THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

December 11, 2012

Chair Ackerman called the meeting to order at 10:11 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, Gray, Griset, Friedman, Lewinger, Morris, Mudd, K. Murray, and Record.

Members absent: Directors Lowenthal and Montalvo.

Other Board Members present: Directors Babcock, Brown, Dick, Evans, Millard, J. Murray, Quiñonez, Pringle, Steiner, Wilson, Wright, and Wunderlich.

Staff present: Acuña, Ardalan, Arakawa, H. Beatty, Benbow, Bennion, Breaux, Burman, J. Carrillo, Cole, Escuadro-Dailey, Green, Hackett-Cole, Haskett, Hiltscher, Ivey, Kightlinger, Man, Martinez, Philp, Riss, Scully, Stites, Thompson, Upadhyay, Waade, Westford, Wolfe, E. Wong, and Zinke.

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

No members responded.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2012

Motion Carried Moved: Director Camacho Seconded: Director Fleming

Votes: Unanimous

3. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Ackerman reported that directors and staff attended the Association of California Water Agencies' annual fall conference in San Diego December 4-7. This year's theme was "California Water – the Next Generation".

She stated that some of the issues discussed included the priorities of the Obama Administration and 113th Congress, and the latest updates on the budget and funding for key water programs of interest.

Representatives from numerous water agencies attended the conference as well as top leaders from governmental agencies including the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Reclamation.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

8-3 Subject: Adopt Legislative Strategy for 2013

Presented by: Linda Waade, Deputy General Manager, External Affairs

Motion: Adopt the CEQA determination and Legislative Strategy for 2013.

Motion Carried Moved: Director Morris Seconded: Director Peterson

Votes: Unanimous

6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Report on activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Brad Hiltscher, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Hiltscher reported on a number of federal matters which included:

- 112th Congress End-of-year actions
- Negotiations related to the Budget Control Act of 2011
- Possible hearings on a proposed Farm Bill

- Proposed Water Resources Development Act
- House Democratic Leadership
- Senate Committee Chairs
- House Committee Chairs

b. Subject: Report on activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Kathy Cole, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Cole reported on a number of state matters which included:

- 2013/14 Legislative Session
- Bill Introductions
- Pension Reform
- State Budget
- Governor's Appointments

c. Subject: 2012 General Election Recap

Presented by: Kathy Cole, Executive Legislative Representative and Brad Hiltscher, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Cole and Mr. Hiltscher reported on the results of the general election including:

- Voter turnout (statewide)
- State ballot measures
- New members of the Senate and Assembly in Metropolitan's service area
- 2013 state legislative calendar
- New Members of Congress in Metropolitan's service area
- 2013 congressional calendar

8. MANAGEMENT REPORT

a. Subject: External Affairs Management report

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Group Manager, External Affairs

Ms. Dee Zinke reported on the "Water is Life" art program and calendar exhibit on display in the rotunda.

Director Tim Brick reported that the Pasadena Water and Power Department celebrated its 100th anniversary of municipal water.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Brick requested staff prepare an analysis related to possible amendments to the 2014 Water Bond that would consider the impact of providing funding for agricultural conservation to achieve water savings that would be applied to the State Water Project for urban use.

Director Abdo requested staff prepare talking points on "Metropolitan 101," a general overview of the district, and the Water Bond as background for directors when they meet with new members of the congressional and state legislative delegation.

Next meeting will be held on January 8, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Linda Ackerman
Chair