

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
4040 PARAMOUNT BLVD., LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA  
1:00 P.M., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008**

**AGENDA**

THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. PURSUANT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, ANY DECISIONS OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE FULL BOARD.

- 1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 2008**  
*Staff Recommendation:* Approve the minutes as submitted.
- 4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
*Staff Recommendation:* For information.
- 5. THE CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY - POLANCO FELLOWS**  
*External Affairs Committee Chair Recommendation:* WRD contribute \$8,000 to the Richard G. Polanco Public Policy Fellows Program.
- 6. PLA RESOLUTION**  
*Staff Recommendation:* For discussion.
- 7. DEPARTMENT REPORT**  
*Staff Recommendation:* For information.
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

Posted by Abigail C. Andom, Deputy Secretary, December 10, 2008.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if special assistance is needed to participate in the Board meeting, please contact Deputy Secretary Abigail Andom at (562) 921-5521 for assistance to enable the District to make reasonable accommodations.

All public records relating to an agenda item on this agenda are available for public inspection at the time the record is distributed to all, or a majority of all, members of the Board. Such records shall be available at the District office located at 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712.

Agendas and minutes are available at the District's website, [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org).

UNAPPROVED  
MINUTES

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**MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2008  
MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

A meeting of the External Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on August 18, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. at the District Office, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California. Chairperson Albert Robles called the meeting to order. Deputy Secretary Abigail C. Andom recorded the minutes.

**1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

Committee: Albert Robles, Sergio Calderon, Lillian Kawasaki,  
Willard H. Murray, Jr.  
Excused: Rob Katherman  
Staff: Robb Whitaker, Elsa Lopez, Adeline Yoong,  
Scott Ota  
Guests: Kim Capria, KMEX- Univision Account Executive;  
Peter Rodriguez, Public Affairs, Upper San Gabriel  
Municipal Water District

The agenda items were taken out of order.

**6. WRD WEB SITE LANGUAGE TRANSLATION**

Kim Capria, KMEX-Account Executive from Univision, made a presentation to the Committee regarding marketing services to promote the WRD website through their various media outlets.

Peter Rodriguez, Public Affairs, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District expressed the agency's potential interest as a co-funding partner.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Murray stated that he would like to add two items to the agenda, that the items came to his attention after the agenda for the meeting was posted, and that there is a need to take immediate action on the items.

With no objections, the Committee added the following items to the agenda: (a) WaterSmart Innovations Conference, October 8-10, 2008, Las Vegas, NV, and (b) NGWA Annual Conference and Exposition, December 2-5, 2008, Las Vegas, NV.

Director Robles stated that the items will be added to the agenda as Agenda item 10.A and 10.B.

**3. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2007**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mike Evans and Scott Aliferis of K & L Gates provided an update on federal legislative activities via teleconference. An update on the Schwarzenegger/Feinstein water bond proposal was presented to the Committee.

Bob Reeb of Millennium Government Advocates, LLC also provided an update on state legislative activities via teleconference.

Mr. Reeb stated that the State Assembly met yesterday regarding the state budget which he noted has yet to be adopted.

**7. WATERS TO THE SEA – PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

Interim External Affairs Manager Elsa Lopez stated that Metropolitan Water District (MWD) has invited WRD to be part of the advisory committee and funding partner of the Waters to the Sea educational project for Southern California. Ms. Lopez explained that Waters to the Sea is an educational program that aims to increase knowledge of water resources throughout Southern California as well as increase awareness of groundwater storage, recycled water safety and water conservation. She added that the District is being asked to provide the perspective of groundwater replenishment and water independence. WRD is being asked to contribute \$10,000 for Phase 2 and commit to an additional \$10,000 for each of the next two to three years.

Discussion followed. The Committee recommended participation in the advisory committee, but requested that staff come back to the Committee during the mid-year budget review with a funding commitment recommendation.

**8. AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ROBERT E. BUSH CORPORATION**

General Manager Robb Whitaker stated that WRD has been using the Services of Robert Bush to facilitate and coordinate effective communication between WRD, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, the County Board of Supervisors and other local agencies. Mr. Whitaker explained that the Board recently extended Mr. Bush's contract to September 30, 2008 and staff would like to continue his services. He noted that the External Affairs Committee Chair recommended extending Mr. Bush's contract to December 31, 2010 to coincide with other District's legislative contracts. Mr. Whitaker added that there will be no change to the monthly retainer fee of \$3,000, with the ability to increase to \$5,000 on an as needed basis with Board notification, and an annual cap of \$45,000.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Murray, seconded by Director Kawasaki, and unanimously approved, it was

RESOLVED: The Committee recommends the Board extend the term of the current contract with Robert E. Bush Corporation to December 31, 2010 with no increase of retainer.

