

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
December 7, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Director Yoh called the Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in the District Conference Room C-2. Public access was also provided via Zoom webinar. The Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows:

Committee Members

Denis Bilodeau (absent)
Van Tran (absent)
Roger Yoh
Bruce Whitaker
Steve Sheldon (arrived 12:14 p.m.)

OCWD Staff

Mike Markus – General Manager
Crystal Nettles – Principal Communications Specialist
Alicia Dunkin – Legislative Affairs Liaison
Dani Berch – Communications Specialist
Leticia Villarreal – Assistant District Secretary
Bruce Doser – Director of Information Services/Property

Alternates

Valerie Amezcuia
Natalie Meeks (absent)
Dina Nguyen (absent)
Vacant
Cathy Green

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Whitaker and carried [4-0] as follows:

Ayes – Yoh, Whitaker, Amezcuia, Green

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the November 2, 2023 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

OCWD Consultants provided recommendations to prepare for the 2024 Legislative session to obtain PFAS funding and other OCWD goals.

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants reported on progress towards an exemption for water entities from PFAS liability.

4. 2024-2025 Orange County Water District Legislative Policies and 2024-2024 State and Federal Legislative Goals

Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin stated that retail water suppliers in OCWD's service area, OCWD consultants and staff provided input on the draft. Ms. Dunkin presented all input to the committee for consideration.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Whitaker and carried [5-0], the Committee Recommended for approval at the December 20 Board meeting: Approve 1)

OCWD 2024-2025 Legislative Policies DRAFT mark-up; and 2) OCWD 2024-2025 State and Federal Legislative Goals and Strategy.

Ayes: Yoh, Whitaker, Sheldon, Amezcua, Green

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Children's Water Education Festival Update

Communications Specialist Dani Berch provided an update on the 2024 Children's Water Education Festival. She reported there are 5,789 students currently registered representing 214 classes and 23 cities. She advised that all Director service areas are represented. Ms. Berch shared that staff would continue to solicit sponsors, presenters and volunteers and will provide updates to the committee monthly.

6. Public Affairs Outreach Report (November)

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided an overview of outreach for November 2023 and noted the following:

- 13 speaker's bureau engagements, including seven at the WateReuse California Annual Conference
- Two hundred people attended tours in November
- The November 13 webinar "Lessons Learned in Stormwater Capture and Groundwater Recharge in 2022-23" was attended by 165 people live and viewed by more than 115 since posted
- There were 17 global news hits for OCWD, the GWRS and other District programs and projects with a total reach of 19.65 million
- OCWD and GWRS received four awards
- OCWD General Manager Mike Markus received two awards and Operations Manager Derrick Mansell was named Outstanding Large Plant Operator of the Year by the Southwest Membrane Operator Association

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Roger Yoh, Director