

**MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
4040 PARAMOUNT BLVD., LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
12:00 P.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009**

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 JULY 20, 2009**
Staff Recommendation: Approve as submitted.
- 4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**
Staff Recommendation: For information.
- 5. WATERS TO THE SEA – PHASE II PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY**
Staff Recommendation: Approve a contribution of \$15,000 for FY 2009-2010 and budget the same amount in FY 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 for the continued development and implementation of the *Waters to the Sea* educational project.
- 6. ISSUANCE OF RFP FOR FEDERAL ADVOCACY SERVICES**
Staff Recommendation: Recommend the Board approve the issuance of Request for Proposals for federal advocacy services.
- 7. SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION OVERVIEW**
Staff Recommendation: For discussion.
- 8. DEPARTMENT REPORT**
Staff Recommendation: For information.
- 9. DIRECTORS' REPORTS, INQUIRIES, AND REVIEW OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

Posted by Abigail C. Andom, Deputy Secretary, September 17, 2009.

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.

UNAPPROVED
MINUTES

UNAPPROVED
MINUTES

**MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2009
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 July 20, 2009 at 12:40 p.m. at the District Office, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California. Vice President Rob Katherman called the meeting to order. Deputy Secretary Abigail C. Andom recorded the minutes.

1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Committee: Sergio Calderon, Rob Katherman, Lillian Kawasaki
Excused: Willard H. Murray, Jr., Albert Robles
Staff: Robb Whitaker, Elsa Lopez, Adeline Yoong,
Olga Quiñones, Tracey Burke

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The agenda items were taken out of order.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2009 AND APRIL 9, 2009

The minutes were approved as submitted.

The agenda items were taken out of order.

4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Scott Aliferis and Mike Evans of KL Gates provided an update on federal legislative activities. Mr. Aliferis stated that the Energy, Water and Appropriations Committee met last Friday and staff has been following activities for future funding opportunities for the Whittier Narrows Conservation Pool project. Mr. Evans stated that staff has also been monitoring the Health Care Reform bill regarding possible impacts to the District's medical reimbursement plan.

Tammy Lindenberg of Pacific Atlantic Partners provided additional federal legislative information. Ms. Lindenberg stated that Congress has been working on a climate change bill and there has been preliminary discussion regarding a Clean Water Trust Fund.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2009

The minutes were approved as submitted.

5. ACWA CALL FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS

The item was deferred to the August meeting.

6. PRESS RELEASE POLICY AND MEDIA CONTACT PROCEDURE

Manager of External Affairs Elsa Lopez stated that staff is in the process of developing a press release policy and media contact procedure. The procedure would help staff's turnaround time in dealing with the media and identify the appropriate media contacts.

Director Kawasaki stated that directors and staff need a proactive media strategy as well as training in crisis communication. She noted that time sensitive issues should be handled within two hours.

7. RFP FOR FEDERAL ADVOCACY SUPPORT SERVICES

Discussion followed on the possible issuance of request for proposals (RFP) for federal advocacy support services. The Committee recommended the item be continued to the next meeting to include scope of work, time frame and schedule, criteria for selection, etc.

8. DIRECTORS REPORTS, INQUIRIES, AND REVIEW OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF

Director Calderon requested that the District request for sponsorship form be made available on the web site.

Director Kawasaki stated that she would like to receive the master calendar of events.

Director Katherman requested that the WRD scholarship be included in the mid-year budget review and asked that a criteria and selection process be developed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Chair

ATTEST:

Director



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 4

Prepared by: Adeline Yoong

Reviewed by: Elsa Lopez

Approved by: Robb Whitaker

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2009
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUMMARY

Legislative Calendar

State Legislature

Sep 11 Last day for each House to pass bills. Interim Study Recess begins at the end of this day's session
Oct 11 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sept. 11 and in the Governor's possession after Sept. 11

Congress

Aug 8 – Sep 7 House and Senate recess

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: SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: WATERS TO THE SEA – PHASE II PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

SUMMARY

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has been working for two years on a *Waters to the Sea* educational project for Southern California in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Central Basin MWD, and the Los Angeles County Department of Education. The team has invited WRD, the LA City Department of Public Works, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and other MWD members to join this partnership as an advisor and funding partner for Phase II of the project.

WRD has been part of the advisory committee and has been providing a new perspective on groundwater issues. WRD has been an integrated partner this past year and as a funding partner will be recognized and credited in all print materials, advertisement, and website. WRD is being asked to contribute \$15,000 for Phase II and commit to an additional \$15,000 for each of the next two years. As a key partner, WRD will have the right to use the *Waters to the Sea* educational program as part of its educational program and distribute the teaching tools to local school districts within the WRD service area through MWD.

Last year the External Affairs Committee requested that staff budget \$15,000 in the FY 2009-2010 budget as a funding partner.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$15,000 has been budgeted in the FY '09-'10 Conservation/Education budget

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve a contribution of \$15,000 for FY 2009-2010 and budget the same amount in FY 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 for the continued development and implementation of the *Waters to the Sea* educational project.



