

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

MARCH 8, 2021

Chair Cordero called the teleconference meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Members present: Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Kurtz, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Butkiewicz, Galleano (entered after roll call), Morris, G. Peterson, Quinn, Record, and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Murray and Repenning.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Atwater, Blois, De Jesus, Dick, Goldberg, Hogan, Jung, Lefevre, Luna, Pressman, Ramos, and Tamaribuchi.

Committee Staff present: Kightlinger, Rojo, Stites, Sims, and Zinke.

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

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Communications and Legislation Committee held February 8, 2021.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

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| 7-6 | Subject: | Authorize the General Manager to express support for AB 361 (Rivas, R. D-Hollister) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences; and AB 703 (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. |
| | Motion: | Authorize the General Manager to express support for AB 361 (Rivas, R., D-Hollister) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences and AB 703 (Rubio, D-Baldwin Park) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences |

After completion of the presentation, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Peterson to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A and 7-6.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Butkiewicz, Cordero, Galleano, Kurtz, Morris,
Peterson, Quinn, Record, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Murray and Repenning

The motion passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 2 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-2 Subject: Report on Water Affordability and Shutoff Legislative Initiatives

Presented by: Shradha Upadhayay, Environmental Specialist

Environmental Specialist Upadhayay provided a report on the Water Affordability and Shutoff legislative initiatives including background on previous initiatives, current policy proposals, and policy implications for Metropolitan and member agencies.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Quinn
3. Record

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

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

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Executive Legislative Representative Schneider reported on activities from Washington, D.C. including an update on the 117th Congress, legislative agenda, appropriations, and Biden Administration nominations.

b. Subject: Report on activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Kathy Viatella, Executive Legislative Representative

Executive Legislative Representative Viatella reported on activities from Sacramento including meetings with legislators on Metropolitan sponsored bills and legislative priorities; update on COVID-19 financial assistance; and update on Metropolitan-sponsored legislation.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Butkiewicz
2. Quinn

c. Subject: Update on 2018-2021 Water Conservation Outreach Campaign

Presented by: Susan Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

External Affairs Group Manager Sims provided an update on the 2018-2021 water conservation outreach campaign including a budget summary and shifting messaging from drought conservation to encouraging everyday savings – the 365 theme; producing and providing materials in Spanish, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese and Tagalog; events, advertisements and partnerships with sports organizations; creating water conservation social media, videos and commercials; and adapting messaging during pandemic time to reassure customers about water quality, use a “Gardening is Wellness” approach, create whimsical California Friendly® Plants.

The following Director provided a comment or asked questions:

1. Cordero

7. MANAGEMENT REPORT

a. Subject: External Affairs Management Report

Presented by: Susan Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

External Affairs Manager Sims informed the board that an update on education activities will be provided next month.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on April 12, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Gloria Cordero
Chair