achieve.
2. Edwards requested clarification on Exhibit 4-A: Proposed Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) language. *In response to Edwards*, Stoldt commented the bill is moving along in the process with the House and Senate working out their differences in the various versions submitted and deliberated on. If successful further discussion with the Army Corps of Engineers will be had and access to the funding to be made available in the Fiscal 2024 appropriation.
3. Stoldt stated the District previously submitted and was denied for a fish barrier removal grant offered through the California Fish Passage Forum. He noted the District intends to apply for a similar grant funding opportunity through the National Marine Fisheries Services.

Other Items

5. Suggest Items to Place on a Future Committee Agenda

Chair Paull remarked that she would like to hear an update on funding to subsidize replenishment water in the Seaside Basin.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Paull adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

/ s/ Joel G. Pablo, Board Clerk for the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee