

LEGISLATIVE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE NOTES

August 29, 2018

Attendees:

Committee members: Oscar Gonzalez (Chair) and Kathy Tieggs

Staff members: Carrie Corder, Kristeen Farlow, Eric Grubb, Robert Kalarsarinis, and Erin Morales

Members of the Public: Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

I. Legislative Conference Call

- Beth Olhasso from West Coast Advisors called in to provide an update on state legislation and policy issues. Friday, August 31, 2018 marks the end of the two-year legislative session.
- There is ongoing discussion about extending the contract between the State Water Contractors and Department of Water Resources.
- Wildfire legislation is a hot topic; current proposed legislation is seen as a bailout for the insurance companies.
- State Board discussion on flows continues. The current State Board proposal would be detrimental to agriculture and urban users and only good for the environment. Alternatives are being explored to make the new regulations more equitable.
- Key active legislation:
 - SB 998 – Water shutoff bill was sent to the Governor; this bill is very problematic for the District. We sent a veto request letter.
 - SB 120 – CEQA/Cadiz Project bill will probably be sent to the Governor. We opposed this bill for its bad precedent setting relating to CEQA review.
 - SB 845 – Water Tax – we strongly oppose it, it may not make it to the Governor this year due to the close vote count in the legislature.
- Ms. Olhasso exited the Committee call at 5:35 pm.

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2. Proposition 3 Water Bond

- Staff presented information to the Committee on Proposition 3, the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018. This \$8.877 billion dollar bond will be on the statewide ballot in November. Staff presented the information to the Committee to receive input on whether or not the District should endorse it.
- The committee had concerns over the amount of the bond versus how much of it would be coming to our region. The Committee requested that this item be taken to the full Board of Directors for consideration at the September 11, 2018 meeting.

3. Federal Legislative Advocacy Proposal

- The District has been using the services of BB&K for federal advocacy issues on an hourly, as-needed basis for the past several years. BB&K recently approached staff and asked us to consider entering into an annual retainer agreement so that they can provide additional services.
- Staff presented information to the Committee for consideration. The committee noted that they would be ok with executing a one-year contract with a 30-day cancellation clause in conjunction with a monthly action list of things for BB&K to work on. It was recommended that the item be forwarded to the full Board of Directors for consideration at the September 25, 2018 meeting.

4. Communications Master Plan Update

- Staff provided the Committee with an update on the status of the Communications Master Plan. The Plan was completed in 2014 and staff has been implementing it since that time.
- Staff recapped the priority areas identified in the Plan, which are Branding, Internal Communications, External Communications, Strategic Resource Allocation, and Long-Term Planning. An overview of significant accomplishments within each plan area was presented, including most significantly the development and implementation of the District's first ever Branding Guidelines.
- The Communications Master Plan has been an invaluable resource in guiding the District's outreach and marketing efforts. Staff is considering an addendum to the Plan in 2019 to reestablish priorities and ensure the District is using the most relevant and up-to-date methods of communicating with our stakeholders and customers.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 p.m.