

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
4040 PARAMOUNT BLVD., LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
12 NOON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007**

AGENDA

EACH ITEM ON THE AGENDA, NO MATTER HOW DESCRIBED, SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE ANY APPROPRIATE MOTION, WHETHER TO ADOPT A MINUTE MOTION, RESOLUTION, PAYMENT OF ANY BILL, APPROVAL OF ANY MATTER OR ACTION, OR ANY OTHER ACTION. ITEMS LISTED AS "FOR INFORMATION" MAY ALSO BE THE SUBJECT OF AN "ACTION" TAKEN BY THE BOARD OR A COMMITTEE AT THE SAME MEETING.

- 1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2007**
Staff Recommendation: Approve the minutes as submitted.
- 4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**
Staff Recommendation: For information only.
- 5. AMENDMENT TO THE KL GATES CONTRACT**
Staff Recommendation: Execute a Contract Amendment with K&L Gates, subject to approval of form by District Counsel, for federal advocacy support services for an additional amount of \$30,000 with the current expiration date of December 31, 2008.
- 6. PROPOSITION 93 – TERM LIMITS AND LEGISLATIVE REFORM ACT**
Staff Recommendation: For discussion.
- 7. DEPARTMENT REPORT**
Staff Recommendation: For information.
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

Posted by Abigail C. Andom, Deputy Secretary, December 3, 2007.

UNAPPROVED
MINUTES

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**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2007
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

A special meeting of the External Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 3:05 p.m. at the District Office, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California. President and Committee Chair Albert Robles called the meeting to order and presided thereover. Administrative Specialist Sheryll Petty recorded the minutes.

1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Attendees included:

Committee: Albert Robles, Sergio Calderon

Staff: Robb Whitaker, Scot Ota, Adeline Yoong.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OCTOBER 23, 2007

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Government Affairs Program Manager Adeline Yoong gave the Federal and State update. She reported that the President had vetoed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) but that it was overridden by Congress and has been enacted into law. She also reported that the trip to Washington D.C. trip went well and that meetings with staff were productive. Ms. Yoong indicated that the Senate has not taken action on any of the spending bills so the federal government is operating under a continuing resolution (CR) which allows it to operate at the same level as was designated from the prior year. The continuing resolution ends in mid November and Congress will need to pass another CR until the end of this year or pass the spending bills. President Robles asked if the advocates can work within their existing contract. Ms. Yoong replied that they may ask for an increase at the end of the year. She said that the main issue on the State level is the water bond negotiations which have been stalled. She indicated that Mr. Ernest told her that the business community is talking about putting a \$10 million water bond package for the November 2008 ballot.

5. CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER

Chief Financial Officer Scott Ota reported that the California Science Center will be pleased to receive financial support over a five year period.

He said that WRD will receive prominent recognition on the Center's Donor Wall, the Donor Plaque located at the entrance of *World of Ecology*, donor signage in association with the L. A. Zone Galley located at the entrance of the Gallery; acknowledgement in the Phase II commemorative publication; as well as an invitation to pre-public opening events and behind-the-scenes guided tours of the new facilities. He indicated that \$50,000 was already budgeted and that the remaining \$50,000 for this fiscal year would have to come from reserves. He said that staff will budget \$100,000 per year for the remaining four years. The committee recommended that the Board fund \$500,000 over 5 years and directed staff to place the item on the consent calendar. President Robles also requested that staff ask for tickets or a table at the Science Center's annual dinner over the 5 year period that funding will be provided.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. Yoong mentioned that, as a result of the recent DC visit, Congresswoman Napolitano is very interested in the WIN Initiative program. Ms. Yoong said that staff has asked Senator Perata to speak at one of the Water 101 Briefings this year. President Robles commented that elected officials would be the target audience for the briefing.

