MEETING OF THE
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
4040 PARAMOUNT BLVD., LAKEWOOD, CA 90712
11:00 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020

AGENDA

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS OF THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (WRD)

The President of the United States and the Governor of California have both declared a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The Governor issued Executive Order N-33-20 which orders all individuals to stay at home, and also Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 which direct Californians to cancel all large gatherings and allows for teleconferencing of public meetings. Additionally, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health issued a Safer At Home Order on April 10, 2020 prohibiting public gatherings or events of any size, and on May 13, 2020 extended the order indefinitely.

To that end, no members of the public will be allowed to attend in-person meetings, including this meeting. Instead, members of the public may teleconference by calling toll free (800) 309-2350 and pressing 9215521# for the Conference ID. You will be able to listen to the meeting, but in order to speak and provide Public Comment, you will need to press Star 5 (*5) on your phone at which time you will be placed in the queue for the eventual opportunity to be un-muted and speak. Consistent with Section 6.2 of the District Administrative Code, speakers will be limited to three minutes. You may also provide your public comments via email to board@wrd.org up to one hour before the meeting is scheduled to begin.

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" or "For discussion" 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
   Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3
   To make a Public Comment, press Star (*5) on your phone to be recognized, and when un-muted please announce your name and affiliation. All comments are limited to three minutes consistent with the provisions of the District Administrative Code.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2020
   *Staff Recommendation:* The External Affairs Committee approves the minutes as submitted.
4. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2020**  
*Staff Recommendation:* The External Affairs Committee approves the minutes as submitted.

5. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2020**  
*Staff Recommendation:* The External Affairs Committee approves the minutes as submitted.

6. **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
*Staff Recommendation:* For discussion and possible action.

7. **SUPPORT FOR THE INVEST IN AMERICA ACT**  
*Staff Recommendation:* The External Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Directors support the INVEST in America Act.

8. **COVID-19 OUTREACH UPDATE**  
*Staff Recommendation:* For discussion and possible action.

9. **DEPARTMENT REPORT**  
*Staff Recommendation:* For discussion and possible action.

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

11. **ADJOURNMENT**  
*The Committee will adjourn to the next currently scheduled meeting on July 13, 2020.*

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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if special assistance is needed to participate in the meeting, please contact Deputy Secretary 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 are available at the District’s website, [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org).

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES – If you challenge a District action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Deputy Secretary at, or prior to, the public hearing. Any written correspondence delivered to the District office before the District’s final action on a matter will become a part of the administrative record.
DATE: JUNE 8, 2020
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2020

SUMMARY
A meeting of the External Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on March 9, 2020 at 9:45 AM in the Silverado Conference Room, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712. Committee Alternate Chair John D.S. Allen called the meeting to order and presided thereafter.

FISCAL IMPACT
None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
The External Affairs Committee approves the minutes as submitted.
A meeting of the External Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on March 9, 2020 at 9:45 AM in the Silverado Conference Room, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712. Committee Alternate Chair John D.S. Allen called the meeting to order and presided thereafter.

1. **DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
   A quorum was present, which included:
   Committee: President Vera Robles-DeWitt, Director John D. S. Allen; Director Sergio Calderon; Director Rob Katherman arrived at 10:12 a.m.; Director Willard H. Murray, Jr. was excused
   Staff: Dina Hidalgo; Diane Gatza; Jenn Swart; Robb Whitaker; Angie Mancillas; David Alvarez; Francisco Leal; Lawrence Chiu; Kimberly Badescu; Tenisha Simeon
   Public: (via phone) Maria Kennedy – Kennedy Communications; Julie Chlopecki - Pacific Atlantic Partners; Bob Reeb - Reeb Government Relations, LLC; Bob Giroux - Lang, Hansen, O'Malley & Miller

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3
   None
   
   Upon a motion made by Director Allen and seconded by Director Calderon, subsequent need item 6A was added to the agenda by a vote of 3-0.

3. **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**
   This item was tabled for later discussion.

