



FINAL MINUTES
Legislative Advocacy Committee of the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
September 22, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 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
Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Division Manager

District Counsel present: David Laredo

Legislative Consultant: John Arriaga, A&E Associates
Laurie Johnson, A&E Associates
Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group
William Ferguson Jr., The Ferguson Group
Chris Kearney, The Ferguson Group
Stephanie Missert, The Ferguson Group
Rebecca Bliss, The Ferguson Group

Comments from the Public: No comments.

Action Items

- 1. Adopt Minutes of June 18, 2020 Committee Meetings**
On a motion by Edwards and seconded by Byrne, the committee meeting minutes were approved on a vote of 3 – 0 by Edwards, Byrne and Potter.

Discussion Items

- 2. Report from JEA & Associates on Legislative Status and Bill Tracking**
Johnson reviewed the memo dated September 17, 2020 that was included in the committee packet. She also noted that efforts to place a water bond proposal on the ballot did not move forward; however, there may be an effort to hold a special election in 2021 for an infrastructure bond. Regarding efforts to allocate water to the jurisdictions for immediate housing needs, Johnson reported that in the coming week JEA & Associates would be scheduling a meeting with Senator Skinner's staff, as the Senator authored SB330. Meetings would also be scheduled with chief consultants to the Senate Housing Committee and the Assembly Housing and Community Development. Those would be virtual meetings. Stoldt mentioned that a representative from the City of Monterey Planning Department would participate with District staff in those meetings.

3. Report from The Ferguson Group on Federal Legislative Status and bill Tracking

Gwinn reported that the focus at the federal level was to adopt a continuing resolution to fund the government through the beginning of the fiscal year that would end on September 30, 2020. Funding would be extended for 10 weeks. Legislation could be submitted to the President for his signature by September 30.

Kearney and Gwinn reported on HR8217, Garamendi, that would extend the terms of repayment from funds obtained under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) from 35 years to 55 years. Another bill, S4206, Merkley, would provide flexibility to borrowers and allow them to select the interest rate in effect either when their WIFIA loan closed or when the funds were disbursed. The committee agreed to send letters of support for both bills. Kearney noted that there was generally bipartisan support for water related legislation such as S1932, sponsored by Feinstein and Gardner that focused on surface and groundwater storage.

Missert reported on efforts to approve COVID relief legislation. Senate Republicans submitted a \$500 billion relief bill that was half the size of a previously submitted Republican bill. A \$1.5 trillion bipartisan bill was also developed that included additional state and local aid. None of the COVID relief proposals included direct funding for special districts. However, the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus submitted the framework for legislation that would allow funds in the next COVID relief package to be distributed to special districts. It was likely that COVID relief legislation would not be submitted until December 2020.

Gwinn referred to the Water Legislative Tracker, Exhibit 3-A, in the committee packet. He reported that the following bills were new to the list: HR7978, Panetta, emergency wildfire relief; S4431, Feinstein, Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act of 2020; S4206, Merkley, amend the WIFIA Act; HR 8217, Garamendi, amend the WIFIA Act; and S4189, Wyden, Water Conservation and Farming Act.

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

Stoldt reviewed letters provided in the staff note.

5. Suggest Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

No discussion.

Other Items: No discussion.

Adjournment: 2:55 pm.

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