



MEMORANDUM

7. (c) COMMITTEE REPORTS

June 8, 2021

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS – June 7, 2021

SPECIAL NOTICE - Teleconference Meeting

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held via teleconference.

ATTENDANCE:	Anthony Fellow (Chair)	Ed Chavez	Lowry Crook
	Charles Treviño (Vice Chair)	Katarina Garcia	Chelsea Scharf
	Patty Cortez	Jennifer Santana	David Muse
	Tom Love	Ruben Gallegos	Paul Cranmer
	Nichol Delgado	Christy Hawkins	H. Ted Gerber
	Steve Baker	Elena Layugan	Lenet Pacheco
	Ana Schwab	Venessa Navarrette	

1. **Call to Order.**

2. **Public Comment.** None.

3. **Legislative Update.**

a. Washington D.C.

Ana Schwab, Best, Best and Krieger, provided the Washington D.C. report. She addressed that Senate is still discussing infrastructure funding and negotiations will continue to be discussed past the July 4th recess. While the President supports a larger package that requires an increase of corporate taxes, Republicans do not agree with the Administration or Democrats on how to pay for the package. Ana will provide an update for Upper District once a final decision is made.

Ana then stated that infrastructure funding will be approved as two major packages: infrastructure and water, wastewater funding. She also highlighted the Senate’s recent reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Senate’s scheduled markup for H.R. 1915 and anticipates a bipartisan push for this bill.

She then addressed another important item to the committee, the President’s budget. The budget contains the highest level of spending since World War II. While recognizing the EPA’s increase in funding, she noted a decreased funding for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Title XVI program.

Lowry Crook concluded the report by highlighting the \$219 million dollars that were granted to the Army Corps of Engineers for the Whittier Narrows Dam. This would allow dam retrofits and fund future expenses.

b. Sacramento

Steve Baker, Aaron Read and Associates, provided the Sacramento legislative report. He gave a summary of legislative deadlines in the Assembly and reported on the low reservoir water levels in Northern and Central California. He reported the Governor intends to reopen the state on June 15th, but will leave the Executive Order that allows for teleconference meetings for public meetings for the foreseeable future.

Steve reported the budget's deadline is June 15th and state law requires a printed version of the budget at least seventy-two hours prior to its deadline. Despite last year's predicted budget deficit, there was a \$100 billion dollar surplus. This does not include the \$25 billion dollars that will be allocated to local governments. Steve concluded by providing a summary on a few of the priority bills that passed the Senate and Assembly.

Director Fellow and Steve discussed AB 1195, Assemblymember Cristina Garcia's bill that would order an audit, and create an oversight commission for Central Basin MWD.

Director Treviño and Steve briefly discussed the importance of SB 426 (Rubio) to our local cities in providing assistance to meet the financial burden of MS4 compliance.

4. State Legislative Update.

Nichol Delgado, government and community affairs representative presented an overview of the state bills that Upper District has taken a position on and current status.

Two Year Bills

AB 703 (Rubio): Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. – SUPPORT

SB 230 (Portantino): State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern– SUPPORT

AB 377 (Rivas, R): Water quality: impaired waters - OPPOSE

AB 1434 (Friedman): Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use. – OPPOSE

Active Bills (Support)

AB 361 (Rivas, R): open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

AB 442 (Mayes): Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 19175: exemption: MWD

AB 697 (Chau): Forest resources: national forest lands: Good Neighbor Authority Fund: ecological restoration and fire resiliency projects.

AB 818 (Bloom): Solid waste: premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes.

AB 1500 (Garcia, E): Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Act of 2022.

AB 273 (Hertzberg): Water quality: municipal wastewater agencies.

AB 426 (Rubio): Municipal separate storm sewer systems: financial capability analysis.

SB 559 (Hurtado): Department of Water Resources: water conveyance systems: Cala Conveyance Capacity Restoration Fund.

Active Bills (Oppose)

AB 339 (Lee): Local government: open and public meetings.

SB 222 (Dodd): Water Rate Assistance Program. (Oppose U/A)

Active Bills (Watch)

AB 1195 (Garcia, C): Drinking water.

Bills Held in Suspense

SB 223 (Dodd): Discontinuation of residential water service. (Watch)

SB 351 (Caballero): Water Innovation Act of 2021. (Support)

Inactive File (at request of author)

SB 45 (Portantino): Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022 (Support)

5. Oral Reports.

Update on Conservation Programs & Summer Outreach

Patty Cortez, Director of Government and Community Affairs, provided a summary of Upper District's conservation programs. She provided the status of Upper District's Water is Life art contest that received 113 entries from 12 schools throughout Upper District's service area. She also mentioned that Upper District has received requests from some of our cities to host a conservation outreach booth and that requests are taken on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the County's emergency declaration. Finally, she provided an update on Upper District's signature "Water Smart Home Program" that was launched on June 1st and stated that the program has already received over 20 qualified residential applications and those will be scheduled for home installation in early July.

- 6. Other Matters.** Director Trevino requested a staff overview of Upper District's 60th Anniversary activities. Tom Love stated that a report will be provided and presented at a future Government Affairs committee meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, July 5, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. (Cancelled)

cc: General Manager