4. **WRD EDUCATION PROGRAMS REPORT**
   This item was tabled for later discussion.
5. AWARD OF GENERAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GEIGER WEST FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROMOTIONAL ITEMS
Manager of External Affairs Angie Mancillas provided an overview.

| First:   | Allen       |
| Second:  | DeWitt      |
| Discussion: | None     |
| Vote:    | DeWitt, Yes; Allen, Yes; Calderon, Yes; Katherman, 10:12 Arrival; Murray, Excused |
| Result:  | The External Affairs Committee recommended that the Board of Directors enter into a General Services Agreement, subject to approval as to form by District Counsel, with Geiger West for an amount not to exceed $80,000 for a one-year contract. |

4. WRD EDUCATION PROGRAMS REPORT
This item was taken out of order.

Ms. Mancillas provided an overview and updated the Committee. Discussion followed.

No action was taken.

7. DIRECTORS’ REPORTS, INQUIRIES AND FOLLOW-UP OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF
This item was taken out of order.

Director Allen inquired about pictures of WRD Board members on mailing items. Comments followed. Discussion was tabled.

3. LEGISLATIVE REPORT
This item was taken out of order.

Legislative consultant for WRD Julie Chlopecki provided a report via phone call.

Next, State legislative consultant Bob Giroux presented.

Finally, Bob Reeb of Reeb Government Relations provided details for the March Board trip to Sacramento and additional discussion.

No action was taken.

Upon a motion made by Director Katherman and seconded by Director Allen, subsequent need item 6B LOBBYING AND STRATEGIC CONSULTING FIRM was added to the agenda.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORT
Ms. Mancillas reported on future water events.
Manager of Water Resources Diane Gatza recommended a date of April 2, 2020 from 1 PM to 3 PM and provided specifics for the PFAS working group. Discussion followed.

Ms. Mancillas proceeded to list calendar events. Public Affairs Representative Kimberly Badescu then distributed a list of conferences to the Committee.

No action was taken.

7. DIRECTORS’ REPORTS, INQUIRIES AND FOLLOW-UP OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF
Director Allen inquired about the District’s partnership with LA County Public Works as well as spreading grounds and barriers. General Manager Robb Whitaker updated the Committee.

Director Katherman reminded the Committee of the RoundHouse Aquarium Event. No action was taken.

6B. LOBBYING AND STRATEGIC CONSULTING FIRM
This item was taken out of order.

Upon a motion made by Director Katherman and seconded by Director Allen, this item was tabled to be discussed at the next External Affairs Committee meeting agenda.

6A. CLOSED SESSION
The Committee went into closed session at 11:17 AM to discuss anticipated litigation.

The Committee reconvened at 11:57 AM. No formal action was taken.

8. ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 AM to the next meeting scheduled for April 13, 2020.
Chair

ATTEST:

___________________________

Member

Approved in minutes of:

_______________________
MEMORANDUM
ITEM NO. 4

DATE: MAY 11, 2020

TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2020

SUMMARY
A meeting of the External Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on April 13, 2020 at 11:05 AM in the Silverado Conference Room, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712. Committee Chair Sergio Calderon called the meeting to order and presided thereafter.

FISCAL IMPACT
None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
The External Affairs Committee approves the minutes as submitted.
MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2020
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 April 13, 2020 at 11:05 AM in the Silverado Conference Room, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712. Committee Chair Sergio Calderon called the meeting to order and presided thereafter.

1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM
   A quorum was present, which included:
   Committee: President Vera Robles-DeWitt, Director John D. S. Allen; Director Sergio Calderon; Director Rob Katherman arrived at 11:13 AM.; Director Willard H. Murray, Jr.
   Staff: Dina Hidalgo; Ted Johnson; Robb Whitaker; Angie Mancillas; David Alvarez; Francisco Leal; Lawrence Chiu; Kimberly Badescu; Tenisha Simeon
   Public: (via phone) Maria Kennedy – Kennedy Communications; Julie Chlopecki - Pacific Atlantic Partners; Bob Reeb - Reeb Government Relations, LLC

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
   Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3
   Manager of External Affairs Angie Mancillas introduced the new Senior Government Affairs Representative Stephanie Cuevas to the Committee.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2020
   Staff Recommendation: The External Affairs Committee approves the minutes as submitted.

| First: | Allen |
| Second: | DeWitt |
| Discussion: | None |
| Vote: | DeWitt, Yes; Allen, Yes; Yes; Murray; Yes; Calderon, Director Katherman arrived at 11:13 AM after the minutes were approved (Did not vote on item). |
| Result: | ITEM 3 PASSED |
4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT
Manager of External Affairs Angie Mancillas opened the discussion of the item before introducing the District’s federal legislative consultant Julie Chlopecki who provided a presentation via phone call. Ms. Chlopecki stated that Congress is out of session until April 19, 2020 and she do not anticipate that they will return this month. WRD completed its Washington DC, submitted letters and made visits. Everything that WRD has needed to submit has been submitted. Waiting to see how they will tackle infrastructure with economic stimulus package. Working on grants with staff.

