

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

July 8, 2024

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, and Pressman (teleconference posted location).

Members absent: Directors Ackerman, Garza, Gray, Luna, Phan, Ramos, and Smith.

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Erdman, Lefevre, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson, and Seckel.

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

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

Ms. Maura Monagan - LA Waterkeeper – Community Engagement

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Legislation and Communications Committee held June 10, 2024.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director McMillan to approve consent calendar item 2a.

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jung, Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, and Pressman.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Ackerman, Garza, Gray, Luna, Phan, Ramos and Smith.

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

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-3 Subject: Report on SB 1255 (Durazo, D – Los Angeles): Public water systems: needs analysis: water rate assistance program (June 3, 2024)

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided a legislative update on a legislative proposal regarding low-income water rate assistance, which would require an urban retail water agency to establish a low-income rate assistance program.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Jung
- 2.) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Social Media Influencer Projects
- Presented by: Monika Medina, Principal Public Affairs Representative and Andrew Au, Principal Graphic Art Designer

Ms. Medina and Mr. Au provided an update on how Metropolitan is using social media influencers to promote water conservation and sustainability, and reach diverse audiences in cost-efficient ways, and introduced representatives of the Bob Baker Marionette Theater Company.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1.) Jung

- b. Subject: Presentation on CAMP4W Outreach and Engagement
- Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer, Section Manager – Sustainability and Resilience

Ms. Schaffer provided an update on CAMP4W, activities to date, and future plans. She highlighted the main objectives, which are to demonstrate transparency, allow public voices in planning process, hear and understand priorities and concerns, explore partnerships and program ideas, and build relationships and trust.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1.) Erdman
2.) Seckel

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- c. Subject: Quarterly State and Federal Regulatory Matrices
- Presented by: Shradha Upadhayay, Senior Environmental Specialist

Ms. Upadhayay provided an update on recently adopted federal and state rules. Federal: consumer confidence reports, PFAS MCLs, PFAS and CERCLA, State indoor heat illness prevention, hexavalent chromium, zero-emission forklift rule and conservation as a California Way of Life.

d. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the Sacramento legislative calendar and key dates, Senate budget update, the climate resilience bond, and legislation, including (1) SB 1390 (Caballero): Groundwater recharge: floodflows: diversion, and (2) SB 366 (Caballero) : The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets.

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

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the Water Resources and Development Act, appropriations update including the Interior and Environment Subcommittee and the Energy and Water Subcommittee and the National Defense Authorization Act.

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, and Tap Water Day; and showed a Drinking Water Week video.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Jung