

Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency

Board of Directors

Judy Corl-Lorono, President
J. Dennis Staley, Vice President
Terry Burkhart, Secretary
Michael McBride, Director
J. Larry Coulombe, Director

Marina D West, P.G., General Manager



A Public Agency

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Yucca Valley, CA 92284-1440

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www.bdvwa.org

Planning/Legislative/Engineering Grant & Security Standing Committee Special Meeting Agenda

Board Meeting Office
1720 N. Cherokee Trail, Landers, CA 92285
Tuesday October 21, 2014 - 9:15 a.m.

Committee Members: Director Corl-Lorono & Director Burkhart

The BDVWA Planning / Legislative / Engineering / Grant & Security Committee meeting will be conducted in strict compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board not assigned to this Committee who attend may do so only as observers and may not participate in the meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Approval of Agenda**

Discussion and Action Items - The Committee and Staff will discuss the following items and provide direction to staff, if so inclined.

The Public is invited to comment on any item on the agenda during discussion of that item.

When giving your public comment, please have your information prepared. If you wish to be identified for the record then please state your name. Due to time constraints, each member of the public will be allotted three-minutes to provide their public comment.

5. Conference Call with Mojave Water Agency's Legal/Legislative and Public Information Committee

Committee to participate via teleconference for an update by the State Advocate of Issues at the State Level, as well as an update by the Federal Advocate of Issues at the Federal Level.

6. Consent Items - The following is expected to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted on by the Committee members at one time without discussion, unless a member of the Public or a Committee member requests that an item be held for discussion or further action.

- a. Regular PLEGS Committee Meeting Report, August 6, 2014

7. Public Comment Period

Any person may address the Committee on any matter within the Agency's jurisdiction on items not appearing on this agenda.

When giving your public comment, please have your information prepared. If you wish to be identified for the record then please state your name. Due to time constraints, each member of the public will be allotted three-minutes to provide their public comment. State Law prohibits the Committee from discussing or taking action on items not included on the agenda.

8. Verbal Reports

- a. Committee Member Comments/Reports
- b. General Manager's Report

9. Items for Next Agenda

10. Adjournment

In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 54954.2, this agenda has been posted in the main lobby of the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency, 622 S. Jemez Trail, Yucca Valley, CA not less than 72 hours if prior to a Regular meeting, date and time above; or in accordance with California Government Code Section 54956 this agenda has been posted not less than 24 hours if prior to a Special meeting, date and time above.

As a general rule, agenda reports or other written documentation has been prepared or organized with respect to each item of business listed on the agenda.

Copies of these materials and other discloseable public records in connection with an open session agenda item, are also on file with and available for inspection at the Office of the Agency Secretary, 622 S. Jemez Trail, Yucca Valley, California, during regular business hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. If such writings are distributed to members of the Board of Directors on the day of a Board meeting, the writings will be available at the entrance to the Board of Directors meeting room at the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency.

Internet: Once uploaded, agenda materials can also be viewed at www.bdwwa.org.

Public Comments: You may wish to submit your comments in writing to assure that you are able to express yourself adequately.

Per Government Code Section 54954.2, any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the meeting, should contact the Board's Secretary at 760-364-2315 during Agency business hours.



Legal, Legislative and Public Information Committee

AGENDA

**Mojave Water Agency
Board Room
13846 Conference Center
Drive
Apple Valley, CA 92307**

October 21, 2014

09:30 a.m.

-
- 1. Approve Agenda**

 - 2. Approve Meeting Summary from the Legal, Legislative, and Public Information Committee Meeting of September 16, 2014**
 - Meeting Summary**

 - 3. Update by State Advocate of Issues at the State Level (teleconference)**
 - State Report**

 - 4. Update by Federal Advocate of Issues at the Federal Level (teleconference)**
 - Federal Report**

 - 5. Public Information Update**

 - 6. General Manager's Report**

7. Public Participation

8. Comments/Discussion Items for Next or Future Agendas

9. Adjournment

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a), any request for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, that is sought in order to participate in the above-agendized public meeting, should be directed to the Agency's General Manager's office at (760) 946-7008 at least 24 hours prior to said meeting.

