

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
April 2, 2015 @ 8:00 a.m.

Director Sidhu called the Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting to order in Conference Room C-2 at the District office. The Assistant District Secretary called the roll as follows:

Committee Members

Harry Sidhu, Chair
Phil Anthony
Dina Nguyen
Roman Reyna (not present)
Steve Sheldon

OCWD Staff

Mike Markus - General Manager
Eleanor Torres - Director of Public Relations
Judy-Rae Karlsen - Assistant District Secretary
Alicia Dunkin, Dianne Pinnick

Alternates

Roger Yoh
Shawn Dewane (not present)
Jan Flory
Denis Bilodeau (arrived 8:29 a.m.)
Cathy Green

Teleconference

Eric Sapirstein - ENS Resources
Jim McConnell - McConnell & Associates
Casey Elliott - Townsend Public Affairs

Others

Cori Williams - Townsend Public Affairs

ITEM TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Director of Public Affairs Eleanor Torres requested the Committee consider an urgent legislative matter that was brought to staff's attention after the posting of today's agenda which requires the immediate attention of the Board. She recommended the Committee take action to approve adding the item to today's Agenda for discussion. The Committee took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Sidhu, seconded by Director Anthony and carried [5-0] the Committee recommended adding the urgent request from West Basin Municipal Water District to consider taking a position on pending legislation to today's Agenda for discussion.

[Yes -Sidhu, Anthony, Nguyen, Sheldon, Yoh/No – 0]

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

There were no persons wishing to address the Committee on matters not on today's Agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Anthony, seconded by Director Green and carried as follows.

[Yes -Sidhu, Anthony, Nguyen, Sheldon, Yoh/No – 0]

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the March 5, 2015 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meeting are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. Federal Legislative Update

Legislative advisor Jim McConnell teleconferenced into the meeting and provided an update on legislative activities and recent meetings with legislators in Washington DC. Legislative advisor Eric Sapirstein reported on meetings with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Prado Dam, Feasibility Study, and the Santa Ana River project. He responded to Committee questions and concerns about desalination and drought funding issues.

Legislative Affairs Liaison Alicia Dunkin presented a brief report on HR 813 (Huffman) To Support the Secretary of the Army's Existing Authorities to Review the Operations of Reservoirs and recommended the Committee take a position of "support if amended". She advised the proposed amendment would make OCWD eligible to make requests to the Secretary of the Army for enhanced weather and runoff forecasting reports that are relate to dam and reservoir operations.

Director Sheldon requested that staff determine if the Orange County Flood Control District has taken a position on HR 813, and if the legislation would create undue burden on the Corps, creating more work for its staff and/or cause delays or a hindrance to OCWD's effort to get the Prado Basin Feasibility Study completed. The Committee then took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Anthony, seconded by Director Yoh and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended the Board at its April 15 Board meeting: Adopt a position of "support if amended" on HR 813 (Huffman) To Support the Secretary of the Army's Existing Authorities to Review the Operations of Reservoirs.

[Yes -Sidhu, Anthony, Nguyen, Sheldon, Yoh/No – 0]

Director Bilodeau arrived at 8:29 a.m. during the following discussion.

3. State Legislative Update

Townsend Public Affairs representatives Casey Elliott and Cori Williams reported on legislative activities and bills introduced in Sacramento that may impact the District. They discussed guidelines set forth in the Water Bond Proposition 1 funding, the District's priority water bond projects, and the drought. The Committee asked questions about the District's shovel ready projects, proposed appropriations, grant funding opportunities, the application process, and the timing of the District's shovel ready projects. General Manager Mike Markus responded to questions about the funding available for the proposed GWRS Final Expansion Project, the Mid-Basin Injection Project, the proposed desalination project, and the North Basin and South Basin Groundwater Protection plans.

Ms. Dunkin gave a briefing on state legislative bills that may impact the District. She advised that West Basin Municipal Water District has requested the District take immediate action to urge Congress to maintain the current tax-exempt status for municipal bonds and express concerns about the proposal to place a cap on the tax-exempt interest earned on municipal bonds, or eliminate the tax exemption altogether. The Committee took the following action.

Upon motion by Director Yoh, seconded by Director Anthony and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended the Board at its April 15 Board meeting: Authorize the Board President to sign a letter of support for the protection of the tax exempt status of municipal bonds.

[Yes –Sidhu, Anthony, Nguyen, Sheldon, Yoh/No – 0]

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

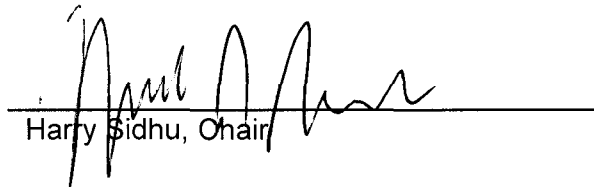
Mr. Markus advised the dedication event for the GWRS Initial Expansion project will be rescheduled for the week of July 4, 2015.

ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON CONSENT CALENDAR FOR APRIL 15 BOARD MEETING

The Committee recommended that Agenda Item Nos. 2-3 be placed on the Consent Calendar for the April 15 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 a.m.


Harry Sidhu, Chair