Director Allen asked the status of the funding from the Bureau of Reclamation. Ms. Chlopecki replied that it is being processed.

State legislative consultants Bob Reeb, Awet Kidane, Maria Kennedy – Kennedy Communications and Rick Taylor also presented.

Mr. Reeb stated that staff has been mostly working remotely, and it’s been very quiet.

State Capitol will resume regular session on May 4, 2020 and will mainly focus on COVID-19 response efforts. Mr. Reeb also presented a review of additional information on state’s legislative efforts.

Director Katherman asked for a copy of the Hertzberg Bill.

Ms. Mancillas stated that one of the things the Committee does every year is anticipate legislation pertaining to water. Many legislative efforts will be directed to COVID-19 economic efforts during this time.

Mr. Reeb asked for a motion to approve the District’s positions on the bills. Mr. Reeb clarified that in the past, the process has been to identify legislation that may be impactful to WRD. There is then a discussion of the District’s position on legislation as approved by the Board which then is then worked on with management.

Recommended action of the Board is the following:

AB2611 watch and monitor bill
AB2677 watch bill
AB1056 watch bill
SB996 recommended support if amended
SB1056 watch bill
AB1205 District will write letter of support
Upon a motion made by Director Allen and seconded by President DeWitt to approve the positions recommended for each bill.

First: Allen
Second: DeWitt
Discussion: None
Vote: DeWitt, Yes; Allen, Yes; Yes; Murray; Yes; Calderon, Director Katherman
Result: Item 4 Passed

The item will be placed on the Board agenda.

Michael Gagan was on the call regarding any Los Angeles County updates. He reported that County is doing just as much as the state and federal level.

Director Allen asked regarding Congress Huffman’s Bill and asked that the Committee take a motion to support Huffman’s Bill.

Director Allen motioned, Katherman seconded. Upon a motion made by Director Allen and seconded by President DeWitt to approve the Huffman’s Bill.

First: Allen
Second: DeWitt
Discussion: None
Vote: DeWitt, Yes; Allen, Yes; Yes; Murray; Yes; Calderon, Director Katherman
Result: Item Passed 5-0

Maria Kennedy also provided follow up on the legislative report, specifically SB996 recommended support if amended.
5. **COVID-19 OUTREACH UPDATE**  
Manager of External Affairs Angie Mancillas provided an update on the item. Discussion followed.

Ms. Mancillas added that there has been a very good response from ads from Directors through social media and other media platforms. Staff continues to post on various newspaper outlets.

Eric Verdusco also presented and indicated that approximately 185,000 people have engaged on ads sent out to community in one week’s timeframe. WRD had good success in the social media ad campaign. Mr. Verdusco indicated that WRD will continue to see good ratings on the social media campaigns.

Director Calderon was interviewed this morning in AM 1020.

Director Katherman stated that for the next messaging campaign, he would like to see a message of appreciation to first responders specifically medical, EMT, police and fire fighters for their efforts during the pandemic. Discussion was had regarding including other essential works such as grocery workers and staff working in the field.

Director Allen asked that we cover other languages represented in the service area.

6. **APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT THE COMPLETION OF PHASE II OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT CONTRACT NO. 919 WITH MAD SYSTEMS, INC.**

Manager of External Affairs Angie Mancillas provided an overview.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First:</th>
<th>Allen</th>
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<tr>
<td>Second:</td>
<td>DeWitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vote:</td>
<td>DeWitt, Yes; Allen, Yes; Calderon, Yes; Katherman, Yes; Murray,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result:</td>
<td>The External Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Directors accept the Phase II of Mad Systems Contract No. 919 as complete, authorize the completion of the Professional Services Agreement Contract No. 919, subject to approval as to form by District Counsel, and authorize release of professional services contract retention in an amount not to exceed $50,000.</td>
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Item 6 Passed

7. **WRD EDUCATION FOUNDATION AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE**  
Manager of External Affairs Angie Mancillas opened the item up for discussion and interduce Jenn Swart to provide an update on the WRD Education Foundation. Letters will be sent out prospective Education Foundation Board members.
8. DEPARTMENT REPORT
   None

9. DIRECTORS' REPORTS, INQUIRIES AND FOLLOW-UP OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF
   Director Allen would like a hard copy of the Daily Breeze, Press Telegram, LA Times and other local subscriptions.

