



FINAL MINUTES

Legislative Advocacy Committee of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District *March 24, 2020*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm. This was a virtual meeting conducted via WebEx.

Committee members present:

David Potter, Chair
Jeanne Byrne
Alvin Edwards

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

David J. Stoldt, General Manager
Arlene Tavani, Executive Assistant

District Counsel present:

No

Legislative Consultant:

John Arriaga, A&E Associates
Laurie Johnson, A&E Associates
Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group
Stephanie Missert, The Ferguson Group
Chris Kearney, The Ferguson Group

Comments from the Public:

No comments.

Action Items

1. **Develop Recommendation to the Board on 2020 Legislative Advocacy Plan**

On a motion by Potter and second of Edwards, the committee recommended that the Board of Directors should adopt the 2020 Legislative Advocacy Plan. The motion was approved on a vote of 3 – 0 by Potter, Edwards and Byrne.

Discussion Items

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

Ms. Johnson reported that before the California State legislature shut down on March 15, 2020, they approved \$500 million in funding towards containment of the COVID pandemic. She reviewed Exhibit 2-B, updating the committee on discussions with ACWA on development of a water bond that Governor Newsome would like added to the November 3, 2020 general election. She also reported that legislation had been introduced to fund repair of Anderson Dam, and the proponent stated that if the dam failed, flooding would occur in Monterey County. More information would be provided to General Manager Stoldt.

Mr. Ariaga reviewed Exhibit 2-A, MPWMD draft Legislative Track. The following bills were highlighted in the discussion. AB 1839 – Climate Change, California Green New Deal – recommend taking a watch position. AB 2093 – retention of writings transmitted by email – the District opposed this in 2019 and the recommendation was to continue opposition. AB 2482 – Agriculture:

environmental farming programs and grants – recommend support. AB 2619 – Coastal resources: Program for coastal resilience, adaptation, and access – recommended taking a watch position as the scope was very broad. SB 1028 – Agriculture: Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995: Environmental Farming Incentive Program – recommended a watch position on this legislation because it deals with agriculture, best to determine how the County of Monterey stands on this before taking a position. SB 1096 – Water and sewer systems corporations: consolidation of service – recommend take a watch position. SB 1372 – Wildlife corridors and connectivity; Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection and Movement Act of 2020 – recommend taking a watch position.

3. Report from Ferguson Group on Federal Activities

Representatives from the Ferguson Group reviewed Exhibits 3-A and 3-B with the committee. They also reviewed Exhibit 3-C, Water Legislative Tracker, and offered to provide the report on a monthly basis to keep the District apprised of changes in the status of proposed legislation. It was determined that District staff would advise the consultant as to which legislation should be tracked.

4. Discuss and Provide General Guidance on District Support/Oppose Positions

The committee expressed an interest in reviewing letters from advocacy groups requesting that the District take positions of support or opposition to proposed legislation. The committee would also like to review proposed responses from the District. It was suggested that this question of providing guidance might be submitted to the Board for discussion.

Other Items: No discussion.

Adjournment: 4:55 pm.

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