

Government and Public Affairs Committee Notes

March 18, 2021

Attendees:

Committee members:	Luis Cetina (Chair) and Kevin Kenley
Staff members:	Carrie Guarino, Taya Victorino, Eric Grubb, Erin Morales, and Joanna Gonzalez.
Members of the Public:	Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

Call to Order: 5:00 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

- Beth Olhasso of West Coast Advisors (WCA) provided a brief update on key legislation and other policy issues:
 - During a recent ACWA Water Management Committee, SWRCB staff discussed the statewide drought conditions and hinted that drought restrictions may be implemented later this year. The SWRCB cannot implement drought restrictions without the Governor first declaring that the state is in a drought. Santa Clara County officials have already declared a local drought emergency.
 - The committee hearings for both SB 222 & 223 (Dodd) that addresses water affordability and water shut-offs were pushed back; most likely, due to opposition expressed by numerous stakeholders, including the District.
 - AB 1434 (Friedman) proposes lower residential water use limits to 40 GPCD. There are a number of issues with this bill including incomplete studies on flow concentration and GPCD feasibility by DWR from Ms. Friedman's previous GPCD limit bill. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for late April. The committee had a robust discussion on statewide water supply issues and potential drought restrictions.
 - CSDA is leading an effort to consolidate all of the "open-meeting" bills.
 - Ms. Olhasso exited the call at 5:30pm

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2. Street Banner Program Update (Verbal)

- Staff provided the Committee with an overview of the All-America City Street Banner program, in which the District is participating. The All-America City recognition is an award the City applied for and received in 2020. The purpose behind the program is to display community pride and highlight businesses. The District's banner will be displayed for one year on the streetlamp at the NE corner of Center and Foothill, beginning in Spring/Summer 2021. After the yearlong program, staff plans to display the banner at the District's campus.

3. Education Outreach Update (Verbal)

- Staff provided the Committee with an update on our outreach and education activities. Included in this presentation was our social media statistics from 2020 to 2021, education program highlights, and upcoming events.

4. Water Awareness Month

- Staff provided the Committee with a report on our activities for Water Awareness Month in the month of May. Activities include a Water Awareness Proclamation that will be presented at the May 11, 2021 Board of Director's Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.