

Government and Public Affairs Committee Notes

July 21, 2021

Attendees:

Committee members:	Luis Cetina (Chair) and Kevin Kenley
Staff members:	Eduardo Espinoza, Chad Brantley, Eric Grubb, and Erin Morales
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:
 - The Legislature is on summer recess through 8/15 and the session ends on 9/10. There are three active bills of interest to the District: AB 818 (Bloom) - Flushable Wipes (support), SB 222 (Dodd) - Water Rate Assistance Program (oppose), and SB 323 (Caballero) - Water or Sewer Service Legal Actions (support).
 - Governor Newsom recently expanded his emergency declaration to nine additional counties, bringing the total to 50 out of 58 counties across the state now under a drought state of emergency. He also requested the public to voluntarily reduce water use by 15%. Statewide water supply conditions are worsening in particular in Northern and Central CA, 85% of the State is now in extreme drought.
 - The Governor's recall is set for 9/15 with the official list of candidates reaching 46. The recall effort is impacting how the Governor is handling a number of policy issues including his response to the drought.
 - The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) will be releasing draft Public Health Goals (PHGs) on July 22, for PFOA and PFOS. The draft PHG for PFOA will be .007 ng/L and for PFOS 1 ng/L. There will also be a 60-day comment period.
 - State budget update: The State Water Board will distribute the water arrearage funding in the state budget, it remains unclear how the State Board will distribute the funding.
 - The last day to pass bills is 9/10 and the Governor must sign or veto bills by 10/10.
 - Ms. Olhasso exited the call at 5:17.

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2. Quarterly Sponsorship Update

- Staff provided the committee with an update on sponsorship activity for the fourth quarter of FY 2021.
- Staff processed four sponsorship payments during this time, which were all budgeted in the current biennial budget.

3. Water Quality Report Design & Outreach

- GPA staff collaborated with Water Treatment staff to update and redesign the water quality report.
- Staff provided the committee with a finished sample of the updated and more user-friendly Water Quality Report as an informational item only.

Meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.