



CAMWC Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
11:00 am–1:00 pm

Call-in Number: (712) 775-7031
Access Code: 540-575-707#

Agenda

11am:

- 1) Call to Order (Chairman Byerrum)
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Legislative Committee Report (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. Update on Legislative Priorities & Recommended Positions
- 4) Approval of February 20, 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes (*Attachment 2*)
- 5) Organizational Matters:
 - a. Election of Officers
 - b. Board Member Vacancy
- 6) Website Report & Membership Update (*Attachment 3*)
 - a. Website Statistics
 - b. New Members
 - c. Affiliate Member Requests
- 7) 2015 Budget Report (*Separate Attachment*)
 - a. Review and Approval of Demand Sheet
 - b. Financial Statements
- 8) Quarterly Meeting – April 24th Location: TBD
- 9) Adjourn (1:00 pm)

2015 Board Roster

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Mr. Jim Ciampa, Legal Counsel

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Attachment 1

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Yamashita Lopez, Chair, Legislative Committee
Adán Ortega, Jr., Executive Director
Denise Peralta Gailey, Development Manager

DATE: March 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Legislative Committee Report March 17, 2015 Meeting

The Committee took action on March 17 to “Support” the following bills:

AB 656 (Garcia, Cristina): On March 20th, Assemblyman Luis Alejo agreed to co-sponsor AB 656. Per Executive Director Adan Ortega’s recommendation, support from a Republic legislator would also help the bill’s success, possibly Assemblyman March Steinorth (40th AD). As of March 22nd, we have received 23 letters of support from mutual water companies. Del Rio Mutual Water Company is the only charter member who has not submitted a letter of support. On March 23rd, Executive Director Adan Ortega and General Counsel Jim Ciampa discussed the bill with ACWA JPIA CEO, Walter “Andy” Sells, who expressed no opposition to the bill and agreed to share the information with interested parties at ACWA to potentially obtain a letter of support for the legislation. Legislative Advocate Afrack Vargas is awaiting a response from the California Association of Firefighters and State Council of Laborers’ on their support for the legislation.

AB 434 (Garcia, Eduardo): Point-of-entry and point-of-use. Would specifically make the emergency regulations adopted by the State Department of Public Health before January 1, 2014, operative and would require that the emergency regulations remain in effect until repealed or amended by the State Water Resources Control Board. The bill would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to award a grant for point-of-entry and point-of-use treatment, in lieu of centralized treatment, by a public water system that meets certain requirements. This bill contains other related provisions. Per Executive Director Adan Ortega’s conversation with Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, the Assemblyman’s goal is to utilize this bill to introduce the notion of a multi-contaminant approach. Per the legislative committee’s approval, staff has sent a letter of support on behalf of the Association.

SB 385 (Hueso) Primary drinking water standards: variances: hexavalent chromium. Would authorize, until January 1, 2020, the State Water Resources Control Board, at the request of a public water system, to grant a variance from the primary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium if the public water system prepares and submits a compliance plan, the state board approves the compliance plan, the public water system provides specified notice requirements regarding the compliance plan to its customers, and the public water system sends annual reports to the state board that updates the status of the approved compliance plan.

The Committee took action to monitor the bills below to take positions pending discussion with the respective bill authors:

AB 1077 (Holden): Mutual water companies: open meetings. Legislative Director Afrack Vargas spoke to Assemblyman Holden's office and was informed that the bill is driven by a local constituent who had a particular issue with attending a meeting at Lincoln Avenue MWC. The legislative committee has agreed the best approach is to meet with Assemblyman Holden's office to propose amendments to the legislation that may satisfy the constituent who has raised concerns. A meeting with Assemblyman Holden's office is pending.

SB 615 (Rendon): Would establish The Center for Community Water Projects, to be administered by the Division of Financial Assistance within the State Water Resources Control Board. The bill would declare the purpose of the center is to provide a centralized, multidisciplinary technical assistance program for disadvantaged communities and to assist those communities in designing and building clean and sustainable water projects. Per the legislative committee's discussion, it may be in the Association's best interest to support the legislation pending Legislative Advocate Afrack Vargas' research on the author's perspective for this bill. Executive Director Adan Ortega proposed meeting with the Community Water Center to further discuss this legislation.

CalMutuals is currently "watching" several bills. They are:

1. **AB 149 (Chavez) Urban Water Management Plans:** commencing on January 1, 2017, this bill would require an urban water supplier to update its Urban Water Management Plan ("UWMP") at least once every five years -- on or before December 31 in years ending in "six" and "one," and would require the Department of Water Resources to submit its report to the Legislature, on or before December 31, in years ending in "seven" and "two."
2. **AB 401 (Dodd) Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program:** would require the Department of Community Services and Development, no later than January 1, 2017, in collaboration with the State Board of Equalization and relevant stakeholders, to develop a plan for the funding and implementation of the Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Program, which would include specified elements. The bill would require the department, no later than January 1, 2017, to report to the Legislature on its findings regarding the feasibility and desired structure of the program, including any recommendations for legislative action that may need to be taken.
3. **SB 20 (Pavley) - Well Reports, Public Availability:** this bill would require the Department of Water Resources to make well completion reports available to the public, upon request, and with certain disclaimers. The bill would require DWR to redact the well owner's name and address from the report. The bill would also require a person who requests a report to provide his or her name, address, identification number from a government-issued source and state the reason for making the request. The bill is similar to prior legislation (SB 263 in 2011 and SB 1146 in 2012) that was not enacted into law. There has been prior opposition to such legislation for security reasons, and the federal government through various security bulletins encourages public entities to limit the disclosure of such information. In addition, the Department of Public Health previously concluded that there are credible threats to the state public water system and, as such, implemented a policy of withholding public well log information from the public. Thus, this bill will also likely encounter opposition from many in the water industry