**9. WRD GROUNDWATER OUTREACH ADVERTISEMENT**

The Committee Chair stated that he would like for staff to utilize local community-based newspapers to educate the public about groundwater and WRD's mission and vision. He explained that WRD can take advantage of advertising and water related advertising supplements in several print media outlets.

The Committee directed staff to provide an update of specific newspapers and associated costs at next month's meeting.

**10.A. WATERSMART INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 8-10, 2008, LAS VEGAS**

Upon a motion duly made by Director Murray, seconded by Director Calderon, and unanimously approved, it was

RESOLVED: The Committee recommends the Board approve travel request of directors and staff, as determined by the General Manager, to the WaterSmart Innovations Conference, October 8-10, 2008, Las Vegas, NV.

**10.B. NGWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION, DECEMBER 2-5, 2008, LAS VEGAS**

Since there is no urgency to take action on the item, the Committee requested that it be agendaized for the next meeting.

**10. COMMUNITY BANKING**

Chief Financial Officer Scott Ota stated that the Board, at its June 20, 2008 meeting, discussed expanding community involvement by exploring new banking relationships with financial institutions that reinvest and finance projects in communities the District services. At the same meeting, the Board took action to designate the following four community banks: Broadway Federal Bank, One United Bank, East West Bank, and Promerica Bank for the District's banking needs. Furthermore, the Board directed the External Affairs Committee with developing the District's community banking policy and the Finance Committee with the implementation of the policy.

Discussion followed. The External Affairs Committee approved the following community banking policy:

- a. Community bank must be approved by the Board;
- b. Banks will only be utilized if they are FDIC insured;
- c. Agree to collateralize any and all WRD funds deposited therein above FDIC insured amounts;
- d. Are in good financial condition;
- e. Provide exceptional customer service to meet all of the District's banking needs; specifically guarantee any on-line banking transactions, agree to provide District staff with any requested assistance during the initial transition period, have security measures in place to ensure all bank transactions are proper and authorized, and are otherwise good corporate citizens.

Director Kawasaki stated that she supports the use of community banks but questioned the criteria used in selecting the four banks.

Upon a motion duly made by Director Robles, seconded by Director Murray, and with Director Kawasaki dissenting, it was

RESOLVED: The Committee recommends the Board adopt the community banking policy as outlined above and refers the timing and implementation of the policy to the Finance Committee, as well as development of rating criteria to determine which financial services the WRD will award to each of the four banks.

## **11. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Interim External Affairs Manager Elsa Lopez provided an update on the Department's activities. Ms. Lopez stated that staff has been working on preparations for the next Groundwater Festival and continues planning for the District's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

## **5. CSDA 2008 BOARD ELECTIONS**

Deputy Secretary Abbie Andom stated that the District is a member of the California Special District Association (CSDA) and has availed of its governance training for directors and staff. Ms. Andom informed the Committee that a seat is up for re-election this year in Region 5 of which WRD is a member.

Discussion followed and the Committee recommended the Board cast the vote for James Acosta to serve as board member for CSDA Region 5, Seat C.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m., upon a motion by Director Kawasaki and seconded by Director Calderon.

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Director



## MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 4

*Prepared by: Adeline Yoong  
Reviewed by: Elsa Lopez  
Approved by: Robb Whitaker*

**DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2008**  
**TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER**  
**SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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### SUMMARY

#### **Legislative Calendar**

##### State Legislature

- December 1, 2008 – 2009-10 Regular Session convenes
- January 1, 2009 – Statutes take effect
- January 5 – Legislature reconvenes
- January 10 – Budget must be submitted by Governor
- January 30 – Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel
- February 27 – Last day for bills to be introduced

##### Congress

- Week January 5, 2009 – 111<sup>th</sup> Congress convenes
- January 20 – Inauguration Day

#### **Legislative Report**

Verbal updates will be provided on state and federal matters.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

For information.



## MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 5

*Prepared by:* Elsa Lopez  
*Reviewed by:* Robb Whitaker  
*Approved by:* Robb Whitaker

**DATE:** DECEMBER 12, 2008  
**TO:** EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** THE CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY - POLANCO FELLOWS

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### SUMMARY

The California Latino Legislative Caucus Institute for Public Policy (CLLCIPP), known as the California Latino Caucus Institute, was established as a non-partisan effort in 2002 by the California Latino Legislative Caucus as a broad-based public policy, educational, and leadership development organization. The Institute supports innovative leadership programs to enhance the quality of life for Californians.

