

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
4040 PARAMOUNT BLVD., LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA  
11:30 A.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011**

**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. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2010**  
*Staff Recommendation:* Approve as submitted.
- 4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
*Staff Recommendation:* For information.
- 5. DEPARTMENT REPORT**
- 6. DIRECTORS' REPORTS, INQUIRIES, AND FOLLOW UP OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

Posted by Abigail C. Andom, Deputy Secretary, February 17, 2011.

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).

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MINUTES

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**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2010  
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 December 20, 2010 at 12:20 p.m. at the District Office, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California. Director Willard H. Murray, Jr. called the meeting to order. Administrative Specialist Sheryll Moffat recorded the minutes.

**1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

Committee: Willard H. Murray, Jr. and Albert Robles  
Staff: Elsa Lopez, Adeline Yoong, Ron Beilke,  
Thomas Martin  
Public: Valerie Hill, Roundhouse Marine Aquarium

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

The agenda items were taken out of order.

**4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Bob Reeb of Millennium Advocates provided an update on state legislative activities via teleconference. Mr. Reeb stated that Sacramento is quiet as the Legislature is off until January 3, 2011. He said that the ongoing State budget troubles will dominate the start of the new two-year session. He said that there may be a special election as early as next June to put various tax increase and expenditure and budget reform proposals before the voters.

Mr. Reeb reported that Senator Simitian (SB34) is proposing a tax on water to set up a pay as you go infrastructure financing for water to move away from obligation bonds.

Director Robles asked when the District's State and Federal Legislative workshops are scheduled. Senior External Affairs Representative Adeline Yoong said that, subject to the directors' availability, the tentative dates for the State Workshop are March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and the week of April 11<sup>th</sup> for the Federal Workshop. Additionally, she said that staff is planning a strategy session with the lobbyists for directors on the morning of January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Tammy Lindenberg and Jacob Johnson of Pacific Atlantic Partners provided an update on federal legislative activities via teleconference. Mr. Johnson reported that negotiations on appropriations have fallen apart. He stated that the \$212,000 in the Omnibus Bill for the Whittier Narrows project will probably not come to fruition in the new year. He said

that the swearing in of new members is scheduled for January 5, 2011. Mr. Johnson concluded saying that the House and Senate are in the process of reorganizing the committees and smaller committees are expected in the future.

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 AND NOVEMBER 15, 2010**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**8. ROUNDHOUSE MARINE AQUARIUM**

Manager of External Affairs Elsa Lopez stated that Director Katherman met with the staff and board directors of the Roundhouse Marine Studies Lab and Aquarium (Roundhouse) and received a presentation on their educational and research program. She reported that District staff also recently met with the staff from the Roundhouse and felt their program falls within the District's mission and serves a spectrum of northern cities within WRD's service area. She said that the program is very progressive and is similar to the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's in that there is no cost to the students.

Ms. Valerie Hill of the Roundhouse Aquarium indicated that the Aquarium does not have paid advertisement, but rather relies on word of mouth; their teachers make the contacts and they advertise on their website. She said they rely heavily on volunteers.

Director Robles remarked that he wants to make sure that the District receives recognition for its sponsorship.

The Committee recommended that the Board consider a contribution of \$30,000 to the Round House Marine Aquarium.

**5. PRESS RELEASE AND MEDIA CONTACT PROCEDURE**

Director Robles proposed changes to the press release policy and Director Murray concurred.

The Committee adopted the Press Release and Media Contact Procedure as amended.

**6. CORO FELLOW PROGRAM**

Manager of External Affairs Elsa Lopez said that several of the directors have requested research on the possibility of hosting a CORO Fellow for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. She reported that the CORO program runs for a six week period in April and May with 12 fellows for selection. The cost is \$7000 each for six weeks, Monday through Thursday.

Discussion followed. The Committee recommended against utilizing the CORO Internship program at this time.

**7. CAMP SHIWAKA: URBAN FOREST PROPOSAL**

Ms. Lopez said that District staff met with the Long Beach Area Camp Fire USA Council and former WRD Director Leo Vander Lans. A proposal requesting funding for Camp Shiwaka, an urban forest project located in Long Beach, was submitted. The project consists of an expansion of the seven-acre Urban Forest Facilities at Camp Shiwaka. Ms.Lopez indicated that this would be another form of water education for the Greater Long Beach area.

Discussion followed. The Committee recommended that a letter be sent to the Long Beach Area Camp Fire USA Council from the Committee Chair stating that the District will consider a contribution with the assurance that the entire District's service area be included in the program.

**9. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Ms. Lopez said that a request was received from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works regarding a letter of support for their sediment removal project in the Santa Anita Dam. The Committee unanimously recommended that a letter of support be sent.

Ms. Lopez reported that the District participated in the ACWA Fall Conference in Indian Wells where the District was honored with a special award from ACWA. She said that staff will also be hosting a booth at the Go Green Expo to be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center on January 23-25, 2011. She said that the Ad Hoc Workforce and Economic Development Committee will meet in January to discuss the Eco Gardening program. She said that staff met with WaterWise Consulting about customizing the curriculum for ECO Pro 20 x2020 and will have a certified program in coordination with EPA WaterSense.

**10. DIRECTORS REPORTS, INQUIRIES, AND FOLLOW UP OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF**

Due to a District holiday, the Committee scheduled the next meeting on Monday, January 24, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

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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:** FEBRUARY 22, 2011  
**TO:** EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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### SUMMARY

#### **Legislative Calendar**

##### State Legislature

February 18	Last day for bills to be introduced.
April 14	Spring Recess begins at the end of this day's session
April 25	Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess

##### Congress

February 21-25	District Work Period
March 21-25	District Work Period

#### **Legislative Report**

A verbal update will be provided on state and federal matters.

### FISCAL IMPACT

None.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For information.