

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
March 6, 2014 @ 8 a.m.

Director Sidhu 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 as follows:

Committee Members

Harry Sidhu  
Kathryn Barr  
Cathy Green  
Vincent Sarmiento  
Steve Sheldon

OCWD Staff

Mike Markus, General Manager  
Joel Kuperberg, General Counsel  
Eleanor Torres, Director of Public Affairs  
Judy-Rae Karlsen, Recording Secretary  
Gina Ayala, Robert Ennis, Cristabel Nichols  
Greg Woodside

Alternates

Roger Yoh (not present)  
Shawn Dewane  
Jan Flory  
Denis Bilodeau (arrived 8:20 a.m.)  
Phil Anthony

Others

Jim McConnell – McConnell & Associates  
Christopher Townsend, Cory Williams,  
Heather Stratman - Townsend Public Affairs  
Brian Starr – Orange County Business Council

Teleconference

Eric Saperstein - ENS Resources

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Sarmiento and carried 5-0 (*Yes - Sidhu, Barr, Green, Sarmiento, Sheldon / No - 0*).

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

**The Minutes of the February 6, 2014 Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting were approved as presented.**

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Director Bilodeau arrived at 8:20 a.m. during the following discussion.

2. Federal Legislative Update

Legislative consultant Jim McConnell briefed Committee members on legislative activities in Washington D.C and presented an update on the Army Corps of Engineers budget for 2014-15 with a follow-up discussion on potential funding options for the Prado Basin Feasibility Study. Legislative consultant Eric Saperstein (ENS Resources) teleconferenced into the meeting and reviewed proposed legislation dealing with emergency drought conditions in California. The Committee briefly discussed Senator Feinstein's proposed legislation that may include desalination. A discussion ensued regarding the OCWD Special Board meeting with Congressman Garamendi and his views on the drought, the need for increased water storage capacity and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

Director Green reported on her recent trip to Washington D.C. and she noted that OCWD Executive Director Greg Woodside was also there representing the District. The Committee then took the following action.

**Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Sarmiento and carried [5-0] the Committee recommended that the Board at its March 19 Board meeting: Receive and file the Federal Legislative Report.**

*(Yes - Sidhu, Barr, Green, Sarmiento, Sheldon / No - 0)*

### 3. State Legislative Update

Legislative consultant Christopher Townsend (Townsend Public Affairs) briefed the Committee on his legislative activities in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. He noted that a list of the District's "shovel ready projects" was submitted to the office of Senator Lou Correa and Assembly members Travis Allen and Sharon Quirk-Silva.

Mr. Townsend noted that he alerted District staff that Assembly member Tom Daly introduced Assembly Bill 2712 and he briefly discussed the bill and advised the legislation proposed is designed to reform regulatory oversight of remediation projects. A discussion ensued and Orange County Business Council representative Brian Starr reported that AB 2712 was modeled after AB 440; however, General Counsel Kuperberg disputed the accuracy of that statement and reported that the District has had authority to clean up contamination in the groundwater basin for decades and the authority is districtwide not site specific. He also noted the bill is not about redevelopment law and cleaning up contamination on abandoned property.

The Committee requested that staff prepare a detailed analysis of AB 2712 for further discussion. The Committee briefly discussed the plume of contamination that staff has identified as a significant part of the clean-up project. General Manager Mike Markus reported that staff will bring updated information on the North Basin litigation to the next Board meeting for discussion in closed session. The Committee requested the Ad hoc Legislative Committee review the details in the proposed legislation (AB 2712) and report findings back to the Board. Directors Jan Flory and Vincent Sarmiento reported on upcoming meetings scheduled with Assembly members Sharon Quirk-Silva and Tom Daly and they requested briefings by staff prior to those meetings. The Committee then took the following action.

**Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Sarmiento and carried [5-0] the Committee recommended that the Board at its February 19 Board meeting: Receive and file the State Legislative Report**

*(Yes - Sidhu, Barr, Green, Sarmiento, Sheldon / No - 0)*

### 4. Public Affairs Outreach Report - February

Director of Public Affairs Eleanor Torres noted the staff report in today's packet provides the details of the Public Affairs outreach activities for the month of February. She reported on recent media coverage in the Wall Street Journal, NBC and KPCC.

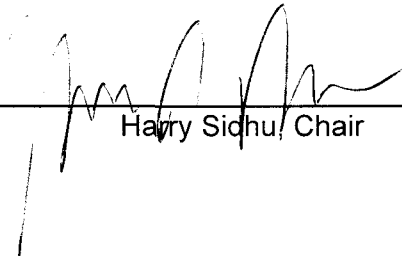
### 5. District Awards Update

Ms. Torres noted that on March 18 (at the Water Reuse Conference in Newport Beach, CA), the District will hold a joint press conference with a delegation from Singapore to announce that OCWD will be awarded the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize on June 2 in Singapore. She also stated that on April 7 in Washington, D.C., OCWD and the Orange County Sanitation District will be awarded the US Water Prize.

**DETERMINATION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT CALENDAR FOR  
FEBRUARY 19 BOARD MEETING**

The Committee recommended that Items No. 2-3 be placed on the Consent Calendar for the March 19 Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.



---

Harry Sidhu, Chair