10. ADJOURNMENT
   There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM to the next meeting scheduled for May 11, 2020.

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   Chair

   ATTEST:

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   Member

   Approved in minutes of:

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DATE: JUNE 8, 2020
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2020

SUMMARY
A meeting of the External Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on May 11, 2020 at 11:05 AM in the Silverado Conference Room, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712. President Vera Robles-DeWitt called the meeting to order and presided thereafter.

FISCAL IMPACT
None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
The External Affairs Committee approves the minutes as submitted.
MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2020
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 May 11, 2020 at 11:05 AM in the Silverado Conference Room, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712. President Vera Robles-DeWitt called the meeting to order and presided thereafter.

1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM
A quorum was present, which included:
   Committee: President Vera Robles-DeWitt, Director Rob Katherman; Director John D. S. Allen; Director Sergio Calderon; Director Willard H. Murray, Jr.
   Staff: Dina Hidalgo; Lawrence Chiu; Evan Lue; Jenn Swart; Ted Johnson; Angie Mancillas; Monica Sijder; Rob Beste; Kimberly Badescu; Tenisha Simeon; Stephanie Cuevas; Rob Beste; Brian Partington; Ester Rojas; Robb Whitaker; Ted Johnson
   Public: Maria Kennedy – Kennedy Communications; Rick Taylor – Dakota Communications; Julie Chlopecki - Pacific Atlantic Partners; Bob Reeb - Reeb Government Relations, LLC; Bob Giroux – Lang Hansen; Erick Verduso; Michael Gagan; Awet Kidane; David Alvarez - Legal

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
   Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3
   None

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2020
   Staff Recommendation: The External Affairs Committee approves the minutes as submitted.

   Meeting minutes were not approved and will be brought back to the next meeting for approval due to grammatical errors.
4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Staff Recommendation: For discussion and possible action.

Manager of External Affairs Angie Mancillas opened discussion for the item before the District’s federal legislative consultant Julie Chlopecki provided a presentation via phone call.

Ms. Chlopecki stated that she had three items to go over.

The first item is to touch on the work of the House and Senate, which are currently on the next cares act stabilization bill.

The second item is the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

The third item is that Senator Feinstein's Los Angeles Office staff has expressed interest in touring ARC and wants to get something on the books for maybe June 2020 or July 2020. Discussion followed.

Director Allen asked if the District received the $4.2 million dollars, and if a press release had been done. Director Allen also asked if Ms. Chlopecki and Sr. Government Affairs Representative Stephanie Cuevas, have been able to speak with anyone in DC before March 1, 2020 about available fees for WRD? Discussion followed.

Mrs. Cuevas is working with the Water Resources department on grant opportunities. Discussion followed.

Bob Reeb introduced Bob Giroux to update the Board on the state budget and fiscal situation. Mr. Giroux stated that the governor received permission from the Senate and Assembly to appropriate funds during the COVID crisis over the next couple of months and also stated that everyone will see hits and it's unclear whether or not we will experience any hits to this budget year or next budget year. Discussion followed.

Mr. Reeb talked briefly about the policy committees and the assembly meeting this week with a very much reduced bill load. Discussion followed.

Maria Kennedy, Kennedy Communications stated that Walnut Park Mutual Water Company received $1.6 million in funding and the good part of that is that 1.6 million, came out of the safer accounts. Discussion followed.
5. AUTHORIZATION TO PAY FOR NEWSLETTER MAILING WITH KBC MAILING SERVICES, INC.

First: Murray  
Second: Allen  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Calderon did not vote on this item; Katherman, Yes; DeWitt, Excused; Allen, Yes; Murray; Yes  
Result: The External Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize payment to KBC Mailing in an amount not to exceed $11,280.

Director Katherman requested an amendment to the staff recommendation adding a piece about the pumpers and thanking their staff for continuing water supplies to their retail customers. He also said how important their staff is to supply drinking water to the region.