Please visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/mojavewater>



LEGAL, LEGISLATIVE, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING SUMMARY September 16, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Ex-Officio Member Beverly Lowry called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

- ↓ Committee – Ex-Officio Member Beverly Lowry, Director Kimberly Cox, and Director Carl Coleman
- ↓ Absent – Chairperson Doug Shumway
- ↓ Staff – General Manager Kirby Brill; Community Liaison Officer Yvonne Hester; Chief Financial Officer Kathy Cortner; Principal Hydrogeologist Lance Eckhart; and Senior Administrative Assistant, Public Information Gloria Golike
- ↓ Consultants – State Advocate Ed Manning, KP Public Affairs and Federal Advocates Letitia White and Heather Hennessey, Innovative Federal Strategies LLC joined by teleconference
- ↓ Others – Four visitors were in the audience and four were online

1. **Approve Agenda**

The agenda was agreed upon as presented.

2. **Approve Meeting Summary from the Legal, Legislative, and Public Information Committee Meeting of August 6, 2014**

The meeting summary was agreed upon as presented.

3. **Update by State Advocate of Issues at the State Level**

Mr. Manning reported on The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. He reviewed several areas; such as, Clean, Safe, and Reliable Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities; Statewide Water Storage; Water Recycling; and others.

Mr. Eckhart mentioned that a sub-committee has been created to address the needs of the small systems or disadvantaged communities.

Mr. Manning voiced his recommendation for support of the Improvement Act of 2014. Mr. Manning and Mr. Brill addressed questions of the Committee. The Committee then agreed to move this item to the full board for support and adoption.

Mr. Manning concluded his report by giving an update on the groundwater legislation.

4. **Update by Federal Advocate of Issues at the Federal Level**

Ms. Hennessey reported on the status of the drought bill, Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the Continuing Resolution. She mentioned the schedule of Congress for the next two months.

5. **Public Information Update**

Ms. Hester gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the different public outreach activities and meetings. She also announced upcoming activities in September and October.

6. **General Manager's Report**

No report.

7. **Public Participation**

None.

8. **Comments/Discussion Items for Next or Future Agendas**

None.

9. **Adjournment**

Ex-Officio Member Lowry adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Submitted by: _____

Gloria Golike
Senior Administrative Assistant,
Public Information

Attachments on-file:

Item No. 3 – The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014

Item No. 5 - Public Information Report - PowerPoint

Sign-in sheet

KP

**PUBLIC
AFFAIRS**

TO: Legal, Legislative and Public Information Committee

**FROM: Ed Manning
Carolyn Jensen**

RE: KP Public Affairs Agenda

1. Legislative Update

- a. Legislative Leadership Changes

2. Water Bond Update

10/15/14

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mojave Water Agency Legal, Legislative and Public Information Committee

From: Letitia White and Heather Hennessey

Date: September 26, 2014

Re: September Monthly Legislative Update

Congress has departed DC for a seven-week recess to campaign for the November elections. With control of the Senate on the line in the upcoming elections, Capitol Hill was engulfed by political tensions during the two weeks that they worked during September. Everyone is hopeful that the *Lame Duck* session and the beginning of the 114th Congress will break the growing legislative logjam.

Lame Duck Agenda Items

It is almost impossible to predict the content of a *Lame Duck* session until after the November elections because of the uncertainty surrounding the outcome in the Senate. If Republicans take control of the Senate, there will be very little incentive for them to cooperate with the current Democratic leadership to strike compromises on legislative issues. Rather, the House Republicans would likely postpone negotiations on major issues until the new Congress if power changes hands in the Senate. If the Democrats retain control of the Senate, however, then the current leadership teams will remain in place. Under that possible outcome, then some *Lame Duck* deals on FY 2015 spending and other issues could fall together quickly. Either way, the expiration of the current CR on December 11th is the only major looming deadline that faces Congress during the *Lame Duck*. This list provides a brief summary of the most likely items for legislative action during the *Lame Duck* session:

- Continuing Resolution (CR) or FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill – Federal funding will expire with the end of the current CR on December 11th so Congress must act to extend all federal funding beyond that date.
- Tax extenders – The bundle of tax provisions known as the “extenders” includes the New Markets Tax Credit and many other popular provisions. The extenders expired months ago and have been stuck in limbo while Congress flirted with the possibility of a larger tax overhaul. Meanwhile, the House and Senate produced different extenders packages which have not yet been reconciled. A one year extension would cost \$47 billion but would be almost meaningless at this point because so much time has passed since the last expiration. Consequently, the possibility of a two year extension is now being discussed.
- Defense Authorization for FY 2015 – The National Defense Authorization Act is routinely passed each year, and we are hearing reports that negotiators are already meeting to try and finalize this year’s bill. Interestingly, the current conflict with ISIS

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could be excluded from this debate. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) has announced that he thinks that debate regarding US actions against ISIS should wait for the new Congress in January rather than be debated by so many outgoing members of the House and Senate.

