

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
July 6, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Director Tran called the Water Issues 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 (absent)  
Van Tran  
Roger Yoh (absent)  
Bruce Whitaker  
Steve Sheldon (absent)

OCWD Staff

Mike Markus – General Manager  
Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs  
Crystal Nettles – Legislative Affairs Liaison  
Leticia Villarreal – Assistant District Secretary

Alternates

Valerie Amezcua  
Natalie Meeks (absent)  
Dina Nguyen (absent)  
Kelly Rowe  
Cathy Green

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Whitaker, seconded by Director Rowe and carried [5-0] as follows:

**Ayes – Tran, Whitaker, Amezcua, Rowe, Green**

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

**The minutes of the June 8, 2023 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.**

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

2. State Legislative Update

OCWD Consultants provided a summary of state bills and PFAS funding.

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants reported on the progress to exempt water entities from PFAS Liability, updates on bills and DRAFT bills of interest to the district, and PFAS Cleanup Funding.

**Upon motion by Director Rowe, seconded by Director Whitaker and carried [4-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its July 19 Board meeting: Take the following positions:**

Author	Title	Recommendation
Senator Padilla, D-CA	ARROW Act: Atmospheric Rivers, Reconnaissance, Observation and Warnings Act	Support

**Ayes –Tran, Whitaker, Rowe, Green**

**Upon motion by Director Rowe, seconded by Director Tran and carried [4-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its July 19 Board meeting: Take the following positions:**

Representatives Mike Garcia (R-CA) and Jay Obernolte (R-CA)	Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act	Support
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***Ayes –Tran, Whitaker, Rowe, Green***

Senators Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.)	DRAFT PFAS Legislation Section-by-Section Summary	Informational
No Author Yet	DRAFT Legislation: Western Riverside National Wildlife Refuge	Informational

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### 4. Children’s Water Educational Festival Update

Principal Communications Specialist Crystal Nettles delivered an update on prospective venues. She reported that staff researched 12 locations as a potential site for the 2024 Festival. She stated that due to availability and ability to accommodate the event; staff has narrowed the options to UC Irvine, Great Park, or Orange County Fairgrounds. Ms. Nettles indicated that staff would bring a location recommendation to the Committee in August.

### 5. Public Affairs Outreach Report (June)

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala shared an update on June highlights noting that OCWD celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 14. She reported the occasion was marked by engaging social media posts consisting of photos and videos, which garnered attention and participation. She advised that OCWD took the opportunity to update its history book for the first time in 10 years. She stated social media posts highlighted leadership at OCWD, recognizing the individuals who contribute to the organization’s success. She stated OCWD’s social media presence has been growing and posts have been gaining a wider audience, reaching more than 16,000 social media followers across all OCWD platforms for June. Ms. Ayala advised that webinars are still a popular platform and one will be held every other month that focuses on a project or collaboration with other agencies. She stated registration for the OC Water Summit will open this month.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
  
 8/4/2023  
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 Van Tran, Vice Chair