

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
August 8, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Director Weigand 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 (arrived at 12:07 p.m.)
Van Tran (absent)
Roger Yoh
Bruce Whitaker (absent)
Steve Sheldon (absent)

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
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 Yoh, seconded by Director Amezcua and carried [3-0] as follows:

Ayes – Yoh, Amezcua, Green
Abstain – Weigand

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the June 6, 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 Bilodeau and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its August 21 Board meeting: Take the following position:

Bill Number/Short Title/Author	Position Recommendation for Consideration:
SB 1255 (Durazo. D-Los Angeles) Public water Systems; needs analysis: water rate assistance program	Oppose Unless Amended

Ayes: Bilodeau, Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green

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).

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [5-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its August 21 Board meeting: Take the following positions:

Bill Number/Short Title/Author	Position Recommendation for Consideration:	Recommendation
S. 4673 Senator Kysten Sinema (I-AZ and Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)	Special District Grant Accessibility Act	Support
No bill number yet/Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act	Support

Ayes: Bilodeau, Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green

4. State Legislative Advocacy Services

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala stated that the current agreement expires August 31, 2024. The Committee suggested moving from month-to-month to a 2-year agreement term to match the legislative session.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [4-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its August 21 Board meeting Retain both Joe A. Gonsalves and Son at the same rate of \$8,000 per month and Edelstein Gilbert Robson and Smith (EGRS) at the same rate of \$8,000 per month for state legislative advocacy services for a 2-year term.

Ayes: Bilodeau, Yoh, Weigand, Green

5. Federal Legislative Advocacy Services

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala stated that the current agreement expires August 31, 2024. The Committee suggested moving from month-to-month to a 2-year agreement term to match the legislative session.

Upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Bilodeau and carried [4-0], the Committee recommended that the Board at its August 21 Board meeting Retain ENS Resources at a rate of \$8,000 per month for federal legislative advocacy services on a 2-year term.

Ayes: Bilodeau, Yoh, Weigand, Green

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Children’s Water Education Festival Update

Communications Specialist Dani Berch shared the 2025 water festival will be the 28th year that OCWD has had this event. She stated that staff is currently researching venues for the 2025 festival. She informed the Committee that they have looked at over 60 different locations across Orange

County. She reported that they narrowed the list of 60 venues to 3 locations as a possible host: 1) UC Irvine, 2) Huntington Beach Sports Complex and 3) Oak Canyon Park in Orange. She stated the next step would be to get cost estimates from the three locations and see what dates they have available. She advised that staff will bring location, date and event services recommendations to the Committee in September.

7. Water Summit Update

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided an update on the 2024 Summit being held on Friday, September 27, at the Westin South Coast Plaza. She stated there are currently 72 registrants and \$24,900 in sponsorships. She advised that updates to the Committee will continue monthly.

8. Public Affairs Outreach Report (June/July)

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided an overview of outreach for June and July 2024.

Highlights:

- 21 tours with 378 tour guests and 12 speaker's bureau engagements were held.
- Construction Notifications were written for 3 projects: Seawater barrier well cleaning, Huntington Beach monitoring well construction and Tustin PFAS treatment facility construction
- OCWD welcomed EPA Acting Assistant Administrator Bruno Pigott on a tour of the Linda Vista PFAS Treatment Plant in Anaheim, EPA staff and representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Young Kim and Congressman Lou Correa also joined the tour.

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE AUGUST 21 BOARD MEETING

It was agreed to place all items on the Consent Calendar at the August 21 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Denis Bilodeau
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Denis Bilodeau, Chair