

Government and Public Affairs Committee Notes October 9, 2019

Attendees:

Committee members:	Oscar Gonzalez (Chair) and Kathy Tiegs
Staff members:	John Bosler, Carrie Guarino, Chad Brantley, Cindy Cisneros, Bobby Kalarsarinis, Eric Grubb, Erin Morales, and Angelo Orioli
Members of the Public:	Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

1. Legislative Conference Call

- Beth Olhasso from the West Coast Advisors called in to provide an update on state legislation, regulations, and policy items.
- This year's legislative session ended on September 14th and the Governor has until October 13th to sign bills. The Governor vetoed SBI and several of our local legislators abstained from voting. The Government and Public Affairs Committee members and staff made significant efforts to communicate the District's position on SBI by contacting our local representatives.
- Ms. Olhasso discussed several water bonds in the near future. The bonds, if successful, may have funding for resiliency projects such as recycled water and groundwater recharge. West Coast will help the District stay engaged in this process.
- Ms. Olhasso exited the call at 5:10 pm.

2. Administrative Policy No. 2.5 Ticket Distribution

- Staff provided the committee with an update to Administrative Policy No. 2.5. Staff proposed renaming the Administrative Policy No. 2.5, Gift Distribution to Administrative Policy No. 2.5, Ticket Distribution.
- In addition, staff asked the committee to consider making several amendments to the policy to ensure that the District remains compliant with the amended guidelines provided within Section 18944.1 of Title 2 in the California Code of Regulation, which were amended by the Fair Political Practice Commission (FPCC) in May 2019.

Government and Public Affairs Committee Notes October 9, 2019

- The changes made by the FPPC provide clarification of the valuation of tickets and passes. In addition, the regulation provides clarification on when a District Official is exempt from reporting certain tickets or passes on their Form 700 and to include revisions on how the agency can distribute tickets/passes.
- The Committee concurred with the recommendation and the item will be presented to the Board of Directors for review and approval at the Board meeting on October 22, 2019.

3. Water Shutoff Protection Act, Senate Bill 998

- Staff provided the committee with a review of Senate Bill (SB) 998. Governor Brown signed SB 998, the Water Shutoff Protection Act in 2018 and the District is required to comply by February 1, 2020.
- SB 998 has several requirements:
 - A customer's bill must be 60 days delinquent before discontinuing water service.
 - The District must adopt a written policy for discontinuation of water for non-payment. This policy must be available in six different languages.
 - The law places a limit on fees collected due to discontinuation of water; however, the District's fees are currently lower than the maximum stated rates.
- Staff will undertake several tasks between now and the implementation date. Staff will update our municipal code; review and update the existing deposit policy; and review and update non-payment enforcement fees. A public hearing will be required to adopt the updated ordinance.

4. ACWA Video Opportunity

- Staff provided the committee with news on the opportunity to participate in an upcoming ACWA video. ACWA has been working on a ten video series. The final four videos will be shown at the fall ACWA Conference.
- The video in which we have been asked to participate is the nexus between water and energy. There will be three lengths of the same video: 5 minutes, 2.5 minutes, and one shorter. The District will be one of three agencies in the video and we will be able to use the video for the District's public affairs purposes.
- The cost for each participating agency is \$1,200, which will be charged to the Government and Public Affairs operating budget.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.