

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
January 5 2023, 8:00 a.m.

Due to the continuing state of emergency declared by the Governor and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e), Chair Bilodeau called the Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting to order via Zoom webinar. Members of the Board and the public participated via Zoom. The Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows:

Committee Members

Denis Bilodeau  
Cathy Green  
Dina Nguyen (arrived 8:05 a.m.)  
Roger Yoh  
Bruce Whitaker

OCWD Staff

Mike Markus – General Manager  
Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs  
Alicia Dunkin – Legislative Affairs Liaison  
Christina Fuller – Asst. District Secretary

Alternates

Kelly Rowe  
Valerie Amezcua (absent)  
Natalie Meeks (absent)  
Van Tran (absent)  
Steve Sheldon (absent)

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Yoh and carried [5-0] as follows:

***Ayes –Bilodeau, Green, Yoh, Whitaker, Rowe***

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

**The minutes of the December 8, 2022 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.**

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

2. State Legislative Update

State Consultants reported that the California State Legislature just returned from December recess. Consultants advised that they would continue to monitor and keep the Committee apprised of newly introduced legislation and other important developments.

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants reported on PFAS outlook and next steps in project funding/earmarks.

4. 2023-2024 Orange County Water District Legislative Goals and Platform

Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin presented the proposed 2023-2024 OCWD Legislative Goals and Platform with OCWD Producer input. She reviewed the Policy edits which were approved at the December 21 OCWD Board meeting.

**Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Whitaker and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its January 18 Board meeting: Approve the OCWD 2023-2024 Legislative Goals and Platform.  
Ayes – Bilodeau, Green, Nguyen, Yoh, Whitaker**

5. PFAS Outreach & Education Consultant

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala stated that in March 2022, staff began working with digital communications company Hashtag Pinpoint to assist with PFAS outreach. She reported that Hashtag Pinpoint has created multiple PFAS education assets for OCWD. She advised that with new PFAS legislation expected this year, staff recommends the District continue its relationship with Hashtag Pinpoint due not only to their legislative experience, but also their familiarity with the unique needs and sensitivities of the District related to PFAS.

**Upon motion by Director Yoh, seconded by Director Green and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its January 18 Board meeting: Authorize staff to extend the contract of Hashtag Pinpoint to perform PFAS outreach and education services at a cost of \$5,000 per month for six months, for a budget not to exceed \$30,000.  
Ayes – Bilodeau, Green, Nguyen, Yoh, Whitaker**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

6. GWRS Final Completion Dedication Ceremony Update

Ms. Ayala advised that the date to commemorate the GWRS Final Completion has been changed to April 14, 2023. She presented the logistics of the event and advised that formal invitations will be sent in late February.

7. Children’s Water Education Festival Update

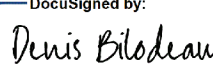
Principal Communications Specialist Crystal Nettles reported that 5,541 students are currently registered for the event and noted that all Board service areas are represented. She advised that staff continues to reach out to school/teachers with confirmation emails being sent shortly.

8. Public Affairs Outreach Report (December 2022)

Ms. Ayala provided an update on December highlights stating that 48 people attended tours. She reported that OCWD hosted the webinar, "Investing in Local Projects: Groundwater, Water Supplies, and Infrastructure", on December 13. She noted the webinar was attended or watched by more than 200 people.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

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Denis Bilodeau, Chair