

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
June 5, 2025 12:00 p.m.

Director Weigand 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

Van Tran arrived at 12:01 p.m.  
Steve Sheldon (absent)  
Roger Yoh  
Valerie Amezcua  
Erik Weigand

OCWD Staff

John Kennedy – General Manager  
Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs  
Crystal Nettles – Principal Communications Specialist  
Alicia Harasty – Legislative Affairs Liaison  
Chris Olsen – Executive Director of Engineering  
Mehul Patel – Executive Director of Operations  
Leticia Villarreal – Assistant District Secretary

Alternates

Cathy Green  
Fred Jung  
Dina Nguyen  
Natalie Meeks (absent)  
Denis Bilodeau (absent)

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

**Ayes – Tran, Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green**

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

**The minutes of the May 8, 2025 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. State Legislative Update

District staff and consultants provided a status update on legislation of interest to the District.

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Position	Status
AB 259 Blanca Rubio (D-West Covina)	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	Support	Senate Local Government Committee
SB 72 (Caballero, D-Merced)	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets 'California Water for All'	Support	Senate Third Reading
AB 794 (Gabriel, D-Encino)	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations	Oppose	Assembly Second Reading
SB 454 (McNerney, D-Stockton) ACWA Sponsored Bill	State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Support	Senate Second Reading
SB 496 Hurtado (D-Bakersfield)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	Support	Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File

SB 601 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Water: Waste Discharge	Oppose	Senate Second Reading
SB 599 Anna Caballero (D-Merced)	Atmospheric rivers research: forecasting methods: experimental tools	Support	Senate Third Reading

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants provided an update on federal regulations related to PFAS, funding for OCWD’s projects and on the status of bills of interest to OCWD.

Bill Number/Authors	Short Title	Position	Status
H.R. 1267 Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) & Celeste Maloy (R-UT)	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act	Support	Energy and Commerce Committee
S. 322 Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Improve Atmospheric River Forecasts Act	Support	Commerce Science and Transportation Committee
H.R. 2093 (Ken Calvert, R-D-41)	Extends Permitting Terms	Support	Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

4. OC Water Summit Update

Communications Specialist Crystal Nettles reported that this year’s OC Water Summit is scheduled to take place Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Westin South Coast Plaza. She stated this year’s theme is *Turning the Valve: Abundance in Orange County*. Fritz Coleman will be the Master of ceremonies as in years past. She advised that four sessions are being planned and finalized with OCWD leading the planning this year.

5. Public Affairs Outreach Report

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided a brief overview of outreach activities for May 2025.

May Highlights:

- OCWD received three awards – 1) Outstanding Water-Wastewater-Recycled Water Project for the Fullerton PFAS Treatment Plant from the American Society of Civil Engineers OC, 2) Certificate of Excellence from the Association of California Water Agencies, and 3) Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Award for the Power of Water Recycling Video from the National Association of Government Communicators.
- In May, OCWD held 17 tours with 349 guests from 19 groups.
- Globally – OCWD participated in three events. John Kennedy traveled to Paris and participated in the Global Water Summit. Chris Olsen was hosted by Japan Society on Water Environment and Jason Dadakis, Mehul Patel, John Kennedy and Roy Herndon participated virtually in the Columbia Hydrogeology Congress.
- OCWD co-hosted a dedication ceremony with the City of Tustin for their PFAS treatment plant. District President Denis Bilodeau gave remarks on behalf of OCWD. District Directors Erik Weigand and Fred Jung also attended.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

*Christina Fuller*

8/7/2025

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Christina Fuller, District Secretary