



**Final Minutes
Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.
Meeting Location: Zoom**

Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Oglesby called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Ian Oglesby, Chair
Karen Paull
George Riley

Committee Members Absent

None

District Staff Members Present

David Stoldt, General Manager
Mike McCullough, Assistant General Manager

District Staff Members Absent

Sara Reyes, Board Clerk

District Counsel Present

Michael Laredo, De Lay & Laredo

Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

None

Comments from the Public

No members of the public were present.

Action Items

Chair Oglesby introduced this item.

1. Consider Adoption of Committee Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2026

On a motion by Paull, seconded by Riley, the minutes of the February 11, 2026 committee meeting were approved by a vote of 3 Ayes (Oglesby, Riley and Paull), and 0 Noes.

Discussion Items

Chair Oglesby introduced this item.

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

Roger Gwinn presented the second quarterly federal legislative update for 2026, noting that the District's stormwater and Seaside well monitoring projects were not included in FY26 and FY27 requests due to an emphasis on shovel-ready projects. He highlighted ongoing coordination with congressional offices, potential competitive grant opportunities, and planning for FY28.

Mr. Gwinn also reported improvement in WaterSmart funding and noted that the program supports water-use efficiency projects, with continued federal interest in groundwater investments. The presentation is available on the District's website.

Chris Cummins reviewed key federal legislative updates, including bills affecting Endangered Species Act oversight, groundwater recharge funding, and water infrastructure. He highlighted the More Water

Act's support for recycling and conveyance projects, and provided updates on the WRDA process and potential WIFIA loan term extensions..

Chris Kearney reported that the administration is reviewing certain PFAS regulations and seeking public comment. He highlighted EPA infrastructure funding opportunities, noted extended compliance timelines, and discussed ongoing considerations around "passive receiver" liability. He added that federal water funding is expected to remain stable despite proposed budget reductions.

Roger Gwinn noted potential opportunities tied to a possible third congressional reconciliation package, which could provide additional funding for drought response and water-related projects, including WaterSmart, aquifer storage and recovery, and water reuse.

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

John Arriaga noted that the Legislature is in a critical phase with bills being finalized or moving forward, making it a timely point for the update. He highlighted a busy year for state legislation, including active District engagement and a bill introduced by Senator Laird. He also noted the ongoing state budget process, improving revenue outlook, and additional pressures from election-year dynamics.

Laurie Johnson provided a state budget and legislative update, noting improved short-term revenues but caution about future deficits and no significant new water investments. She reported progress on the District-sponsored SB 1139 and highlighted concerns with AB 1548, which would create a regional authority with taxing and bonding powers and is generating opposition among local agencies. She noted the District is monitoring developments and continuing coordination with regional partners.

John Arriaga and Laurie Johnson provided an overview of upcoming ballot initiatives, including a voter ID measure, housing streamlining efforts, and proposals affecting local tax thresholds. They noted likely opposition to measures increasing tax requirements and discussed a potential wealth tax initiative and related countermeasures. Staff will continue monitoring qualifications and election outcomes.

Suggest Items to Be Placed on a Future Agenda

No items were suggested.

Adjournment

General Manager Stoldt adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

/s/ Sara Reyes

Sara Reyes, Board Clerk to the
MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee

Approved by the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee on May 26, 2026.

Received by the MPWMD Board of Director's on September 28, 2026.