



EXHIBIT 18-A

**Final Minutes
Legislative Advocacy Committee of the
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.**

As a precaution to protect public health and safety, and pursuant to provisions of AB 361 (Rivas), this meeting will be conducted via Zoom Video/Teleconference only.

Call to Order

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

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 C. 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
Stephanie Missert, The Ferguson Group
Rebecca Bliss, The Ferguson Group

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

Action Item

1. Consider Adoption of May 25, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Riley introduced the item and suggested one editorial change.

Chair Riley opened public comment. No comments were directed to the committee.

A motion was made by Riley with a second by Paull to approve the May 25, 2021 Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion passed on a roll-call vote of 3-Ayes (Riley, Paull and Malek), 0-Noes and 0-Abstain.

Discussion Items

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

John Arriaga provided introductory remarks. Arriaga commented 2021 has been quite the productive year for the California State Legislature with a \$100 billion surplus, a healthy revenue stream and addressing statewide issues to include climate change, fires, drought and the COVID-19 pandemic. Arriaga and his group have been working with ACWA and explained efforts are being had to funnel monies into climate resiliency and housing programs through 2021 and well into 2022.

Johnson provided an overview of the MPWMD 2021 End of the Year Report. She informed the committee SB 129 provides for a Climate Resiliency package worth \$2.4 billion for general funding in areas such as wastewater, water recycling, dams and more. Johnson stated she intends to bring further updates on: (1) discussions had with Senator Laird's office in respect to environmental priorities; (2) funding opportunities and (3) new and carry-over legislation.

Stoldt added the District: (1) signed a letter of support for IRWM funding; (2) had submitted a members request (earmark) with Laird's office to obtain funding for Deep Injection Well No. 4 and (3) will track down additional funding mechanisms with JEA and Associates. *In response to a question raised by Riley*, Stoldt mentioned agencies can jointly apply for grants on projects such as Pure Water Monterey and Expansion of Pure Water Monterey.

Johnson noted efforts to mitigate Condition II of the Cease-and-Desist Order in regards to the housing requirement have been ongoing issue. Johnson said she has been in contact with and worked with the State Water Resources Control Board, State Housing and Community Development Department and Sen. Laird's office just to name a few on gaining traction on the matter. Stoldt added he is drafting a letter on behalf of Sen. Laird's office requesting a status on the appeal and requesting a workshop on the matter.

Opened public comments; no comments were directed to the Committee.

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

David J. Stoldt, General Manager provided introductory remarks and directed attention to Exhibit 3-A and 3-B.

Roger Gwinn with The Ferguson Group informed the committee federal legislators are working together to increase the nation's debt ceiling by \$2 Trillion to fund the federal government through the mid-term elections in 2022.

Chris Kearney provided a verbal status report on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Reconciliation Bill (e.g. touches upon immigration, healthcare, tax deductions/incentives and various social program) and believes the latter bill be vetted out and likely to be adopted. Mark Limbaugh informed the board of a number of reoccurring/new grants to include: (1) the WaterSmart Grant Program (for water conservation/management); of which, \$100 million is to be allocated for nature based features that conserve waterbed features; (2) Watershed Management Project; (3) Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Grant; (4) Fish passage resources via the Fish and Wildlife Service; and (5) Department of transportation.

Rebecca Bliss stated the President signed a resolution on December 3, 2022 effectively averting a government shutdown while Congress works on moving through and adopting appropriation bills. She stated she will be working with the District soon on project priorities for Fiscal Year 2023 and noted appropriations for 2022 will be completed during the Spring.

Opened public comments; no comments were directed to the Committee.

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

David J. Stoldt, General Manager directed attention to Exhibit 3-A and 3-B. He provided a summary of the funding and grant opportunities offered through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the criterion used would effectively rule out the District in those opportunities and others would be competitively evaluated among the applicant pool. Stoldt stated he will continue working jointly with Monterey One Water to apply for and secure funding for the State Revolving Fund and WIFIA loan through the Bureau of Reclamation. He mentioned the District signed onto a letter with the Alliance for Water Efficiency on language contained within the Build Back Better Act adding a federal tax on water rebates.

Opened public comments; no comments were directed to the Committee.

5. Suggest Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

None

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chair Riley adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

/ s/ Joel G. Pablo

Joel G. Pablo, Board Clerk to the
MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee

Approved by the MPWMD Legislative Advocacy Committee on March 9, 2023
Received by the MPWMD Board of Director's on March 20, 2023