



**Final Minutes**  
**Legislative Advocacy Committee of the**  
**Monterey Peninsula Water Management District**  
**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Chair Karen Paull.

**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:** None

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

**Comments from the Public:** No comments

**Action Items**

**1. Consider Adoption of August 24, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Opened Public Comment; no comment received.*

A motion was offered by Malek with a second from Edwards to approve the August 24, 2021 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. Report from The Ferguson Group on Federal Legislative and Regulatory Activities**

David J. Stoldt, General Manager and Roger Gwinn with the Ferguson Group provided introductory remarks.

Chris Kearney provided a brief federal legislative overview of pending and recently signed legislation. Kearney stated the President's proposed budget was released on Monday, March 28,

2022 and serves as and is viewed as a political roadmap of the President’s priorities. Kearney covered recently signed legislation to include: H.R. 2471- the “Consolidated Appropriations Bill;” the Infrastructure Bill and Build Back Better Bill. Kearney noted that 2022 is an election year; and bills that come to the forefront with bipartisan support are bills like the Enhanced American Competitiveness Against China. On the Infrastructure Bill, approximately \$8.3 billion in guaranteed funding have been directed to the Bureau of Reclamation to be spent over a period of five years. The Bureau will be able to allocate approximately \$1.8 billion per year to existing programs and accounts in an orderly fashion while prioritizing projects/accounts throughout various regions and hone-in on ready to go projects.

Dave Stoldt, General Manager stated Monterey One Water (M1W) with the assistance of the District; submitted an application to the Bureau of Reclamation for funding on Pure Water Monterey Expansion a number of weeks prior to the committee meeting and answered questions.

Roger Gwinn provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Bill signed into law on March 15, 2022 noting that the Bureau of Reclamation received \$1.9 billion in funding or an increase of \$231 million over Fiscal Year 2021. In the package, Gwinn informed the committee that there is funding for various water priorities and needs to include water efficiency and water reuse programs just to name a few. Furthermore, Gwinn stated that proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget released on March 28, 2022 is moving right along in the process; and allows for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of earmarks to be requested through a member of the House of Representatives. Both the District and Gwinn are working together on requesting an earmark through Congressman Panetta’s office on the Fish Passage Program and will solicit letters of support on the proposed earmark. Gwinn covered the Water Resources Development Act; and Stoldt directed attention to Exhibit 2-A, 4-A and 4-B and answered committee questions. Stoldt requested and received consensus from the committee to send a letter of support on the STREAM Act.

*Opened Public Comment; No comments were directed to the Committee.*

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

John Arriaga with JEA & Associates provided introductory remarks and focused in on the State’s legislative activities to include carry over matters from the previous year and hot button issues including climate change, COVID-19, housing, and water/drought concerns. The State will provide more funding for education/awareness of the drought conditions and will be considering moving from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of conservation efforts.

Johnson provided an overview of Exhibit 3-A (Memo from JEA & Associates) and 3-B (MPWMD Legislative Track). Stoldt and Johnson with JEA and Associates provided their recommended positions on the following legislative bills and answered committee questions:

Support	AB 2387 (E. Garcia); AB 2811 (Bennett); SB 1188 (Laird) and SB 1197 (Support)
Oppose	SB 1124 (Archuleta)
Possible Oppose	SB 1157 (Hertzberg)

By committee consensus, the Committee recommended to:

Support	AB 2387 (E. Garcia); AB 2811 (Bennett); SB 1188 (Laird) and SB 1197 (Support)
Oppose	SB 1124 (Archuleta)
Possible Oppose	SB 1157 (Hertzberg)

Furthermore, the committee expressed a desire to be informed of significant changes to any of the legislative bills formally/informally; and for AB 1157 (Hertzberg) to be discussed further at the next MPWMD Water Demand Committee.

Johnson covered and answered committee questions on (1) SWRCB Drinking Water Needs Assessment Proposal and Overview of Proposed Changes; and (2) Drought Emergency Orders Condition II/Housing as summarized in her memorandum. Stoldt and Johnson touched upon a letter dated March 17, 2022 authored by Mr. Uslar, City Manager for the City of Monterey to the State Water Resources Control Board, re: *City of Monterey Regional Housing Needs Allocation*.

Stoldt directed attention to the MPWMD Legislative Tracker and Johnson noted the tracker is a more thorough look of bills they are following with their recommended positions.

*Opened Public Comment; The following comments were directed to the committee:*

- (a) John Tilley: Addressed the committee on a variety of issues from rationing, the Water Supply Project and water supplies/demand as it relates to housing and needs of the hospitality industry.

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

David J. Stoldt, General Manager directed attention and provided an overview of Exhibits 4-A, 4-B and 4-C and answered committee questions.

Stoldt sought committee input and position on Exhibit 4-C (AB 2639). By committee consensus, the committee did not take a position on Assembly Bill 2639 (Quirk, D-Hayward).

*Opened Public Comment; No comments were directed to the Committee.*

#### **5. Discuss and Recommend a Legislative Outreach Plan for 2022**

David J. Stoldt, General Manager directed attention to Exhibit 5-A: 2022 Draft Legislative Outreach Plan, answered committee questions and sought committee direction.

By committee consensus, the committee recommended the 2022 Draft Legislative Outreach Plan to be considered for approval under *Action Items* at the Monday, April 18, 2022 regularly scheduled meeting.

*Opened Public Comment; No 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 3:57 p.m.

/s/ Joel G. Pablo

Board Clerk for the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee

Approved by the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee on June 16, 2022

Received by the MPWMD Board of Director's on June 20, 2022