

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
December 8, 2022, 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
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
Nelida Mendoza
Gloria Ma'ae
Van Tran
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, Nguyen, Yoh, Whitaker

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the November 3, 2022 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

State Consultants provided an update on the recent elections, the legislative outlook for 2023 and PFAS funding.

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants reported on H.R. 972 (Calvert R-CA-42) Wildlife Refuge Conservation and Recreation for the Community Act, S. 4669 Western Riverside National Wildlife Refuge Act (Feinstein, D-CA) and Federal funding.

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

Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin presented the policy edits recommended by Producers and advised that staff will return with a proposed 2023-24 Platform at the January 5 Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting.

**Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its December 21 Board meeting: Review input to the OCWD 2022-2023 Legislative Goals and Platform and advise staff on policies to add and/or edit to develop a new 2023-2024 for the upcoming legislative session.
Ayes – Bilodeau, Green, Nguyen, Yoh, Whitaker**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Children's Water Education Festival Update


Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala reported that the 2023 Festival returns to an in-person format on March 29-30, 2023, at UC Irvine. She advised that 5,541 students, 21 presenters and 18 volunteers are registered to attend. She stated that staff continues to solicit participants and will continue to update the committee on a monthly basis.

6. Public Affairs Outreach Report (November 2022)

Ms. Ayala provided an update on November highlights stating that 64 people attended tours and that 4 speakers bureau engagements were held. She provided an update on the OCWD website and upcoming events in 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

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 1/5/2023
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Denis Bilodeau, Chair