



**Final Minutes
Legislative Advocacy Committee of the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

The meeting was conducted via Teleconference - by Zoom.

Call to Order

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Committee members present: Mary Adams, Chair
Ian Oglesby
Alvin Edwards

Committee members absent: None

Staff members present: David J. Stoldt, General Manager
Sara Reyes, Sr. Office Specialist

District Counsel present: David Laredo with De Lay and Laredo
Michael Laredo with De Lay and Laredo

Legislative Consultant: John Arriaga, JEA & Associates
Laurie Johnson, JEA & Associates
Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group
Chris Kearney, The Ferguson Group
Chris Cummins, The Ferguson Group

Comments from the Public: No comments were directed to the committee.

Action Items

1. Consider Adoption of the January 24, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Adams introduced the matter and opened public comment; no comments were directed to the committee.

A motion was offered by Director Edwards with a second from Director Oglesby to approve the January 24, 2024 Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed on a roll-call vote of 3-Ayes (Edwards, Adams and Oglesby), and 0-Noes.

Discussion Items

2. Report from The Ferguson Group on Federal Legislative and Regulatory Activities

Chair Adams introduced the item. Chris Kearney with The Ferguson Group (TFG) provided a report and made the following points to include, but are not limited to:

- March 23, 2024: Congress passed Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024
- April 17, 2024: The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 process formally began
- Federal regulation establishing first-time enforceable limits for six different types of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water

Roger Gwinn with TFG made the following points to include, but are not limited to:

- TFG worked with MPWMD to submit Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending requests
 - Monterey Peninsula Stormwater Diversion and Recycling Project
 - Construction, Environmental Infrastructure for the Olivier Street Stormwater Diversion
 - Feasibility and Design of Other Diversion and Recycling Projects
- 3.2 million request by MPWMD under the Environmental Protection Agency State Journal Assistance grants program for Seaside Municipal Well

Chris Cummins with TFG referred to the Legislative Tracker and made the following points to include, but are not limited to:

- STREAM Act Light bill – would provide 30 million dollars for the installation and construction of permanent drought facilities and would increase the water supply by modernizing infrastructure throughout California
- WATER for California Act – would provide long-term water supply supplemental of easing restrictions
- Bills that did not make this cycle:
 - Drought Resilient Infrastructure Act – would allow for the Army Corps of Engineers to provide resources and authorities to support communities experiencing long-term droughts
 - Future of Water Act – would specifically prohibit any increases of water prices that would come from water market manipulation or any types of over speculation and it would prohibit the trading of water or water rights and commodity futures.

3. Report from JEA & Associates on Legislative Status and Bill Tracking

John Arriaga provided introductory remarks and stated the budget continues to be the priority topic and is causing legislation to get hung up in appropriations.

Laurie Johnson made the following points to include, but are not limited to:

- Budget Update
- Legislative Updates
 - AB 2257 – ACWA Sponsored / JEA recommends Support
 - AB 2302 – Sponsored by City of Pismo Beach, supported by ACWA and CMUA (California Municipal Utilities Association) / JEA recommends Support
 - AB 2561 – Labor vs. Counties and CMUA / JEA recommends Oppose
 - SB 1188 – Opposed by CMUA / JEA has no position
 - SB1210 – Opposed by ACWA / JEA has no position
 - SB1440 – JEA has no position

John Arriaga made the following points to include, but are not limited to:

- Update on bonds and initiatives
 - Climate/water bond -- bills have been sidelined but JEA will continue to closely monitor all developments and provide updates to the Legislative Advocacy Committee

- Initiative #1935 – sponsored by the California Business Roundtable and known as the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act – would significantly restrict the ability of cities to raise taxes and fees, including retroactively.

4. Status of Request Applications for FY 2024-25 Earmarks

General Manager Stoldt reported that Roger Gwinn addressed this issue in his report. Mr. Stoldt referred to the requests, filed applications, and letters of support shown under Exhibit 4-A.

Other Items

5. Suggest Items to Place on a Future Committee Agenda

None

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

/ s/ Sara C. Reyes

Sara C. Reyes, Committee Clerk to the
MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee

Approved by the MPWMD Legislative Committee on September 30, 2024

Approved by the MPWMD Board of Directors on October 21, 2024