

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
March 7, 2024, 12:00 p.m.**

Director Bilodeau 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**

Denis Bilodeau  
Van Tran (arrived 12:03 p.m.)  
Roger Yoh  
Bruce Whitaker  
Steve Sheldon

**OCWD Staff**

John Kennedy – General Manager  
Chris Olsen – Executive Director of Engineering  
Crystal Nettles – Principal Communications Specialist  
Alicia Harasty – Legislative Affairs Liaison  
Dani Berch - Communications Specialist  
Leticia Villarreal – Assistant District Secretary

**Alternates**

Valerie Amezcua (arrived 12:17 p.m.)  
Natalie Meeks (absent)  
Dina Nguyen (absent)  
Erik Weigand  
Cathy Green

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Whitaker, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [4-1] as follows:

***Ayes – Bilodeau, Whitaker, Sheldon, Weigand***

***Abstain – Yoh***

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**The minutes of the February 8, 2024 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.**

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**2. State Legislative Update**

OCWD Consultants provided a recommendation on bill positions and efforts to gain PFAS funding.

**Upon motion by Director Whitaker, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its March 20 Board meeting: Take the following positions:**

<b>Bill Number/Author</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
AB 817 Pacheco (D-Downey):	Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body	Support
AB 2626 Dixon (R-Newport Beach)	Advanced Clean Fleets regulations: local governments	Support

**Ayes: Bilodeau, Tran, Yoh, Whitaker, Sheldon**

### 3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants reported on updates and progress towards exemption for water entities from PFAS liability and funding for PFAS cleanup.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### 4. Water Summit Update

Principal Communications Specialist Crystal Nettles reported that planning meetings have begun for the 2024 OC Water Summit (Summit). Ms. Nettles shared Summit will be held Friday, September 27 at the Westin South Coast Plaza. Fritz Coleman will be returning as master of ceremonies. The ad hoc will continue to meet monthly and MWDOC will lead in planning of the 2024 event.

### 5. Children's Water Education Festival Update

Communications Specialist Dani Berch provided an update on the upcoming Children's Water Education Festival. She reported there are a total of 5,532 students registered among 208 classes both public and private. She shared 2,272 students will be attending Wednesday and 3,260 attending Thursday. She stated the attendance numbers had gone down due to some cancellations, mostly due to transportation not being available. She highlighted there are a total of 60 total presenters confirmed, 48 returning and 12 new presenters. She will provide a recap of the event at next month's committee meeting.

### 6. Public Affairs Outreach Report (February)

Ms. Crystal Nettles provided an overview of outreach for February 2024.

#### February Highlights:

- In February there were 10 tours with 102 tour guests and 8 speakers bureau engagements
- Staff responded to three construction hotline calls regarding the Tustin PFAS treatment facility
- Legislative staff member Alicia Dunkin attended the ACWA DC legislative conference along with President Green
- OCWD hosted the webinar "Addressing Contaminants of Emerging Concern through Innovation, Research and Technology". The webinar featured General Manager Rob Thompson from OC San as guest speaker. 130 people attended live and there have been 106 recorded views.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
  
Denis Bilodeau, Chair  
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