First: Murray  
Second: Allen  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Calderon, No; Katherman, Yes; DeWitt, Excused; Allen, Yes; Murray; Yes  
Result: Amendment to the motion was accepted. Item 5 Passed 4-0

This will be a consent item for review and approval on the Board of Directors meeting agenda.

6. AUTHORIZATION TO PAY FOR NEWSLETTER PRINTING WITH CONTINENTAL COLORCRAFT

First: Murray  
Second: Allen  
Discussion: None  
Vote: Calderon, Yes; Katherman, Yes; DeWitt, Excused; Allen, Yes; Murray; Yes  
Result: The External Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize payment to Continental Colorcraft Printing in an amount not to exceed $24,858. Item 6 Passed 5-0

This will be a consent item for review and approval on the Board of Directors meeting agenda.
7. **COVID-19 OUTREACH UPDATE**
Ms. Mancillas provided an update on this item. Ms. Mancillas highlighted the packet that Dakota Communications put together on COVID-19 outreach and stated that Eric Ver dusco has been working on identifying outreach partners as requested at the last meeting. Discussion followed.

Mr. Verdusco also provided an update on what he has been working on as it relates to the social media outreach efforts. Discussion followed.

8. **DEPARTMENT REPORT**
Ms. Mancillas introduced Monica Sijder to provide an update on the outreach program. Mrs. Sijder stated that because of COVID, most of the field trips were canceled and a lot of the teachers were asking if we could do virtual tours. Discussion followed.

Jenn Swart also provided a brief updated on staff efforts regarding the WRD Education Foundation. Mrs. Swart stated that recruitment letters were sent out in the form of emails and regular mail to about 40 individuals who were identified as prospective candidates. No online applications had been received; however, a request was received from Kyle Miller to see a draft copy of the bylaws, which were sent to him Discussion followed.

9. **DIRECTORS’ REPORTS, INQUIRIES AND FOLLOW-UP OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF**
Director Allen asked if there was a plan in place for staff to transition to the office when the Safer at Home Order ends.

General Manger Robb Whitaker stated that a plan has been drafted internally and that the union would review it as well.

Director Katherman inquired if staff continued to work on a video tour of ARC.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**
There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 P.M.

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Chair

ATTEST:
MEMBER

Approved in minutes of:

______________________
DATE: JUNE 8, 2020
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUMMARY
WRD’s Federal and State Legislative consultants will update the External Affairs Committee on legislation impacting the District. They will also alert the Committee about potential funding opportunities available to the District that will allow WRD to accomplish its goals.

Legislative Consultants:
Julie Chlopecki, Pacific Atlantic Partners
Bob Reeb, Reeb Government Relations, LLC
Awet Kidane, Lang Hansen, O’Malley & Miller
Bob Giroux, Lang, Hansen, O’Malley & Miller

FISCAL IMPACT
None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
For discussion and possible action.
DATE: JUNE 8, 2020
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR INVEST IN AMERICA ACT

SUMMARY
The U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee will consider the INVEST in America Act at a markup scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2020. The current surface transportation authorization expires September 30, 2020.

The bill authorizes approximately $500 billion over five (5) years to address America’s most urgent infrastructure needs, including:

• Tackling the massive backlog of roads, bridges, and transit systems in need of repair and replacement
• Building resilient infrastructure that will withstand the impacts of climate change and extreme weather
• Putting the U.S. on a path toward zero emissions from the transportation sector by prioritizing carbon pollution reduction, investing in public transit and the national rail network, building out fueling infrastructure for low- and zero-emission vehicles, and deploying technology and innovative materials
• Improving access to Federal funding to help communities around the country undertake transformative projects that are smarter, safer, and made to last

The INVEST in America Act also accounts for the economic downturn caused by the global pandemic and ensures States, cities, tribes, territories, and transit agencies can administer programs, advance projects, and preserve jobs in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. The INVEST in America Act authorizes an increase in funding to continue current programs in the first year of enactment of the bill (FY 2021) with wider policy implementation occurring in FY 2022.

Support for resilient national infrastructure policy (whether surface or water) is consistent with WRD’s recent input to Congress on resiliency and underscores the issue’s importance.

WRD’s role as a key stakeholder on issues under the jurisdiction of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure and the U.S. Senate Committee on
Environment & Public Works will help ensure a continuing role in hearings and roundtables; and, continue to grow the agency’s reputation as a thought leader and consistent, reliable partner of the federal government (Congress and the Agencies).

