

**CalDesal State Legislative Committee Meeting Notes**

**Monday, March 16, 2020**

**Conference Call Meeting**

**3:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Members present:**

Marina Lindsay, West Basin Municipal Water District

Rosalie Thompson, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Danielle Coats, Eastern Municipal Water District

Phil Rosentrater, Salton Sea Authority

**Guests:** Wendy Ridderbusch, Executive Director

The meeting began at 3:04 p.m. Chair E.J. Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District was called into an emergency Managers’ meeting at the water district and was unable to join the call. In his absence Executive Director Wendy Ridderbusch chaired the conference call meeting.

**State Legislative Activity:**

The committee reviewed the last month’s state legislative activity in Sacramento regarding the General Obligation Climate Resiliency Bonds. There was no additional new information regarding the vehicles, just an acknowledgement that both houses of the state legislature were discussing the vehicles with the expectation that only one would appear on the General Election November 2020 ballot.

SB 45 (Allen) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020. This is the current Senate climate resiliency bond vehicle.

AB 3256 (E.Garcia) Climate Risks: Bond Act. Currently a spot bill awaiting amendments with substantive language. This is the Assembly’s climate resiliency bond vehicle.

**Review draft CalDesal SB 45 (Allen) position letter**

The committee had previously decided that the CalDesal “Support if Amended” position letter for SB 45 (Allen) was being put temporarily on the back burner, not being sent yet, in anticipation of a decision from WateReuse regarding CalDesal’s request to them via their Executive Director Jennifer West to send a joint letter.

**WateReuse California Joint Letter**

CalDesal’s Legislative Committee decided at the February meeting to invite statewide organization WateReuse to partner on a collective effort to send one coalition letter with an ask for a total amount which would include a piece of funding for desalination as well as water recycling from the climate change resiliency general obligation bond. The committee agreed to have Wendy pursue the ask. She agreed to report back to the committee at the next meeting on any progress and next steps.

**Senator Feinstein’s S. 1932 request**

John Watts, senior staffer based in Washington, D.C. for Senator Feinstein, approached CalDesal to request a support letter on S. 1932 which currently contains $80 million for desalination. After the committee expressed support for this funding, a support letter regarding the desalination funding was sent to Senator Feinstein’s office.

**Covid-19**

The committee talked about how this evolving crisis of the Novel Coronavirus might impact the water industry sector. Many committee members were unable to participate on the call due to the nature of the pandemic and the unfolding events. The hope was expressed that the committee might be able to meet in person at the Orange County Water District once the pandemic’s stay-at-home orders were lifted.

**Next meeting is on Monday, April 20, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.**

**The short meeting was adjourned by Wendy Ridderbusch at 3:18 p.m.**