

**CalDesal State Legislative Committee Meeting Notes**

**Monday, March 16, 2020**

**Conference Call Meeting**

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

**Members present: ?**

E.J. Caldwell (Chair), West Basin Municipal Water District

Rosalie Thompson, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Danielle Coats, Eastern Municipal Water District

Stacy Taylor, Mesa Water District

**Guests:** Wendy Ridderbusch, Executive Director

The meeting began at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3:01 p.m. Chair E.J. Caldwell, West Basin Municipal Water District, called the meeting to order.

**State Legislative Activity:**

General Obligation Climate Resiliency Bonds Status:

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.

Both bond vehicles are being discussed with the expectation that one will appear on the General Election November 2020 ballot.

**Review draft CalDesal position letter**

The committee discussed the short draft CalDesal “Support if Amended” letter for SB 45 (Allen). There was also some thought given to whether the $250 million ask would be consistent between the different legislative vehicles. Wendy responded that CalDesal is launching a survey to its members asking what projects are being planned and constructed that could utilize either state bond funding, or federal funding, or both? Equally important is obtaining the dollar amounts that members could use if they were able to compete for bond funding. The answers to this survey will help shape the final numbers and allow the association to substantiate the ask with actual data behind it.

**WateReuse California Joint Letter**

EJ asked if it would make sense instead of sending a sole CalDesal letter of “support if amended” to partner on a collective effort with WateReuse on a coalition letter with an ask for a total amount which would include a piece of funding for desalination? The committee agreed to have Wendy pursue the ask with Jennifer West from WateReuse for a joint support if amended letter. She will report back to the committee at the next meeting on any progress.

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

John Watts approached CalDesal to request a support letter on S. 1932 which currently contains $80 million for desalination. The committee expressed support for this funding. Wendy will send a support letter regarding the desalination funding to Senator Feinstein’s office.

**Revised January 27 Meeting Minutes**

Wendy noted that she made changes to the January 27 meeting minutes and they are an attachment to the agenda.

**Next meeting is on Monday, May 18, 2020 from 3:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Adjourned by Chair Caldwell at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**