Congress is expected to act on a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorization later this year and being an active stakeholder is appreciated by Members and staff.

**FISCAL IMPACT**
None

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**
The External Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Directors support the INVEST in America Act.
Fact Sheet

The Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act is a 5-year, $494 billion investment to get our existing infrastructure working again and fund new, transformative projects that will create millions of jobs and support American manufacturing and ingenuity while reducing carbon pollution, dramatically improving safety, and spurring economic activity. It's investing in infrastructure that is smarter, safer, and made to last.

Highways Investments: $319 Billion

- Delivers better roads and bridges faster by prioritizing fixing the broken, outdated infrastructure we already have, including 47,000 structurally deficient bridges, before building new highway capacity.
- Modernizes our infrastructure with bold new funding for addressing gridlock and the most impactful projects and bottlenecks that affect local regions and the national transportation network.
- Measures state-by-state greenhouse gas emissions, with incentives for best performers in carbon pollution reduction, and a new program to fund resilient infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change.
- Dramatically increases funding for development of charging stations and other alternative fueling options for electric and zero-emissions vehicles.
- Addresses rising rates of pedestrian and bicyclist deaths by requiring States with the highest rates to set aside funding to tackle the problem, codifies and expands eligibility for safe routes to school, provides funding to develop active transportation networks, and strengthens emphasis on high risk rural roads.
- Doubles funding for technology deployment to increase innovation and creates new program to fund green materials research and to deploy green construction materials and practices to create smarter, more efficient transportation systems.

Transit Investments: $105 Billion

- Increases funding for transit agencies to add new routes and provide more reliable service, encouraging viable public transit options and fewer single-occupant cars clogging highways.
- Creates a Mobility Innovation program to permit transit agencies to collaborate on mobility on demand services.
- Strengthens Buy America provisions to boost domestic jobs in rail and bus manufacturing.
- Increases investment in zero-emission buses to reduce carbon pollution.
Streamlines project delivery by reforming the Capital Investment Grants program so that our investments get shovels in the ground quicker and commuters see results faster.

- Provides the investments needed to address the growing backlog of transit maintenance needs, making public transit safer and more reliable.

**Passenger Vehicle and Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Investments: $10 billion**

- Boosts funding for highway safety programs under the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, providing $5.3 billion over five years.
- Increases funding for truck and bus safety programs under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, providing $4.6 billion over five years.

**Rail Investments: $60 Billion**

- Triples funding for Amtrak to $29 billion over five years, allowing for improvement and expansion of the Nation’s passenger rail network, including the Northeast Corridor (NEC) and the National Network, giving travelers a reliable, low-carbon option to travel both short and long distances, including to regions that lack frequent or affordable airport service.
- Invests in Amtrak stations, facilities, services, and modernization of its equipment, while continuing Amtrak’s legacy of serving long-distance, state-supported, and Northeast Corridor passengers and ensuring a skilled Amtrak workforce.
- Creates a new $19 billion program, the Passenger Rail Improvement, Modernization and Expansion (PRIME) grant program, devoted entirely to passenger rail improvements and expansion, performance optimization, and intercity passenger rail transportation expansion.
- Dramatically increases funding for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program to $7 billion to fund passenger and freight rail projects. Expands program eligibilities and allows commuter rail authorities to compete for funds.
- Helps communities improve safety at rail crossings with a new $2.5 billion grade separation grant program.
- Addresses “long trains,” trains longer than 7,500 feet, as well as train crossings that are blocked more than 10 minutes, which impact local traffic and emergency response times.
- Prohibits U.S. DOT from allowing the transport of liquified natural gas by rail tank car until extensive safety analysis is performed and additional conditions are met.
DATE: JUNE 8, 2020
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: COVID-19 OUTREACH UPDATE

SUMMARY
At the March 19, 2020 WRD Board of Directors Meeting, the Board directed staff and consultants to develop and implement a coordinated media response utilizing social media, print media, and television ads to assure the public that COVID-19 is not transmitted through drinking water and that their water supply is free from the virus. This outreach is especially important in disadvantaged communities throughout our service area.

Staff has worked with Dakota Communications and CCE Consulting to develop a multi-faceted outreach campaign enacted throughout our service area. Staff and consultants will provide an update on outreach efforts including social media, print ads, and television.

FISCAL IMPACT
None

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
For discussion and possible action.