

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
 WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE  
 ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
 April 4, 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  
 Roger Yoh  
 Bruce Whitaker  
 Steve Sheldon (arrived 12:17 p.m.)

OCWD Staff

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

Alternates

Valerie Amezcua  
 Natalie Meeks (absent)  
 Dina Nguyen (arrived 12:04 p.m.)  
 Erik Weigand (arrived 12:02 p.m.)  
 Cathy Green (absent)

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Tran, seconded by Director Amezcua and carried [4-0] as follows:

**Ayes – Bilodeau, Tran, Whitaker, Amezcua**

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

**The minutes of the March 7, 2024 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.**

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

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

**Upon motion by Director Amezcua, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its April 17 Board meeting: Take the following positions:**

Bill Number/Short Title/Author	Position Recommendation for Consideration:
AB 2079 Bennett (D-Oxnard) Groundwater extraction: large-diameter, high-capacity wells: permits. Bennett (D-Ventura).	Oppose
SB 1147 Portantino (D-Glendale) Drinking water: bottled water: microplastics levels.	Oppose Unless Amended
<b>Bills to remove PFAS from consumer products</b>	
SB 903 Skinner (D-Oakland) Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and	Support (Sponsored by CA Association of Sanitation Agencies)

polyfluoroalkyl substances	
AB 2761 Hart (D, Santa Barbara) Product safety: plastic packaging: Reducing Toxics in Packaging Act	Support
AB 2515 Papan (D-San Mateo) Menstrual products: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	Support
SB 1266 Limón (D, Oxnard) Product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances	Support

**Ayes: Bilodeau, Tran, Yoh, Amezcua, Nguyen**

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

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala reminded the committee the Water Summit is taking place on Friday, September 27 at the Westin South Coast Plaza with Fritz Coleman returning as master of ceremonies. She advised that invitations to speak were sent to Steve Garvey, Adam Schiff, Dave Min, and Scott Baugh. The Planning Committee will continue to meet monthly and update the Com/Leg Committee.

5. Children’s Water Education Festival Recap

Communications Specialist Dani Berch shared the Children’s Water Education Festival was held March 27 and 28. She reported a total of 194 classes attended totaling 5,111 students, 60 activities were hosted by community organizations including 9 booths hosted by OCWD, and 296 volunteers contributed 1,776 hours of time. She stated that thank you notes were sent to all participants (teachers, presenters, and volunteers) and planning will now begin for the 2025 festival.

6. Public Affairs Outreach Report

Ms. Ayala provided an overview of outreach for March 2024.

**March Highlights:**

- In March there were 6 tours with 157 tour guests and 12 speaker’s bureau engagements
- Legislative briefings were given to Assemblymember Diane Dixon, Assemblymember Tri Ta, and Assemblymember Avelino Valencia.
- The District received an award in March, WaterReuse National Association recognized OCWD and OC San with the 2024 Community Water Champion Award for the completion of the GWRS and out commitment to water reuse.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

*Denis Bilodeau*

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Denis Bilodeau, Chair