

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
May 2, 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 (absent)

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 (absent)
Erik Weigand
Cathy Green

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Ayes – Bilodeau, Tran, Whitaker, Amezcua

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the April 4, 2024 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

OCWD Consultants provided an update on efforts to gain PFAS funding and additional information on AB 2515 (Papan) which was deferred back to Committee.

Bill Number/Short Title/Author	Position Recommendation for Consideration:
AB 2515 Papan (D-San Mateo) Menstrual products: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	Informational

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants reported on updates and progress towards exemption for water entities from PFAS liability, PFAS maximum contaminant level (MCL) compliance periods, PFAS destruction technology guidance and funding for PFAS cleanup.

Upon motion by Director Yoh, seconded by Director Whitaker and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its May 15 Board meeting: Take the following position:

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Recommendation
H.R. 7944 (Curtis – R-UT)	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act	Support

Ayes: Bilodeau, Tran, Yoh, Whitaker, Amezcua

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Water Summit Update

Principal Communications Specialist Crystal Nettles shared that this year’s Water Summit will be the 16th year and the theme Liquid Logic: The Fusion of Finance, Tech and Water was approved at the April Summit Committee meeting. She informed the Committee that the Planning Committee will continue to meet monthly to discuss the program and speakers and updates to the Com/Leg Committee will continue monthly.

5. Public Affairs Outreach Report (April)

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided an overview of outreach for April 2024.

April Highlights:

- 20 tours with 300 tour guests and 8 speaker’s bureau engagements were held.
- The GWRS dedication event was selected to receive an EPIC award from the California Association of Public Information Officers (CAPIO).
- OC Supervisor Doug Chaffee received a briefing. Senate candidate Steve Garvey received a tour and briefing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Denis Bilodeau 6/10/2024
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Denis Bilodeau, Chair