

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

March 13, 2012

Chair Ackerman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2-456 at Metropolitan's Headquarters.

Members present: Chair Ackerman, Vice Chair Peterson, Directors Abdo, Ballin, Barbre, Brick, Camacho, Fleming, Friedman, Gray, Griset, Heidel, Lewinger, Lowenthal, Montalvo, K. Murray, Morris, and Record.

Other Board Members present: Directors Blake, Dick, Edwards, Evans, Foley, Grandsen, Little, Millard, J. Murray, Wilson, Wright, and Wunderlich.

Staff present: Acuña, Arakawa, Bennion, Breaux, J. Carrillo, Cole (via video), Green, Hiltcher (via video), Kightlinger, Man, Martinez, Philp, Roberts, Scully, Stites, Upadhyay, Vanderhorst, Waade, Wicke, T. Wong, and Zinke.

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

None

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2012

Approved

Moved: Ballin

Seconded: Morris

3. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Ackerman reported that Metropolitan organized a Community Leaders' Briefing on February 24 with Assembly Member Ricardo Lara (D-South Gate). Vice Chair John Murray, General Manager Jeff Kightlinger and staff attended the briefing. Mr. Kightlinger provided a briefing on Metropolitan's key priorities and programs which included an update on the Delta and the state's and region's water supply outlook. Assemblyman Lara provided a Sacramento report for the group.

Chair Ackerman also reported on two advocacy trips to Washington, D.C. in February and March:

- Directors and staff participated in the annual Access, D.C., trip organized by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Representatives from Metropolitan included Directors Ballin, Grunfeld, Fleming, Friedman and Wunderlich. Chief Administrative Officer Gilbert Ivey and staff also attended, along with nearly 200 representatives of the Chamber and other organizations from the greater Los Angeles region. The Chamber's Water Team briefed members of Congress and the Administration regarding water and hydropower projects, and for water quality improvements.
- Directors and staff attended the Association of California Water Agencies' (ACWA) annual legislative trip to Washington, D.C. Chair Ackerman attended as Chair of ACWA's Federal Affairs Committee, along with Directors Record, Peterson and Lewinger. Staff from Los Angeles and Metropolitan's Washington, D.C. office also participated. Metropolitan participated in meetings with representatives of Congress and the Administration to discuss key federal legislative priorities.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

- 8-14** Subject: Express opposition to H.R. 1837 (Nunes, R-CA – the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act, unless amended)
- Presented by: Steve Arakawa, Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager
- Recommended Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination and express opposition to H.R. 1837, unless amended.
- Amended Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination and express opposition to H.R. 1837.
- Amended Motion Carried: Moved: Peterson Seconded: Griset
Abstained: Lewinger and Heidel

- 8-15** Subject: Express opposition to AB 1686 (Jeffries, R-Riverside) –
Waterways: Lake Mathews
- Presented by: Joe Vanderhorst, Senior Deputy General Counsel
- Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination and express opposition to
AB 1686.
- Motion Carried Moved: Record Seconded: Griset

6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Report on activities from Washington, D.C.
- Presented by: Brad Hiltcher, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Hiltcher reported on a number of federal updates and matters including:

- The Transportation Highway Bill which was amended to allow states to issue water and wastewater tax exempt private activity bonds;
- H.R. 2842, the Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act of 2012;
- An information hearing convened by the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies regarding the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards Program;
- A hearing convened by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks regarding S. 29 (Feinstein, D-CA), a bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area.

- b. Subject: Report on activities from Sacramento
- Presented by: Kathy Cole, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Cole reported on activities in Sacramento, including:

Legislative Deadlines

- February 24 was the deadline for new 2012 bill introductions. In the Senate, there were 624 new measures introduced for a total of 1,573 bills introduced in the two-year session. In the Assembly, there were 1,227 new bills introduced for a total of 2,661 bills.

State Legislation

- Several bills related to Bay-Delta activities, including: AB 1813 (Buchanan, D-Livermore), AB 1884 (Buchanan, D-Livermore), AB 2422 (B. Berryhill, R-Lodi), AB 2423 (B. Berryhill, R-Lodi), AB 2000 (Huber, D-El Dorado Hills), AB 2421 (B. Berryhill, R-Lodi), SB 1278 (Wolk, D-Davis), SB 1495 (Wolk, D-Davis) and SB 1340 (La Malfa, R-Chico).
- Two bills related to Department of Fish and Game Strategic Vision effort: AB 2402 (Huffman, D-San Rafael) and SB 1148 (Pavley, D-Agoura Hills).
- Legislation related to Metropolitan's board-approved 2012 legislative priorities including: AB 1620 (Weickowski, D-Fremont) regarding uniform standards for hazardous waste regulation and AB 2595 (Hall, D-Los Angeles) regarding establishment of a desalination task force.
- Other bills of interest that have been introduced, including: AB 2443 (Willams, D-Santa Barbara) and SB 1251 (Evans, D-Santa Rosa) quagga inspection and prevention programs, SB 1387 (Emmerson, D- Riverside) regarding metal theft and AB 2398 (Hueso) to consolidate recycled water statutes into a single recycled water policy and exclude recycled water from being regulated as a waste.

Ms. Cole also reported on other state issues, including:

- The State Water Resources Control Board's pending decision on the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's (SRCSD) appeal of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board permit requirement that SRCSD comply with advanced treatment requirements as outlined in December 2010.

- On March 13, the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee held an informational hearing on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the Delta Plan. Assistant General Manager of Strategic Water Initiatives Roger Patterson presented testimony.
- On March 14, the Assembly Select Committee on Regional Approaches to Addressing the State's Water Crisis, chaired by Assembly Member Jose Solorio (D-Santa Ana), will host an informational hearing on "20x2020 Water Conservation: Are Regions on Track to Success?" Deven Upadhyay, Group Manager, Water Resource Management, will testify on behalf of Metropolitan.
- On March 20, the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee will host an informational hearing on the untapped potential of water recycling.

Ms. Cole also provided an update on the State budget, including:

- The Governor's proposal to transfer the Colorado River Board to the Resources Agency.
- Department of Water Resources (DWR) request for 135 new positions for preliminary design activities for new Delta conveyance.
- DWR's request for 10 new positions for implementation of specific projects proposed for the OCAP biological opinions.
- DWR's request for 35 new positions to continue implementation of the staffing augmentation plan that was approved last year for critical support of the State Water Project.

Ms. Cole reported that on March 7, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) was convened. Ms. Cole attended and presented comments at the request of the Assembly Member Ricardo Lara, Chair of the Committee. The focus of the audit request is related to the rising water costs in southeast Los Angeles County. JLAC approved the audit request and directed the State Auditor to pursue the factors contributing to the cost of water in Assembly Member Lara's district.

8. MANAGEMENT REPORT

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on April 10, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Linda Ackerman
Chair