

Government and Public Affairs Committee Notes

January 20, 2022

Attendees:

Committee members:	Luis Cetina (Chair) and Kevin Kenley
Staff members:	Luis Cetina, Mark Gibboney, Kevin Kenley, John Bosler, Eduardo Espinoza, Chad Brantley, Rob Hills, Eric Grubb, Erin Morales, Taya Victorino, and Evette Ounanian
Members of the Public:	Michael Boccadoro and Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

Call to Order: 5:02 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: Staff requested to reorder item number three to item number two.

Introductory Remarks by Chair Cetina

Chair Cetina announced for the record that this meeting was conducted by teleconference pursuant to Resolution No. 2022-1-1 in response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Further, the agenda stated that there was no public location for attending this meeting in person. The agenda stated that the public may listen and provide comment telephonically by calling the number listed on the agenda. Chair Cetina took a roll call of Committee members and staff present on the call as listed above.

1. Legislative Conference Call

- Beth Olhasso of West Coast Advisors (WCA) provided an update on the even districts up for re-election, key legislation, and other policy issues:
 - Senator Josh Newman will be State Senator for District 29 until 2024.
 - Assemblymember Eloise Gómez-Reyes will run for new District 50.
 - AB 1434 (Friedman) is not moving forward as a two-year bill, but will be reintroduced, and restart the assembly bill process.
 - On January 10, Governor Newsom has allocated \$750 million towards drought and climate resilience. The State of California is moving forward with drought measures and efficient turf removal programs.
 - Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia has been named Chair of the Assembly Committee on Utilities on Water Committee Chair.

2. Water Now

- Michael Boccadoro of West Coast Advisors (WCA) provided an update on Water Now:
 - Directs two percent of annual General Fund to water supply projects; limits environmental review for eligible projects.
 - Transfers two percent of annual General Fund revenues to Water Supply Infrastructure Trust Account for water infrastructure projects until state increases its annual water supply by 5 million acre-feet of water.

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- Authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds for water projects to be repaid with revenues in Trust Account.
- Limits environmental review of eligible projects through expedited California Natural Resources Agency to override Coastal Commission decisions.
- Limited Coastal Commission review of specified projects; authorizes California Environmental Quality Act process.
- Limits constitutional challenges to approved projects.
- Total costs of several tens of billions of dollars for water projects, potentially totaling more than \$100 billion, to develop 5 million acre-feet of additional annual water supply.
- Fiscal effect to bonds that increase capital, \$2.5 billion to \$4 billion dollars per year of existing state General Fund revenues for the next few decades to support the above costs. These funds would therefore not be available to support other public services funded by the state.
- The Water Infrastructure Act campaign has struggled to raise funding. It is facing significant opposition and requires \$25 million-plus along with signatures required. At this time, ACWA, MWD, SCWC, IEUA, have not taken positions.

Mr. Boccadoro and Ms. Olhasso exited the call at 5:35 p.m.

3. Well 49 Outreach Plan

- GPA Staff provided details of the outreach to the community:
 - District Staff walked door to door, visiting 45 homes and discussing the project 1x1 with the residents.
 - Staff also mailed out 50 letters to surrounding homes that will be impacted.
 - Efforts taken to inform customers include mailing the project fact sheet to residents, social media post on Nextdoor, coordinating with the City of Rancho Cucamonga, and the construction site has a hotline posted for residents to contact. Engineering will respond within 24 hours.

4. Turf Rebates

- GPA Staff provided an update regarding turf rebates:
 - Effective March, MWD will be increasing the Public Sector turf rebate to \$1 and increasing the square footage. District staff is advocating to keep the \$1, requiring the approval of the committee.
 - IEUA has proposed to remove their \$1 in the Public Sector to keep at \$3 total.
 - IEUA will have a flex program and eliminate their bill of match effective 7/1.
 - CVWD can add money at any time to the rebate program to increase the rebate amount.
 - Effective 7/1, CVWD will have the ability to add more IEUA funding to the turf program.
 - The State Budget proposal includes \$75 million for turf replacement.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.