

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
September 7, 2023, 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 (absent)
Roger Yoh (arrived 12:04)
Bruce Whitaker
Steve Sheldon (arrived 12:09)

OCWD Staff

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

Alternates

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Rowe, seconded by Director Whitaker and carried [3-0] as follows:

Ayes – Bilodeau, Whitaker, Rowe

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the August 3, 2023 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

OCWD Consultants provided a status update on the end of the 2023 Legislative session and bills of interest to OCWD, including Bonds and PFAS funding.

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants reported on the progress towards an exemption for water entities from PFAS liability and provided an update on federal funding for PFAS cleanup and the Western Riverside National Wildlife Refuge.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. 2023 OC Water Summit Update

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala reported that the 15th annual OC Water Summit will be held Friday, October 13, 2023, at the Westin South Coast Plaza. She provided an update on event planning, including sponsors and the program.


5. Public Affairs Outreach Report (August)

Ms. Ayala provided an overview of outreach for August 2023 and noted the following:

- OCWD hosted a webinar titled Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Water Industry attended by approximately 270 people live and the webinar recording has received 341 views as of August 30
- Nearly 70 people attended tours in August
- OCWD staff provided City briefings and Chamber outreach regarding PFAS
- Upcoming events including the Groundwater Adventure Tour scheduled for Friday, October 27
- GWRS has received 8 awards and are expecting to pick up at least 3 more in the fall through December.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

42C57975440249F...

Denis Bilodeau, Chair