- TRIA – The national program for terrorism insurance is expiring and needs to be reauthorized. It is unclear whether a TRIA reform bill will also take shape during the Lane Duck.
- Government Surveillance Reform – The possible overhaul of the federal surveillance system would ban government agencies from bulk collection and storage of domestic telephone metadata.
- Cybersecurity Reform – Senators Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) are leading a bipartisan effort to move the Senate cybersecurity bill and complete a conference with the House bill. If successful, the final bill would improve the sharing of cyber-threat information between the private sector and the government.

Speaker Boehner Describes Possible Republican Agenda

In a speech to the American Enterprise Institute in mid-September, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) detailed a series of legislative initiatives that could serve as a roadmap for a policy agenda if the Republicans control both chambers of Congress next year. The chances of a Republican takeover in the Senate remain the subject of intense speculation by political pundits, with national polling showing that the majority for Senate control could be razor-thin next year. It is no surprise that the Speaker would take a public opportunity to provide his preferences for legislative priorities. With Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) locked in a difficult reelection fight, he is not as free to express his preferences as he would be otherwise. The five points of Boehner's plan included:

- Tax reform
- Spending cuts including for entitlement programs
- Reform of the legal system
- Reforming federal regulatory policies
- Education modernization and reform

The Speaker did not get into many specifics behind each item on the list, but many of these issues are familiar mainstays of the Republican agenda. It is important that tax reform is first on the list. Presumably, that will revive the debate that began many months ago on the tax exempt status of municipal bonds.

Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency

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Planning/Legislative/Engineering Grant & Security Committee Regular Meeting Report

Board Meeting Office
1720 N. Cherokee Trail, Landers, CA 92285
Wednesday, August 6, 2014 - 9:15 a.m.

**Committee Members: Director Corl-Lorono & Director Staley
(Director Burkhart absent with prior notice)**

Call to Order

Director Corl-Lorono called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mary Coulombe

Roll Call

Directors: Judy Corl-Lorono
J. Dennis Staley

Staff: Marina West
Michelle Corbin

Approval of the Agenda

Director Corl-Lorono and Director Staley approved the agenda as presented.

Conference Call with Mojave Water Agency's Legal/Legislative and Public Information Committee

State Advocate Ed Manning of KP Public Affairs gave an update about the water bond. He mentioned that there are different bonds competing and time is of the essence. Carolyn Jensen gave a brief update on groundwater legislation and also emergency drought regulations.

Federal Advocate Heather Hennessey of Innovative Federal Strategies reported that Congress is on recess now until September 8. She spoke in length about the Clean Water Act, including the EPA's rulemaking and efforts to expand its jurisdiction. She also gave an update on the outlook of federal funding.

No public comment.

Update on Dissolution of CSA 70/W-1 and Annexation to BDVWA

General Manager West reported the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors voted in favor of the tax transfer from Special Districts to Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency. West briefed the committee on the Local Agency Formation Commission progress. West discussed the background for the California Environmental Quality Act review.

Committee Chairwoman Corl-Lorono stated her concern over the mismanaged spending Special Districts is engaged in. She feels the Agency should write a letter of concern to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

Committee member Staley is concerned with Special Districts Manager Jeff Rigney's motives as it relates to the exorbitant cost of the meter read systems they are installing at CSA 70W-1 Landers.

General Manager West also discussed the incompatibility of the various improvement projects Special Districts is carrying out this fiscal year. Of concern is the eventual tie-in between the two water districts may cause their proposed "pressure reducing stations" to have been unnecessary. Also the six hundred dollar plus, per account, meter reading systems will not conform to Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency's preferred method of the manual read process.

Public comment:

Anonymous ask for clarification on other projects Special Districts is involved with.

Consent Items

- a. Regular PLEGS Meeting Report, June 4, 2014

No public comment.

Director Staley and Director Corl-Lorono approved the report.

Public Participation

No public comment.

Verbal Reports

Committee Member Comments/Reports

None

General Manager's Report

General Manager West reported Tim Gobler is leaving Mojave Water Agency and that we may want to keep his name in mind in helping with future agency water sales.

Items for Next Agenda

Adjournment - Director Corl-Lorono adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.