



**Final Minutes
Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Location: Zoom**

Call to Order / Roll Call

Director Paull called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. and chaired the meeting.

Committee Members Present

Karen Paull
George Riley (Alternate)

Committee Members Absent

Ian Oglesby, Chair
Kate Daniels

District Staff Members Present

David Stoldt, General Manager
Mike McCullough, Assistant General Manager
Sara Reyes, Board Clerk

District Staff Members Absent

None

District Counsel Present

Michael Laredo, De Lay & Laredo

Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

None

Comments from the Public

Director Paull opened the public comment period; however, no members of the public were present.

Action Items

Director Paull introduced this item.

1. Consider Adoption of Committee Meeting Minutes from July 28, 2025

On a motion by Riley, seconded by Paull, the minutes of the July 28, 2025 committee meeting were approved by a vote of 2-0 (Ayes: Riley and Paull; Noes: 0; Absent: Oglesby).

Discussion Items

Director Paull introduced this item.

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

Roger Gwinn summarized recent federal actions, including:

- Resolution of the 43-day federal government shutdown through a continuing resolution signed by President Trump, funding agencies at FY 2025 levels through January 30, 2026.

- Impacts of the shutdown, including furloughs and an estimated 1.5% reduction in GDP
- Major components of the legislation: back-pay for federal employees, three appropriations bills, and extensions of the National Flood Insurance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Regulatory and Legislative Update Highlights

- The House Natural Resources Committee may soon advance a bipartisan bill to streamline NEPA.
- Bipartisan efforts are underway to improve disaster assistance programs and restore the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities [BRIC] program.
- PFAS regulation and updates to WOTUS remain active regulatory issues.
- The District continues work under Section 219 (Environmental Infrastructure), with expected WRDA changes aimed at improving reimbursement pathways.
- Federal grant releases have slowed due to administrative review, but WaterSmart funding opportunities are anticipated soon, potentially offering \$3-\$5 million for eligible projects.

Chris Cummins reported:

- Work continues on the FY 2026 federal funding package.
- The District's stormwater diversion and recycling project request remains in the Energy and Water Development Bill.
- Senators Padilla and Schiff continue to support the District's \$750,000 appropriation request.
- The Every Drop Counts Act is advancing to a legislative hearing and may be included in a larger water bill.
- Other bills of interest include the FISH Act, H.R. 1871 (Tax Parity Rebate), and cybersecurity training proposals for water systems.
- Western water legislation and WIIN Act reauthorization efforts continue, supporting storage, recharge, and regional partnerships (e.g., Monterey One Water).

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

John Arriaga noted:

- The legislature adjourned in September; the governor had until mid-October to sign bills.
- With Proposition 50 resolved, attention turns to the 2026 session beginning January 5.
- Key 2025 themes included fiscal constraints, climate and energy policy, housing and CEQA reform, and infrastructure resilience.

Laurie Johnson reported:

- State revenues exceed projections by approximately \$6 billion for the first four months of the

fiscal year, including \$2 billion from delayed Los Angeles-area tax filings

- Revenues could exceed June projections by more than \$20 billion, but a long-term structural deficit persists.
- Disaster-related uncertainties, limited options for cuts, and constitutional limits on reserve access are ongoing concerns.
- Future budget reductions may significantly impact safety-net programs.
- Additional clarity is expected once the 2026 session convenes.

SB 473 (Water Utility Revenue Decoupling) – Update

Johnson reported that MPWMD opposed SB 473, which would expand decoupling mechanisms available to water utilities. MPWMD partnered with the Public Advocates Office in opposing the bill. SB 473 was last heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

4. Review of Legislative Activities in 2025

General Manager Stoldt reported:

- MPWMD was selected as the ACWA Region 5 Outreach Award recipient for 2025.
- The District continues federal engagement, including work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Environmental Infrastructure (EI) efforts.
- The District participates in efforts related to the Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act.
- The District remains active in ACWA coalitions, including support for SB 454 (PFAS) and water-theft legislation.
- Responsiveness to ACWA requests has strengthened the District’s visibility on statewide priorities.

Suggest Items to Be Placed on a Future Agenda

No items were suggested.

Adjournment

Director Paull adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

/s/ Sara Reyes

Sara Reyes, Board Clerk to the
MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee

Approved by the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee on February 11, 2026.

Received by the MPWMD Board of Director’s on February 23, 2026.