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 6

Prepared by: Adeline Yoong

Reviewed by: Elsa Lopez

Approved by: Robb Whitaker

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF RFP FOR FEDERAL ADVOCACY SERVICES

SUMMARY

Staff was directed by the External Affairs Committee to develop a scope of work, time frame and schedule, and selection criteria for the possible issuance of a Request for Proposal for federal advocacy support services.

The following lists staff's recommended scope of work for such services:

- Firm shall develop legislative and agency strategy, with annual review as necessary.
- Firm shall work proactively with District to implement District's objectives through the federal legislative and regulatory processes.
- Firm shall monitor, review and analyze all legislation, introduced in the United States Congress and shall inform District of all legislation affecting District's interests. Firm shall forward a copy of all such bills to District on a timely basis.
- Firm shall monitor all regulations promulgated by all federal agencies and shall inform District of all regulations affecting District's interests. Firm shall forward a copy of all such regulations to District on a timely basis.
- Firm shall pursue project authorizations on behalf of District through any relevant authorizing measures, and the annual Congressional appropriations process as directed by District.
- Firm shall arrange and attend meetings with legislative representatives, executive branch officials as requested by District.
- Firm shall develop advocacy papers and relevant materials used to influence federal legislation and regulations.
- Firm shall initiate legislative and regulatory proposals on behalf of and as directed by District.
- Firm shall attend and provide testimony on behalf of District at legislative and administrative hearings when warranted and upon approval by District.
- Firm shall work on issues of relevance to the District as directed by District.
- Firm shall be available for meetings with the WRD staff and the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis (with at least 1 firm representative attending in person) and monthly conference calls with appropriate committees of the Board.

- Firm shall provide District with a monthly written summary of significant activity conducted on behalf of District during the legislative session.

The duration of such a federal advocacy services contract should coincide with the 2-year federal legislative cycle. Four weeks will be allocated for interested firms to respond to the RFP. Another four weeks has been allocated for review of the proposals in receipt, with a possibility of an additional four weeks should firm interviews be warranted.

The recommended selection criteria is based on, but not limited to, the following factors:

- Demonstrated relationships with WRD federal delegation
- Demonstrated relationships with California federal delegation
- Demonstrated relationships with key Committee
- Demonstrated relationships with United States Bureau of Reclamation
- Demonstrated relationships with Army Corps of Engineers
- Demonstrated relationships with United States Geological Survey
- Demonstrated success in securing federal funds and grant knowledge
- Size and depth of firm, background/experience of assigned principle staff, presence of Los Angeles or California office
- Water knowledge/experience

FISCAL IMPACT

WRD has budgeted \$15,000 per month for federal legislative advocacy in the FY 2009-2010 budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the Board approve the issuance of Request for Proposals for federal advocacy services.



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 7

Prepared by: Adeline Yoong

Reviewed by: Elsa Lopez

Approved by: Robb Whitaker

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION OVERVIEW

SUMMARY

The Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC) is a joint power authority that was first established in 1991 in response to the inaction by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to commence clean-up of the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin and the Whittier Narrows area, the outlet of the San Gabriel Basin into the Central Basin. The original mission of SEWC was to work with local, regional, state, and federal authorities to contain the migration of contaminated groundwater from the superfund site in the San Gabriel Basin at the Whittier Narrows and to cooperate with San Gabriel Basin authorities to stop contamination at its source. The SEWC mission also included addressing Central Basin water quality, conservation, and supply issues affecting its members.

On June 15, 2005, WRD did not renew its membership with SEWC. On June 28, 2005, the joint powers agreement was revised to allow SEWC to continue as a joint powers authority with expanded powers.

The Amendment and Complete Restatement of the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Agreement authorizes SEWC with powers "to regulate groundwater within the Basins including, but not limited to, the following powers:

- a. Collect and monitor data on the extraction of groundwater from, and the quality of groundwater in, the Basins, including an evaluation of any proposals to store and recover water;
- b. Establish and administer a conjunctive use program in coordination with the court and with Watermaster for the purpose of maintaining water supplies and managing storage programs in the Basins;
- c. Buy and sell water on other than a retail basis;
- d. Spread, sink or inject water in order to store it for future recovery;
- e. Exchange water;
- f. Store, transport, recapture, recycle, purify, treat or otherwise manage and control water for the beneficial use of persons and property within the area of the Basins;
- g. Serve as Storage Program Administrator or similar function as may be designated by the court pursuant to either of the Adjudications;

- h. Appoint a Program Review Committee for the purpose of evaluating groundwater storage proposals;
- i. Study and plan ways and means to implement any or all of the foregoing powers.”

The Agreement also authorizes “the Coalition and the retail water customers in the Basins, to store water in underground water basins or reservoirs within or outside the boundaries of the members of the Coalition, to appropriate water and acquire water rights within or outside the Coalition, to import water into the area overlying the Basins, and to conserve, or cause the conservation of, water within or outside the Coalition” and “In conjunction with the court and the Adjudications, to require the permitting of groundwater storage and recovery programs within the Basins.”

The SEWC membership currently consists of the cities of Commerce, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South Gate, Vernon, and Whittier.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.