



**Final Minutes  
Legislative Advocacy Committee of the  
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District  
Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

*The meeting was conducted via Teleconference - by Zoom.*

**Call to Order**

Chair Paull called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Committee members present:** Karen Paull, Chair  
Mary Adams  
Alvin Edwards (Alternate) left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

**Committee members absent:** Ian Oglesby (arrived at 2:10 p.m.)

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

**District Counsel present:** Fran Farina 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 October 19, 2022 and March 9, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes**

Chair Paull introduced the matter.

*Opened Public Comment; no comments were directed to the Committee.*

A motion was offered by Adams with a second from Edwards to approve the October 19, 2022, and March 9, 2023 Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed on a roll-call vote of 3-Ayes (Paull, Edwards and Adams), 0-Noes and 0-Absent.

**Discussion Items**

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

Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group provided a brief overview of Exhibit 2-A: Quarterly Legislative Report and answered questions from the committee. He made the following points to include, but

are not limited to:

- a. Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations is now underway which includes consideration of the District's request for an allocation of \$2.15 million dollars for a group of projects under the title of Monterey Peninsula Stormwater Diversion and Recycling Program. This funding was secured last year by Congressman Panetta on behalf of the District in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022.
- b. To assist with moving the process forward in the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the District, The Ferguson Group, the former Chief Counsel for the Corps of Engineers Earl Stockdale and the former Corps headquarters lead for the South Pacific Division Bradd Schwichtenberg, had a meeting with the Corp at the San Francisco District office to brief them on the project and the District's desire to partner with the Corp on projects to address the water supply needs on the Peninsula.

David Stoldt reported that a change of command occurred on June 23, 2023, with Lt. Colonel Kevin P. Arnett, Commander, San Francisco District who is ascending to the South Pacific Region. Lt. Colonel Timothy Shebesta will be the new Commander. Stoldt referenced the draft letter shown as Exhibit 2-B which was formalized and sent to Lt. Colonel Timothy Shebesta on Monday, June 26. The Lt. Colonel responded to the letter and stated he looks forward to meeting and working with the District on this project. Stoldt also stated that the request through Senator Padilla's office is geared toward stormwater diversion into the Pure Water Monterey Project and he is optimistic about securing assistance.

- c. On June 6, 2023 a letter was sent from the District to Senator Feinstein in support of her water legislation (STREAM Act). The bill provides additional authority for water reuse for water recycling as well as groundwater recharge and storage projects under Title XVI.

General Manager Stoldt reported that in May 2023, he, staff from Monterey One Water and Mark Limbaugh with The Ferguson Group, attended a meeting during the ACWA conference and met with persons responsible for awarding grant money related to the Pure Water Monterey Expansion project.

Chris Kearney, The Ferguson Group provided a brief report and made the following points to include, but are not limited to:

- The Senate Energy Natural Resources Committee will likely hold a hearing on Western Water bills in mid-July however the STREAM Act is not technically eligible under this process but it could potentially be presented as an amendment
- As part of the Debt Ceiling Bill there were efforts to put forward some permitting reform at provisions related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and aimed at streamlining paperwork and the permitting process
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) Reform: The Biden administration announced a regulatory package consisting of three separate rules jointly by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to include the following proposals (1) removing economic considerations from listing a species and limiting it to just essentially the best available science and commercial impacts, (2) equal treatment of endangered and threatened species.
- Treasury Guidance on Accessing Clean Energy Tax Credits Released: The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) created two new credit payments that would enable special districts to take advantage of clean energy tax credits.

Chris Cummins, The Ferguson Group provided a brief overview on the Legislative Bill Tracker and made the following points to include, but are not limited to:

- HR872: Federally Integrated Species Health Act which works to consolidate a lot of the regulations that Chris Kearney spoke about previously with respect to the Fish and Wildlife Service
- HR215 Water for California Act: Opportunity for streamlining operations and expanding water storage and infrastructure and serves to increase accountability
- S188 Wildfire Emergency Act of 2023: Opportunity to assist with some watershed clean up through the implementation of landscape for its restoration projects
- HR186 Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act: Provides permitting process to streamline construction of new water storage projects

### **3. Report from JEA & Associates**

John Arriaga provided introductory remarks and reported starting Thursday, June 29, Assemblymember Rivas will take over as speaker for the California Assembly.

Laurie Johnson provided an overview of Exhibit 3-A: JEA & Associates Memo dated June 28, 2023, which provided updates on:

- Budget
- Legislative
- Sacramento Visits
- SWRCB

She also briefly reviewed Exhibit 3-B: Legislative Tracker and noted the State Water Research Control Board has been given more authority to research and possibly revise the State's water rights, but that this would be a lengthy process with many factors involved. She briefly discussed other areas of the Legislative Tracker and answered questions from the Committee.

### **4. Report from General Manager on Recent or Upcoming Legislative Actions**

General Manager Stoldt reported:

- Met with Assemblymember Addis on May 23, 2023 and referenced information shared with her as seen on pages 50-51 of the meeting packet titled Urban Water Suppliers / Assembly District 30 and Key Water Supply Issues / Assembly District 30
- Sent letter to Assemblymember Addis to express the District's opposition to AB 1337 and AB 460 and presented Water-Related Bills and their impact on Central Coast Communities
- Met with Senator Laird on May 23, 2023 and presented Water-Related Bills with Impacts on Central Coast Communities or MPWMD and presented a proposal for 2023 legislation on behalf of the District which would allow the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) to not be enforced on new connections for housing
- Met with the primary enforcement official of the CDO about the District's desire with or without California American Water (CalAm), to start the process of having the CDO lifted

### **Other Items**

### **5. Suggest Items to Place on a Future Committee Agenda**

Chair Paull requested an update on the status of lifting the CDO

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chair Paull adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

/ s/ Sara C. Reyes

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

Approved by the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee on January 24, 2024  
Received by the MPWMD Board of Director's on May 20, 2024