President Robles asked when the District's ad will be published in *The Daily Breeze* to which Ms. Yoong said that it would out mid November. After discussion, the committee recommended the purchase of a ½ page ad in the *Random Lengths* Port Centennial commemorative edition at a cost of \$640.00. President Robles asked staff to contact them to let them know that this item will be going to the Board at the November 16th meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Chair

ATTEST:

Director



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 4

Prepared by: Adeline Yoong

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2007
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUMMARY

Legislative Calendar

State Legislature

Jan. 1, 2008 – Statutes take effect

Jan. 7, 2008 – Legislature reconvenes

Congress

December – rumored House adjournment

Legislative Report

Verbal updates will be provided on state and federal matters.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For information only.



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO.5

Prepared by: Adeline Yoong

Reviewed by: Robb Whitaker

Approved by: Robb Whitaker

DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2007
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO K&L GATES CONTRACT

SUMMARY

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis (K&L Gates) has been providing WRD with federal legislative and advocacy support services since September 2006. The firm currently receives a monthly retainer fee of \$12,500.

K&L Gates has indicated that its 2007 fee represents 65% of the cost of representation, based on its normal hourly rate and seeks an increase in the monthly retainer to \$15,000 starting in 2008. The fee increase reflects the added resources that K&L Gates expects to devote to the District.

There has been a noticeable increase in federal activity as a result of K&L Gates representation of WRD. District staff and K&L Gates representatives work very closely together on federal matters and the firm has produced some measurable results. K&L Gates has assisted the District in securing authorization for \$15 million for the Groundwater Optimization Pipeline Project in the recently enacted Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), advocating FY07 appropriations requests (all of which were included as part of the relevant Members' appropriations requests, including \$400,000 for a monitoring well which was included in the House Energy and Water Appropriations bill), and facilitating meetings with key Members of Congress, staff and other federal officials.

FISCAL IMPACT

The contract amendment will be for an additional amount of \$30,000 (increase from \$12,500 per month to \$15,000 per month.) \$12,500 per month has been allocated in the FY07-08 budget for federal advocacy services. \$15,000 for the 6 months of FY07-08 will be drawn from the reserve.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Execute a Contract Amendment with K&L Gates, subject to approval of form by District Counsel, for federal advocacy support services for an additional amount of \$30,000 with the current expiration date of December 31, 2008.

November 27, 2007

Ms. Adeline M.L. Yoong
Government Affairs Manager
Water Replenishment District of Southern California
4040 Paramount Boulevard
Lakewood, CA 90712

Dear Adeline:

We have appreciated the opportunity to represent the Water Replenishment District of Southern California on policy matters in Washington, D.C., and we propose to continue this representation for 2008, with an increase in the monthly fee from \$12,500 to \$15,000.

During the past year, our work has included the successful effort to secure authorization of the Basin Optimization Project in the WRDA bill; the advocacy of a series of appropriation requests (all of which received support from the California Congressional delegation, and one of which has been included in the House Energy and Water Appropriations bill); and a series of meetings with key Members of Congress, staffs, and other federal officials. During the coming year, our work would include continuing this advocacy, along with seeking Congressional support for other aspects of the WIN Initiative (as we have discussed).

The increased fee for 2008 reflects the substantial resources that K&L Gates has devoted to this representation. Thus far in 2007, the monthly fee represents approximately 65% of the cost of the representation, under our regular hourly rates.

We hope that this proposal is acceptable to the WRD, and we look forward to continuing to work with the members of the WRD Board, Robb, and you in advocating WRD's policy agenda.

Sincerely,

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART
PRESTON GATES ELLIS LLP

By:
Scott Aliferis





MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 6

Prepared by: Adeline Yoong

Reviewed by:

Approved by: Robb Whitaker

DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2007

TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: PROPOSITION 93 - TERM LIMITS AND LEGISLATIVE REFORM ACT

SUMMARY

Proposition 93, the Term Limits and Legislative Reform Act, would reduce the total number of years that an elected official could serve in the Legislature from 14 years to 12, allowing all 12 years to be served entirely in the State Assembly, State Senate, or a combination of both. Incumbents would be afforded at least one extra term under the measure.

