



EXHIBIT 23-A

FINAL MINUTES

**Legislative Advocacy Committee of the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District**

Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Riley. *Pursuant to AB 361, the meeting was conducted with virtual participation via Zoom.*

Committee members present:

George Riley, Chair
Karen Paull
Safwat Malek

Committee members absent:

None

Staff members present:

David J. Stoldt, General Manager
Joel G. Pablo, Board Clerk

District Counsel present:

David Laredo with De Lay and
Laredo

Legislative Consultant:

John Arriaga, JEA & Associates
Laurie Johnson, JEA & Associates
Roger Gwinn, The Ferguson Group
Stephanie Missert, The Ferguson Group
Rebecca Bliss, The Ferguson Group

Comments from the Public:

No comments

Discussion Items

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

John Arriaga with JEA & Associates provided introductory remarks. Johnson answered committee questions and reviewed Exhibit 1-A: JEA Associates Update Memorandum and Exhibit 1-B: MPWMD Legislative Tracking- in brief. Stoldt and Johnson provided the committee with the District's ongoing efforts with the water for housing initiative, letters sent to the State's budget committees relative to the inclusion of \$510 million in statewide funding for the Integrated Regional Water Management regions and letters of support for Assembly Bill (AB) 252 (Rivas), AB 315 (Stone) and other letters found in Exhibit 1-C.

No members of the public comment were in attendance. No public comment received.

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

Stephanie Missert provided an overview of topics to be covered during the presentation to include: (a) The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (HR 3684); (b) the budget reconciliation process; (c) FY2022 Appropriations; (d) Western Water Infrastructure Package; and (e) the Federal Legislative bill tracker. Missert noted the U.S. Senate on August 10, 2021 passed a negotiated Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684, as amended) by a vote of 69-30. The Ferguson Group produced a detailed summary of the legislation and is included as Exhibit 2-A: Excerpts of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Missert provided a few highlights of the bill to include:

- a. \$2.12 Billion to the Department of Interior for Ecosystem Restoration
- b. \$8.3 Billion to the Bureau of Reclamation, *a portion to cover Surface and Groundwater Storage matters*
- c. \$172 Million to the Pacific Salmon Recovery Program
- d. \$7 Million to the State of California for sewer overflow and stormwater reuse municipal grants. *The legislation would provide an addition \$280 million annually from 2022 through 2026*
- e. Programs for Stormwater Control Infrastructure Projects, a New Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program to protect water systems from weather events, funding for engineering design and construction on alternative water source projects just to name a few.

Missert noted that the House of Representatives have inserted a procedural rule that the proposed Infrastructure Bill shall be voted on by September 27, 2021 and stated Congress has established a budget reconciliation package tied to H.R. 3684 to be voted on and signed by the President by the end of September 2021. Included in the Budget Reconciliation package includes funding for clean energy, coastal resiliency, clean water, CDBG funding and reducing carbon emissions just to name a few.

Gwinn provided a verbal status report on Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations and noted that 10 of the 12 appropriation bills have been acted upon. He touched upon water and energy appropriations, funding for aquatic ecosystem restoration, clean water initiatives, water reuse program, drought relief funding through the Bureau of Reclamation and available funding for 17 Western States for drought relief funding and other programs/funding.

Bliss highlighted three bills covered in the Exhibit 2-B: Federal Legislative Tracker previously not covered at the Legislative Advocacy meeting on May 25, 2021 to include HR 1015, *Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act*, HR 3404, *FUTURE Western Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act* and HR 4099, *Large-Scale Water Recycling Project Investment Act*.

Stoldt stated that he will review the Infrastructure Package once it is passed and will work with The Ferguson Group to identify programs, funding or grants that the District can apply for. He noted the District is interested in seeing the cap on Title 16 projects go up from \$20 million to \$30 million dollars. He touched upon letters sent to Congressman Panetta, U.S. Senator Feinstein and Padilla on various matters to include Reclamation's Title XVI program and support for Expansion of Pure Water Monterey – Letter of Support.

No members of the public comment were in attendance. No public comment received.

3. Report from General Manager on Recent or Upcoming Legislative Actions

David J. Stoldt, General Manager presented via MS PowerPoint entitled, “Monterey Peninsula Water Issues | MPWMD Meeting with Senator Laird – August 9, 2021).” *A copy of the presentation is on file with the District and can be viewed on the District website.* Stoldt provided a status report on progress made on the following matters and answered committee questions: (a) Measure J / Acquisition of Monterey Water System- Progress and Barricades; (b) Water Supply Solution and the Lifting of the Cease and Desist Order; (c) Water for Housing Initiative; and (d) Actions and Ideas Going Forward.

No members of the public comment were in attendance. No public comment received.

4. Suggest Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

None

Other Items

None

Adjournment:

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

Approved by the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee on March 29, 2022

Received by the MPWMD Board of Director’s on April 18, 2022

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