

Government and Public Affairs Committee Notes January 11, 2021

Attendees:

Committee members:	Luis Cetina (Chair) and Mark Gibboney
Staff members:	John Bosler, Carrie Guarino, Taya Victorino, Chad Brantley, Eduardo Espinoza, Rob Hills, Eric Grubb, Erin Morales, Socorro Pantaleon, and Elizabeth Becker
Members of the Public:	Michael Boccadoro & Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

Call to Order: 3:00 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

Introductory Remarks by Chair Cetina

Chair Cetina announced for the record that this meeting was conducted by teleconference pursuant to the Brown Act waivers provided for under the Governor's Executive Orders, 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.

I. Legislative Conference Call

- Michael Boccadoro and Beth Olhasso of West Coast Advisors (WCA) provided a brief update on key state legislative issues expected in 2021.
- The Legislature recently returned to in-person meetings in Sacramento to act on emergency action items related to COVID-19. Governor Newsom proposed his 2021-2022 State Budget of \$227 billion including approximately \$4.5 billion in COVID specific funding. The Governor's proposed budget is the largest in state history with much of the revenue to fund it coming from capital gained taxes.
- Some of the key issues the Governor and Legislature are dealing with include the following: a financial stimulus plan for businesses and individuals, a plan to re-open schools, vaccine distribution, homelessness, affordable housing, climate resiliency, and ongoing EDD issues related to a backlog of unemployment claims and significant fraud. It is expected to be a busy January with a possible lull in February and March. Legislative leaders have decided that only 10 bills per legislator will be sent to the other house for consideration so legislators will need to prioritize and carefully consider the bills they carry.
- There is an active and growing recall campaign for Governor Newsom. The effort has until March to obtain enough signatures to qualify for the ballot; the effort currently has over half the amount of signatures needed.

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- There is no update or end in sight for the Governor's Executive Order on water shutoffs. There is not a time limit on the Governor's Executive Orders, he can keep them active for as long as he sees necessary.
- California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) is planning to re-introduce its "flushable wipes" bill from last year. The bill improves labelling on flushable wipes so the public understands that they are not truly flushable and can damage sewer infrastructure.
- Mr. Boccadoro and Ms. Olhasso exited the call at 3:25 pm

2. Legislative Policy Principles

- Staff brought back the two remaining proposed draft Legislative Policy Principles for discussion and consideration by the Committee. The Committee approved the two remaining policy principles with one minor change. The next step for the item is a board workshop after the January 26, 2021 Board meeting. During the workshop, the full Board can discuss and consider the adoption of the legislative policy principles.

3. SB 415 Update (Verbal)

- Staff provided the Committee an update on the SB 415 process. Now that the County Board of Supervisors has approved the District's move to even-year elections, the public notification process will commence.
- The County will send a postcard to all registered voters in the District notifying them that CVWD has changed its election cycle from odd-years to even years. Based on the prior post-card from 2017, it will let the public know that the next election will be held on November 8, 2022, that the current board member terms will be extended by one year, and will include a dedicated CVWD phone number in case of questions.
- Staff will be given the opportunity to review a draft of the postcard before the County mails it. Last Friday staff distributed Talking Points that can be used to answer questions from the public.
- The Committee requested that staff re-engage with the community through a NewsFlash distributed in Social Media and posted on our website that informs the community of the County's decision and that a postcard will be mailed by the County within the next 30 days.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:40 p.m.