

Chair Bigley called the meeting of the RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee to order at 11:00 a.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, Noelle Mattock, Christine Kohn, Ross Branch, Eric

Sapirstein, Kristi More, Dane Wadle, Julia Roberts, David French,

Jim Peifer and Cecilia Partridge

## **2. Public Comment**

Mr. Bigley reported that we have made a shift from an Ad Hoc committee to a standing committee. Prior to future meetings a reminder with call in information will be emailed to the Federal Affairs Committee members.

Mr. Bigley requested adding an agenda item for approval of the meeting minutes that will be prepared after each federal affairs meeting and included in the next federal affairs meeting packet. The May 14, 2020 federal affairs meeting minutes were attached and discussed. Committee members made revisions and the minutes were approved.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Underwood moved, with a second by Mr. York, to add an agenda item to future agendas for approval of the federal affairs meeting minutes. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all committee members present.

### **3. Practices, protocols and norms for the RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee**

The original RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee recommendation memo that was completed last fall regarding the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee and items that the RWA Board took action on was discussed. The vision for the standing committee venue is to discuss and deliberate on federal legislation, federal regulatory items and other policy items. The RWA Legislative Affairs Committee recommends position on state and federal legislation with the Executive Committee taking positions on legislation consistent with policy. It was suggested that the federal affairs committee review RWA policies to allow the committee to take immediate positions on pieces of legislation and understand how RWA takes positions on pieces of legislation. Any position recommendations go to the Executive Committee and then to the RWA Board. It was recommended that Ryan Ojakian attend DC conferences to make the case for our issues.

### **4. Establishment of regular bill review/discussion on future agendas**

A list of bills was presented for information and discussion with respect to any recommendations or actions to present to the RWA on particular pieces of legislation. Ms. More and Mr. Sapirstein presented a bill tracker as a tool that is updated regularly, prioritizes bills, provides the status of legislation and bill description and summaries. The tracker will be a useful tool to focus on bills that are of importance and relevance to RWA and its member agencies and can be refined to reflect RWA positions or interests on each bill. We have the benefit of the RWA board approved federal affairs platform where we will begin discussions on updating that platform for review by the board annually.

Mr. Wadle, Field Coordinator with the California Special Districts Association, gave a presentation on HR 7073. The previous stimulus measures did not include funding for special districts and they may receive a 5% cut of any future allocations made through federal stimulus measures for COVID 19. There is an effort to remedy this for future allocations to be specifically designated for special districts. A support letter for HR 7073 from RWA was suggested. Mr. Peifer will present this to the Executive Committee for approval at their next meeting. It was suggested that another letter be sent to Senator Harris and Senator Feinstein urging support for rate payer assistance and payroll tax credits with general financial support for local governments including special districts due to COVID 19.

M/S/C Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Mr. York, to provide direction to the Executive Director to support HR 7073. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all committee members present.

**5. 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

There was a brief discussion on the federal infrastructure in light of the COVID 19 pandemic.

**6. 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
- d. Other items

Seven meetings have been identified to be set up as virtual visits with leads for each meeting with relevant participants from districts with an additional Reclamation meeting in DC.

Ms. Kohn provided an update on the communications subcommittee, available materials and a fact sheet based on the white paper that refines our message. An outline was circulated to the review group with a draft design. A PowerPoint includes general talking points for presenters to use as a foundation.

Mr. Peifer reported that SACOG has completed their work with respect to their activities and have closed the deadline for submission of projects. They are trying to recover from the COVID 19 crisis and are interested in how to receive funding. Further updates will be provided as things progress.

Mr. Firenzi gave an update on Placer County efforts reporting that they have rolled out an infrastructure proposal into a report for the whole county focusing on local business recovery including reopening and the business community.

**7. Action items**

The committee recommended a position on HR 7073 for the Executive Committee to consider and a recommendation for the Executive Director to send a support letter.

**8. Public comment**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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