As the Institute enters the sixth year of its mission to help chart the future course of California, it will focus its energy and resources on these five key strategic goals:

1. **The Richard G. Polanco Public Policy Fellows Program:** an intensive, year-long public policy and leadership development program that will produce highly-trained and capable leaders for key sectors of society;
2. **The Chrysler Elected Officials Academy:** designed to train newly elected officials at the municipal and county levels in the administrative aspects of governance;
3. **Public policy symposia:** help build partnerships with the Institute's corporate sponsors. These symposia will inform sponsors on key public policy issues and build support for effective policy solutions;
4. **An Endowment Fund:** to provide financial independence, greater ownership of resources, increased capacity, and long-term sustainability;
5. **The Madrinas Padrinos Program:** to support young professionals in their careers and helps develop a new generation of public policy activists.

The External Affairs Committee Chair is recommending that WRD contribute \$8,000 to the Richard G. Polanco Public Policy Fellows Program. Named in honor of former California State Senator Richard G. Polanco, a founder and the chair of the California Latino Caucus Institute, the Polanco Fellowship program provides leadership training and development for a select group college graduates. As of Spring 2007, there are 24 Polanco Fellows.

Considered one of the premier public policy fellowships in the nation, the Polanco Fellowship is a year-long placement that includes leadership training at the world-renowned Center for Creative Leadership in La Jolla, an annual Institute Orientation at UCLA, a four-month placement in a major state agency in Sacramento such as CalPERS and an eight-month placement in the Capitol office of a state legislator.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

If approved, funds will come from the FY 2008-09 budget for regional sponsorships.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR RECOMMENDATION**

WRD contribute \$8,000 to the Richard G. Polanco Public Policy Fellows Program.



## MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 6

*Prepared by: Abbie Andom*

*Reviewed by: Elsa Lopez*

*Approved by: Robb Whitaker*

**DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2008**

**TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: PLA RESOLUTION**

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### SUMMARY

At the October 28, 2008 External Affairs Committee meeting, the Committee directed District Counsel to prepare a resolution for Board approval expressing the intent of WRD to, when appropriate, have project labor agreements (PLA) for its construction projects. Attached to this staff report is the draft resolution prepared by District Counsel. The PLA resolution was also referred to the Finance and Administrative Committees for further review and, if approved, mechanics of implementation.

District Counsel will be at the Committee meeting to present and answer questions relating to the resolution.

### FISCAL IMPACT

Unknown at this time.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.

RESOLUTION NO. 08-\_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ESTABLISHING A POLICY RELATING TO PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

**WHEREAS**, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California ("District") recognizes the importance of ensuring optimum productivity and orderly performance of District construction projects; and

**WHEREAS**, a Project Labor Agreement is a pre-hire agreement designed to provide a safe, efficient and economical means of completing major construction projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the interests of the public are best served when construction projects are completed on schedule and within budget, Project Labor Agreements minimize cost overruns by preventing strikes, work stoppages, picketing, lobbying slowdowns and other interferences with work; and

**WHEREAS**, Project Labor Agreements contain a "no strike" clause and all workers agree to use a specific dispute resolution process to settle any controversies that may arise on a project; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the public to hire a skilled workforce to complete complex construction projects, Project Labor Agreements facilitate the hiring of the most of qualified construction personnel by establishing an employment process administered through local contractors and labor unions; and

**WHEREAS**, the District desires to establish uniform working rules and conditions to ensure the successful completion of major construction projects; through Project Labor Agreements, the District is able to work with local contractors and labor unions to stabilize wages, hours and working conditions for workers employed on a project; and

**WHEREAS**, Project Labor Agreements improve the quality of life for workers by offering better pay, health insurance and other benefits which translate into a better local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, a Project Labor Agreement does not restrict bidding solely to union contractors, all qualified contractors and construction employees are encouraged to participate, including those who have not traditionally worked under Project Labor Agreements or who are non-union contractors;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT DOES HEREBY FIND, DETERMINE AND RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** When deemed appropriate by the District's Board of Directors, the District will endeavor to enter into Project Labor Agreements for future major construction projects.

**Section 2.** The District Secretary shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2008 by the following vote:**

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Katherman, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Willard H. Murray, Jr., Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE