

## LEGISLATIVE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE NOTES

January 16, 2019

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**Attendees:**

Committee members: Oscar Gonzalez (Chair) and Kathy Tiegs

Staff members: John Bosler, Carrie Corder, Chad Brantley, Eduardo Espinoza, Eric Grubb, Erin Morales, and Katie Heer

Members of the Public: Michael Boccadoro and Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

**Call to Order:** 5:00 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:** None

### I. Legislative Conference Call

- Michael Boccadoro and Beth Olhasso from West Coast Advisors called in and provided an update on state legislative and policy issues. With the recent election of Governor Newsom the legislature and executive branch have gone from moderate-democratic to left-leaning democratic. It is the first time in over 120 years that the office of the governor has transitioned from a democrat to another democrat. With the election of additional democratic legislators throughout the state, the legislature is now comprised of over 2/3 majority democrats in both houses of the legislature with 60 of the 80 Assemblymembers and 29 of the 40 Senators.
- Governor Newsom has appointed much of his senior staff including Mr. Wade Crowfoot as the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Crowfoot served as the CEO of the Water Foundation where he advocated for a statewide tax on water. Another potential key appointment is the Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, which is currently filled by Governor Brown appointee Ms. Felicia Marcus. Ms. Marcus could be re-appointed by Governor Newsom or he could choose a new appointee.
- There were leadership changes in the Republican Party with Assemblymember Marie Waldron becoming the new Assembly Minority Leader and Senator Patricia Bates becoming the new Senate Minority Leader.
- Key legislative and regulatory issues for the District in 2020 are anticipated to include the CA WaterFix, flow requirements from the State Water Resources Control Board, Senator Hertzberg's anticipated legislation on zero water discharge into the ocean, the human right to water issue and the different proposals to fund drinking water for disadvantaged communities.
- The deadline for legislators to introduce legislation is February 22, 2019.
- Mr. Boccadoro and Ms. Olhasso exited the Committee call at 5:25 pm.

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### 2. Crisis Communication Plan

- Staff provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on the key elements of the District's newly drafted Crisis Communications Plan.
- The Crisis Communications Plan is a tool to guide the Communications & Outreach Department, as well as all District staff on the best way to inform the public when a crisis occurs.
- Staff explained that the plan is flexible based on the situation and will be used in conjunction with other emergency decision-making procedures of CVWD. This plan solely describes the communications roles, responsibilities, and procedures that will be followed by the District's Crisis Communication Team and does not address other emergency response and recovery procedures that likely will also be implemented in response to an incident.
- The plan includes how to form a crisis communications team during an emergency, how to draft and deliver an initial statement to the public, and best practices for continued communication. Additionally, the plan includes useful templates for press releases and other pertinent communications mechanisms.
- The committee recommended that the staff consider all types of emergencies into the plan, including those where technology and electricity are not accessible. They suggested keeping a large number of "Boil Water Notices" on hand for situations in the event that we need door-to-door messaging.

### 3. Proposed Community Relations Training

- Staff presented the committee with a training opportunity for the Board of Directors and executive management, which will consist of four sessions of community relations training to be facilitated by an outside consultant, CV Strategies.
- The goal of the training is to assist the Board of Directors and staff to be more comfortable interacting with the public and the media on important issues.
- The sessions will focus on a variety of communication strategies and messaging with the public, such as protecting the CVWD brand, making effective presentations, and practicing being a spokesperson on behalf of the District.
- The committee supported the staff's proposal and staff will coordinate the first training to take place in the spring of 2019.

### 4. Upcoming Legislative Events Memo

- Staff presented the committee with a memo outlining the upcoming legislative events. The details of each event were reviewed with the committee members to ensure that they were aware of what staff has planned and so that they had the opportunity to provide feedback. The committee recommended that we visit newly elected Assemblymember James Ramos when in Sacramento.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:10 p.m.