

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

June 10, 2024

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow (teleconference posted location), Gray (teleconference posted location), Jung (teleconference posted location, entered after rollcall), McMillan, and Pressman (teleconference posted location)

Members absent: Directors Abdo, Garza, Kassakhian, Luna, Phan, Ramos, and Smith.

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Bryan, Camacho, Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Novoa, Sims, Stites, and Zinke, .

Items were taken out of order due to lack of quorum

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

b. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the state budget, proposed budget cuts, budget deficit, climate bond advocacy: support for climate resilient water infrastructure, Appropriations suspense files, and legislation for a low income water rate assistance program.

c. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided a bill update: House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries hearing, Water Resources Development Act, Appropriations Update: Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing and Senate budget committee hearing.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Management Announcements and Highlights

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on federal funding announcement for large-scale water recycling projects, mwdh2o.com website updates, Water Quality Lab 50th anniversary, water awareness month, Tap Water Day and Drinking Water Week video.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION

- 1.) Mr. Matthew Carillo – Officer Vulnerability

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (Continue)

- a. Subject: Report on Permissible Activities Related to Ballot Measures

Presented by: Catherine Stites, Principal Deputy General Counsel

Ms. Stites reported on how citizens may engage in campaign activities, the use of public funds for campaign activities or express advocacy is prohibited by courts and by statute, and how local agencies may expend public funds to provide accurate, fair, and impartial presentations of the presentations of the relevant facts to educate voters.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

- 7-8 Subject: Express support for ballot measure ACA 1: Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Motion: Express support for ballot measure ACA 1: Local Government financing: affordable housing and public Infrastructure: voter approval.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Seckel
- 2.) Dick

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Jung to approve item 7-8

7-9 Subject: Express opposition to Initiative 1935: The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act and express support for ballot measure ACA 13: Voting thresholds.

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Motion: Express opposition to Initiative 1935: The Taxpayer Protection Government Accountability Act and express support for ballot measure ACA 13: Voting thresholds.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Dick
- 2.) Fellow
- 3.) Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

- 8-3 Subject: Authorize entering into a three-year contract with We Are RALLY, LLC for media placement services related to drought awareness and water conservation not to exceed \$10.5 million.
- Presented by: Teresa Gonzalez Robertson, Principal Public Affairs Representative
- Motion: Authorize entering into a three-year contract with We Are Rally, LLC for media placement services related to drought Awareness and water conservation not to exceed \$10.5 million.

Vice Chair of the Board Camacho chaired the meeting.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Peterson
- 2.) Fellow
- 3.) Dennstedt
- 4.) Morris
- 5.) Dick
- 6.) Seckel
- 7.) Pressman
- 8.) Gray

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Director Jung made a motion, seconded by Director McMillan to approve items 8-3.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Gray, Jung, McMillan.

Noes: Directors Fellow and Pressman

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Abdo, Garza, Kassakhian, Luna, Phan, Ramos, and Smith.

The motion for item 8-3 passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 2 noes, 0 abstain, and 7 absent.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Legislation and Communications Committee held May 13, 2024

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Jung to approve items 2A, 7-8, and 7-9.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jung, McMillan, and Pressman.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Abdo, Garza, Kassakhian, Luna, Phan, Ramos and Smith.

The motion for item 2a passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 7 absent.

The motion for items 7-8 and 7-9 failed by a vote of 2 ayes, 0 noes, 5 abstain, and 7 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Michael Camacho
Vice Chair of the Board