Proponents argue that Proposition 93 would preserve voters' desire for rigid term limits while increasing stability in the Legislature by allowing members to remain longer in one house. This continuity enables legislators time to gain expertise and knowledge, thereby relying less on lobbyists. Proponents also assert that the measure will reduce partisanship by slowing the campaign cycle that currently exists as termed-out legislators start campaigning early to win a seat in the other house. Supporters believe that less campaigning empowers legislators to work more effectively across partisan lines. There is a long list of supporters for Proposition 93 including the California Teachers Association, California Business Roundtable; Long Beach, Lakewood, and Commerce Chambers, labor, Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, MALDEF, and former Gov. Davis

Opponents argue that Proposition 93 would double the amount of years a member of the Assembly could serve from six years to 12 and increase by 50 percent the number of years a member could serve in the Senate from eight years to 12. Opponents also cite the "loophole" in the measure allowing 42 termed out legislators the ability to remain in office if the measure were to pass. Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner has announced that he will lead the efforts to defeat the measure.

Proposition 93 will be on the February ballot in 2008.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO.7

Prepared by: Adeline Yoong

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2007
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT REPORT

SUMMARY

Staff will provide an update of department activities.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STAFF recommendation

For information.



External Affairs Department Activities Report (October 29 – November 25, 2007)
Compiled November 27, 2007

Community Outreach

- The Pico Rivera Well #1 Completion Celebration was held on November 7, 2007. Approximately 40 people were in attendance including WRD Director Albert Robles, Pico Rivera Mayor Ron Bielke, and Pico Rivera Mayor Pro Tem Gracie Gallegos-Smith. The event was covered by the city's cable network, *Whittier Daily News, Channel 22, and Los Cerritos Community News.*
- Staff continues to work on the Groundwater Festival planning with three major sponsors in place.
- Staff continues to plan the Water Institute briefing.
- Staff continues planning the WRD Open House to be held on December 18, 2007.
- Staff is creating information bags for Director Outreach.

Education

- Staff continues to work on the Conservation Initiative Rebate program with the 5 partnering agencies.
- Staff met with City of Compton Water GM, Production Supervisor and consultant to plan out CII conservation program.
- Staff attended the CREEC-LA Environmental Education Summit and did a presentation on conservation.

Government Affairs

- WRD submitted testimony at the Water Policy Briefing organized by Assemblymember Mike Eng. Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Chair Lois Wolk flew down for the field briefing.
- Staff has been in discussion with the office of Rep. Napolitano regarding information on the WIN Initiative Program and WRD's FY09 funding requests. Information as requested is being compiled for the Member.
- Congratulatory letters have been mailed to newly elected and re-elected city officials.
- Initiated preliminary discussions with federal advocates regarding the District's annual federal workshop in light of Dir. Robles' suggestion to "piggy back" on the LA Area Chamber's DC trip in April. KL Gates is recommending that staff-to-staff meetings be scheduled in early February to brief legislative staff on WRD's appropriations requests, followed by the annual DC trip in April (after the LA Chamber's event) with WRD Directors to update/thank elected offices on the District's requests.
- Discussions are also being held with KL Gates to review the matrix of WRD's projects to determine funding options and develop strategies for the upcoming year.

Miscellaneous

- Drafted and distributed press release announcing election of Director Katherman to the ACWA Region 8 board.
- Drafted and distributed press release announcing \$15 million authorization for WRD Groundwater Optimization Project in WRDA. Representatives Laura Richardson and Grace Napolitano, as well as Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein were thanked for their support.
- Staff is working with a technical writer to create a WIN brochure
- Staff is completing *the Source* newsletter for Fall 2007.
- Staff created a sign featuring Lakewood groundwater information to be placed over the drinking fountains.
- Staff is updating the WRD Water Drop Brochure for the next printing.
- Staff accompanied GM to meeting with Long Beach Water GM to discuss landscape issues at Vander Lans AWTF.