

Chair Bigley called the meeting of the RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. as a teleconference meeting.

1. Roll Call

Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Committee Members in Attendance:

Jeni Buckman, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan, Legal Counsel

Evan Jacobs, California-American Water

Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District

Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom

Sean Bigley, Chair, City of Roseville

Anne Sanger, Vice Chair, City of Sacramento

Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency

Dave Underwood, Sacramento County

Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District

Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

Others in Attendance:

Andy Fecko, Brian Sanders, Tony Firenzi, William Roberts, Ryan Ojakian, Paul Helliker, Noelle Mattock, Maurice Chaney, Christine Kohn, Ross Branch, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, Dane Wadle, Jim Peifer and Cecilia Partridge

2. Public Comment

None

3. Establishment of RWA Standing Committee

Mr. Bigley said that this meeting was originally formed as an Ad Hoc Committee meeting. At the last RWA board meeting Chair Schmitz directed that this become a standing committee meeting. The meeting will be a little more formal as a standing committee.

Mr. Peifer provided some background information on the RWA by-laws to assemble standing committee meetings. A requirement for a standing committee meeting is that the meeting cannot have a quorum of the RWA Executive Committee members, they are allowed to participate as observers only. To ensure compliance with the Brown Act, the Standing Committee will

operate differently. A new RWA Chair and Executive Committee are elected each January. At that time a new Federal Affairs standing committee chair will be appointed by the new RWA Chair.

4. Overview of current federal infrastructure discussion in light of COVID-19 pandemic and economic impacts

- a. Other Federal updates
- b. Outlook on State of California recovery efforts

Mr. Sapirstein said that the current status of the infrastructure looks promising as a new federal spending package is expected to be passed by the end of June with COVID relief assistance including rate payer assistance and support for payroll tax credits for the public sector. An infrastructure package will be addressed with continued interest for the impacts of the COVID-19.

Ms. More said that we are in a preparation phase with the COVID-19 pandemic and relief with the call for agency projects. Preparation will include structural and administrative issues with the next infrastructure relief package.

Explanation was requested from the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the implementation of the spending bill to support groundwater and groundwater banking. The committee passed the water bill in the Senate and a draft is expected to be released by the house soon. There is an indication that the House and Senate are moving forward on public infrastructure. There was mention of the Governor's order regarding where an employee may contract the COVID-19 virus. Mid-April the governor appointed a task force for job recovery for the state. The legislature is tackling the budget issues with a deadline for the budget to be past of June 15th.

Mr. Ojakian said that there is still a possibility that there will be bond funding. Some of the participants on the task force are pushing for a bond measure considering the unique market for borrowing with the current low interest rates.

5. Report outs

- a. Advocacy Strategy Subcommittee and related updates
- b. Communications Subcommittee and related updates
- c. Other similar efforts and coordination
 - i. SACOG
 - ii. Placer County

Ms. Sanger said that the decision has been made to begin virtual visits to D.C. regarding the advocacy strategy. It would be beneficial to get in front of our regional delegation staff with our completed project list and with

presentations for requesting funding. Virtual visits are expected with D.C. delegates sometime in June with in person visits in September.

Ms. Kohn said that we are currently working on a completed white paper draft that includes key messages with a fact sheet intended to be an internal document and a power point presentation for a virtual meeting.

Mr. Peifer gave an update on SACOG interactions. Conversations with James Corless and SACOG staff indicate that they are interested in moving this effort forward but it appears they continue to extend project deadlines. They may be having difficulty finding and defining projects while their efforts focus on shovel ready projects.

Mr. Firenzi said that Placer County generated a document that explains project clusters in their region covering transportation, utilities and health care. Placer County's outreach is similar to the RWA effort in all areas of infrastructure.

Mr. Dugan said that he has been involved in supporting the Placer County and RWA efforts. SACOG's focus is to control land use and transportation projects not water infrastructure.

6. Update on Infrastructure Spreadsheet

a. Accompanying GIS map

At the last RWA meeting an infrastructure spreadsheet was provided that included submitted projects.

7. Action items

Mr. Bigley commented on a letter that was sent to Reclamation.

8. Meeting Schedule for the rest of 2020

Mr. Bigley proposed establishing a standing meeting on the third Wednesday of every month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The next Federal Affairs Standing Committee meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2020.

9. Public comment

Senator Feinstein's Central Conveyance Act addresses federal canals that may affect anyone who has federal contracts. Ramifications of this bill include how the funds will be paid and additional costs to contractors.

It was suggested that future federal affairs committee agendas include discussion on federal contracts for tracking purposes and anything that could affect future water bank projects.

Mr. Peifer said that the RWA is a mechanism to pull our power within the region to get changes that are consistent with the mission and vision of the RWA.

10. Adjournment

Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
