

## LEGISLATIVE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE NOTES

March 21, 2019

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**Attendees:**

Committee members: Oscar Gonzalez (Chair) and Kathy Tiegs

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

Members of the Public: Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

**Call to Order:** 5:07 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:** None

### I. Legislative Conference Call

- Beth Olhasso from West Coast Advisors called in and provided an update on state legislative and policy issues. The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water issue remains at the center of discussion with a total of six different proposals introduced on the subject. Governor Newsom the budget trailer bill option instead of going through the normal legislative process.
- SB 237 (Hertzberg) proposes to eliminate ocean discharge by 2040. There are serious concerns about this bill by wastewater agencies, and as a result we will monitor the progress and provide comment as appropriate. Chairman Gonzalez commented that Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti supports the concept but that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Los Angeles Sanitation District does not believe that this is good policy and that it may not be achievable to meet the goal.
- Ms. Olhasso exited the Committee call at 5:29 pm.

### 2. Federal and State Legislative Visits Recap (Verbal)

- Staff presented the Committee with a recap of the State and Federal Legislative Visits. The Legislative and Government Affairs Department has had a very busy February and March with the ACWA DC, ACWA State Legislative Symposium, and the Water Agencies of the Inland Empire and Orange County State Legislative Reception events in Sacramento.
- During the ACWA DC trip, we heard from legislators and their staff discussing key water and regulatory issues such as the CA WaterFix and Sites Reservoir. Notable speakers included John Garamendi and Doug LaMalfa.

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- In addition to the ACWA Program, Director Tiegs and I attended the Inland Empire and Orange County Federal Legislative Luncheon, which included notable speakers such as Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman Paul Cook and our own Director Tiegs, who was asked to speak on the importance of continued collaboration amongst California water agencies and legislators.
- Staff also recapped that on March 5<sup>th</sup>, CVWD hosted along with 10 other agencies, the Water Agencies of the Inland Empire & Orange County State Legislative Reception in Sacramento at the Esquire Grill. The reception was well attended with over 60 attendees. Notable attendees included: Senator Mike Morrell and Assembly member Eduardo Garcia, Chair of the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee.
- The day after the Reception on March 6<sup>th</sup>, staff and Board Members attended ACWA's Legislative Symposium where important issues such as Safe and Affordable Drinking Water and Groundwater Recharge were discussed amongst varied panels.
- In addition to the Symposium, staff and Board Members also visited with Assembly member Ramos' staff at his Capitol Office on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed CVWD's position on relevant legislation like the Drinking Water Trust and provided general information about the district. The delegation also highlighted new projects and innovation like the Nitrate Treatment Facility.

### 3. Monthly Billing Outreach

- Staff presented the Committee with an overview of the outreach plan for the district's transition to monthly billing.
- Outreach efforts began in December 2018 and will continue through fall 2019.
- The outreach plan includes traditional marketing methods such as billing inserts and the customer newsletter, as well as new and innovative methods like information tables and reusable grocery bags with monthly billing messaging at the local grocery stores.
- Staff also shared a promotional video that multiple departments collaborated on to explain the benefits of monthly billing. The video will be utilized on social media, the CVWD website, and local cable TV channels.

### 4. Draft Prop 218 Notice Review

- Staff presented the committee with a Draft Prop 218 Notice. The notice relates to Sewer and Recycled Water charges and will be mailed to those customers who receive those services. The rates in the notice are supported by Cost of Service Rate Studies.
- The CVWD Sewer Service Charge will not be increased; however, IEUA Treatment charges will be passed through and Recycled Water charges will increase at 3% per year.
- The mailer provides the required notice for the Public Hearing to be held at the June 11, 2019 Board Meeting.

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- The Committee members provided formatting suggestions and other comments; however, supported the notice moving forward.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 p.m.