

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
June 6, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Director Whitaker 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

OCWD Staff

John Kennedy – General Manager  
Chris Olsen – Executive Director  
Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs  
Alicia Harasty – Legislative Affairs Liaison  
Dani Berch – Communications Specialist  
Lisa Haney – Executive Director  
Roy Herndon – Chief Hydrogeologist  
Janice Kovacevic – Executive Assistant

Alternates

Valerie Amezcua (absent)  
Natalie Meeks (absent)  
Dina Nguyen (arrived 12:08 pm)  
Erik Weigand (absent)  
Cathy Green (absent)

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

***Ayes – Bilodeau, Tran, Yoh, Whitaker, Sheldon***

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

**The minutes of the May 2, 2024 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.**

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

2. State Legislative Update

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

**Upon motion by Director Yoh, seconded by Director Tran and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its June 19 Board meeting: Take the following positions:**

<b>Bill Number/Short Title/Author</b>	<b>Position Recommendation for Consideration:</b>
AB 2079 Bennett (D-Oxnard) Groundwater extraction: large-diameter, high-capacity wells: permits. Bennett (D-Ventura).	Oppose Unless Amended
SB 1147 Portantino (D-Glendale) Drinking water: bottled water: microplastics levels.	Watch

**Ayes: Bilodeau, Tran, Yoh, Whitaker, Sheldon**

### 3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultant Eric Sapirstein provided an update on the progress towards securing an exemption for water entities from PFAS liability and the recent OCWD visit to Washington, D.C. He also provided information on the new reporting requirements from the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### 4. Children's Water Education Festival Update

Communications Specialist Dani Berch provided a recap of the 2024 festival budget and the sponsorships received. She stated that planning efforts for 2025 are underway and that a new location is being considered due to rising costs and pending construction plans at UC Irvine. She advised that staff, along with Director Weigand, will continue to coordinate with UC Irvine's government affairs and marketing departments to help reduce future costs. Ms. Berch stated that updates will continue to be provided to the committee for consideration.

Director Sheldon directed staff to draft a letter to the UC Irvine Chancellor, addressing concerns about the various fees and the possibility of fee reimbursement or waiving fees in the future.

***Ayes – Bilodeau, Tran, Yoh, Whitaker, Sheldon***

### 5. Water Summit Update

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala shared that MWDOC would be leading this year's efforts in planning the Water Summit which is scheduled for Friday, September 27 at the Westin South Coast Plaza with Fritz Coleman returning as master of ceremonies. 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 has developed a draft program and will continue to confirm speakers. She said updates to the Com/Leg Committee will continue monthly.

### 6. Public Affairs Outreach Report (May)

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

#### **May Highlights:**

- 11 tours with 167 tour guests and 9 speaker's bureau engagements were held.
- The GWRS dedication event was selected to receive an EPIC and Best in Show award from the California Association of Public Information Officers (CAPIO).
- Legislative Engagement meetings with Congressman Lou Correa, Congresswoman Young Kim, key committee, EPA and USACE staff, and at the State level with Assemblymember Diane Dixon.
- OCWD hosted the webinar "Addressing Groundwater Contamination in the Southern Portion of the OC Groundwater Basin". The webinar was hosted by Bill Leever in our Hydrogeology department along with a representative from the Department of Toxic Substances, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- The Water Infrastructure Networking Summit (WINS) was held on May 31. OCWD was a host committee member, and President Green was on the event panel.

She updated the committee on the PFAS dedication event opportunities that have been offered to the Producers, both past and future events.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

DocuSigned by:  
*Bruce Whitaker*  
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Bruce Whitaker, Chair