

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
March 2, 2017 @ 8:00 a.m.

Director Anthony called the Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting to order in Conference Room C-2 at the District office. The Recording Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows:

Committee Members

Philip Anthony
Vicente Sarmiento (not present)
Shawn Dewane
Cathy Green
Steve Sheldon

OCWD Staff

Michael Markus -General Manager
Eleanor Torres - Director of Public Affairs
Christina Fuller - Recording Secretary

Alternates

Roger Yoh
James Vanderbilt (not present)
Bruce Whitaker
Dina Nguyen
Denis Bilodeau (not present)

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

[Yes –Anthony, Dewane, Green, Sheldon, /No – 0/Abstain- Whitaker

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the February 2, 2017 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meeting are approved as presented.

Director Yoh arrived at 8:05 a.m. during the following discussion.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. Federal Legislative Update

District federal legislative advocate James McConnell discussed updates on the current activities in Washington, D.C. Mr. McConnell reported that Directors Bilodeau and Sarmiento along with General Manager Mike Markus and Director of Public Affairs Eleanor Torres will travel to Washington D.C. on March 6-8 to meet with legislators and their key staff.

Holland & Knight representatives Rich Gold and Lori Hettinger teleconferenced into the meeting to discuss appropriations and the transition of the new administration.

Eric Sapirstein (ENS Resources) discussed water infrastructure funding and H.R. 1071 Assistance, Quality and Affordability Act, Tonko (D-NY). Mr. Sapirstein stated that the bill would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for increased funding of drinking water infrastructure project needs. He reported that if enacted, H.R. 1071 may offer additional funding opportunities to the District to gain funding for low-interest loans for upcoming capital improvement projects through the drinking water State Revolving Fund. Following a brief discussion on the bill, the Committee then took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Dewane, seconded by Director Green and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its March 15 Board meeting: Direct staff to send a letter to the author of H.R. 1071 supporting State Revolving Fund provisions of the bill and other District relevant provisions.

[Yes –Anthony, Dewane, Green, Sheldon, Yoh /No – 0]

3. State Legislative Update

State legislative consultants Jason and Paul Gonsalves of Gonsalves & Son discussed the current legislative calendar and provided a summary of state bills. After a brief discussion, the Committee then took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Yoh and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its March 15 Board meeting: Adopt the following positions:

Item	Position
SCA 4 (Hertzberg, D-) Water Conservation	Watch
SB 5 (De Leon) California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for all Act of 2018	Support and direct staff to send a letter to the author

[Yes –Anthony, Green, Sheldon, Yoh, Whitaker /No – 0]

4. 2017 OCWD Legislative Platform

Director of Public Affairs Eleanor Torres reported that staff and its federal and state legislative consultants have drafted a 2017 Legislative Platform that includes legislative goals and policies. She stated that the platform would allow staff and the District’s legislative advocates to act in a timely fashion in between Board meetings on issues that are clearly within the guidelines set forth in the platform. After a brief discussion on the platform, the Committee took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Yoh and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its March 15 Board meeting: Approve the 2017 OCWD Legislative Platform.

[Yes –Anthony, Green, Sheldon, Yoh, Whitaker /No – 0]

5. Public Affairs Outreach Report (January/February)

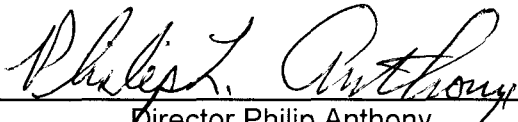
Ms. Torres advised the Public Affairs Outreach Update is in the packet.

ITEM TO BE AGENDIZED ON CONSENT CALENDAR AT THE MARCH 15 BOARD MEETING

The Committee recommended Item Nos. 2-4 be agendized on the Consent Calendar at the March 15 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.



Director Philip Anthony