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MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
April 2, 2026 12:00 p.m.

Director Tran 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		OCWD Staff
Van Tran		John Kennedy – General Manager
Roger Yoh	(absent)	Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs
Steve Sheldon	(arrived @ 12:05 p.m.)	Alicia Harasty – Legislative Affairs Liaison
Valerie Amezcua		Chris Olsen – Executive Director
Erik Weigand		Jeremy Jungreis – General Counsel
Alternates		Christina Fuller –District Secretary
Cathy Green		
Fred Jung		
Dina Nguyen	(absent)	
Natalie Meeks		
Denis Bilodeau		

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Weigand and carried [5-0] as follows*:*
Ayes – Tran, Amezcua, Weigand, Green, Jung

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the March 5, 2026 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

Legislative consultant Jason Gonsalves reported that the Legislature is on spring recess, returning Monday, April 6. He stated that consultants and OCWD staff are recommending a support position on SB 1153 (Caballero, D-Merced), Disaster preparedness: Urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: Wildfire. He advised that this bill includes findings that explain how public water systems are not built to fight fires and proposes a new section to the California Emergency Services Act to require urban retail water suppliers to include incident specific response procedures for wildfires as part of their disaster preparedness plans.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Weigand and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its April 15 Board meeting: Take the following position:

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Recommendation
SB 1153 (Caballero, D-Merced)	Disaster preparedness: Urban retail water suppliers and public water systems: Wildfire	Support

Ayes – Tran, Sheldon, Amezcua, Weigand, Green

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3. Federal Legislative Update

OCWD's consultant Eric Sapirstein provided a report on OCWD's visit to Washington, D.C. and an update on PFAS funding. Mr. Sapirstein recommended a support position on S. 3738 (Padilla, D-CA), MORE WATER Act advising that S. 3738 reauthorizes funding for several Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) programs that include Reclamation's large scale water recycling program, the WIIN Act water recycling program, and environmental restoration programs. He noted the bill would also establish a new grant program within Reclamation to provide funding for water conveyance projects.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Weigand and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its April 15 Board meeting: Take the following position:

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Recommendation
S. 3738 (Padilla, D-CA)	MORE WATER Act	Support

Ayes – Tran, Sheldon, Amezcua, Weigand, Green

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

4. Children's Water Education Festival Update

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala stated that a total of 65 presenters will participate in the 2026 Festival. She advised that a later arrival time has been set this year to allow students more travel time. Ms. Ayala reported that staff has secured over $83,000 in sponsorships, exceeding the goal of $70,000.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Van Tran
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Van Tran, Chair