4. **SB 226 (Pavley) – Groundwater Rights:** this bill is essentially a spot bill at this time, but will likely be amended to provide greater detail regarding a possible streamlined groundwater adjudication procedure. Currently, the bill specifies that it will be amended to address: (1) basin boundaries, (2) notice and service, (3) expert information and science, (4) fairness and balance under the law, and (5) consistency with federal doctrines of *Winters v. United States* (207 U.S. 564 (1908)), the McCarran Amendment (codified at 43 U.S.C. Sec. line 20 666), and any other federal laws regarding the determination of federal or tribal water rights. This bill also would require the boundaries of a basin to be as identified in Bulletin 118, unless other basin boundaries are established, as specified in the bill.
5. **SB 552 (Wolk):** this bill would require, by January 1, 2017, the State Board to develop a plan, including enforcement mechanisms, to ensure that disadvantaged communities have water systems that are in compliance with state and federal drinking water standards. The bill would require the plan to identify strategies to help bring disadvantaged communities into compliance with safe drinking water standards.
6. **SB 555 (Wolk):** this bill would require each urban retail water supplier [i.e., a supplier who provides water to more than 3,000 end users], on or before July 1, 2017, to conduct a water loss audit as prescribed by rules adopted by the Department of Water Resources on or before July 1, 2016. This bill would require an urban retail water supplier to submit a validated audit report to the department within 60 days of completion and the department to post the report on its Internet Web site in a timely manner after its receipt. This bill would require the department to provide technical assistance to guide urban retail water suppliers' water loss detection programs.

Attachment 2

California Association of Mutual Water Companies (CAMWC) Annual Meeting Minutes February 20, 2015

Welcoming Remarks: Executive Director Adan Ortega called for the meeting to begin at 10:15 by introducing General Counsel Jim Ciampa who welcomed attendees at approximately 10:15 a.m. who described how the proceedings would be conducted for the Annual Meeting of the California Association of Mutual Water Companies.

Present: 33 attendees including members, nonmembers, guests, and staff.

Board Members Present/Absent: Board members David Michalko, Lisa Yamashita-Lopez, Ken Bradbury, Robert Hayward, Blanche Vizzini, were present and board Chairman and President Jim Byerrum was absent.

Election of Directors: General Counsel Jim Ciampa determined that a quorum had been established considering that as of December 1st, 2014 – the Association had 62 regular members and of those regular members, 30 submitted a proxy or ballot indicating their support for the following named nominees:

Ken Bradbury - one year term;
Jim Byerrum – one year term;
Charles Moorrees – one year term;
Ken Deck – two year term;
Dave Michalko - two year term;
Doug Nunneley – two year term;
Dave Armstrong – three year term;
Ken Tchong – three year term; and
Lisa Yamashita - Lopez – three year term.

General Counsel then requested that all ballots be submitted for an official ballot count at which time Charles Moorrees requested that his name be removed from the list of named nominees. No additional nominations were submitted.

Organization Activities and Goals: As the votes were being tabulated, Executive Director Adan Ortega introduced Board Secretary David Michalko who described CAMWC accomplishments during 2014. Executive Director Ortega then presented the details on activities related to AB2443 and the regulatory standard for Hexavalent Chromium. Ortega then introduced Assistant Treasurer Lisa Yamashita-Lopez who described goals for 2015. Yamashita-Lopez's presentation was followed by a question and answer session with Ortega on various topics including the reforming AB240 and how to go about gathering support for small water systems.

Announcement of Election Results: General Counsel Jim Ciampa announced that by an official count of the ballots submitted as well as proxy votes submitted in advance of the Annual Meeting, the named nominees were approved by majority vote. Mr. Ciampa also noted that insufficient votes were present to nominate and elect a member to the vacant seat previously declined by Mr. Moorrees, and that the vacancy would be filled at a later date through action by the Board of Directors.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

Adjournment: With no further business the Annual Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30.

Other Interim Actions By the Board:

The January 20th board meeting minutes and demand sheet were unanimously approved by email vote on February 17th by the board of directors.

Attachment 3

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Denise Peralta Gailey, Development Manager
Adan Ortega, Executive Director

DATE: March 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Website Report & Membership Update

We have begun tracking activity on our website since early March using Google Analytics; and website tracking indicates the following:

- Messages sent to members are holding steady at a 58.5% average open rate (the average is 16%);
- Communications to the full list (all mutuals whose emails are in our database, 426 mutuals total - some with multiple emails) is about 43%;
- However, the open rate dropped a bit when sending two news bulletins one day after the next; thus, we have since limited our news alerts to once per week;
- The click through, articles people like and are willing to open, rate continues to increase;
- 70% of the visitors are new and our goal is to focus on improving the rate of return visitors/getting visitors used to coming to the website for additional information.

The newly implemented news alerts to all of the mutuals on our list is a tool for recruiting new members as it has provided the Association more visibility among nonmembers. Previously, Association communications were less regular. News alerts provide mutuals useful information that connect them to the Association but also encourage they join as information deemed the “most valuable” or “hard to find” is linked to the members only page prompting them to either enter their log-in information or contact the Association to request information about membership.

The byproduct of said communication with nonmembers has resulted in an increase in calls to the office not only for membership but outside assistance on various issues. Staff has helped link nonmembers to training, sent information, etc. with the promise of membership; however, in some cases those promises did not result in a new member. As a result, our recent policy is to require that membership be processed prior to rendering *additional* assistance.

For Board Discussion: Recently, new affiliate members have requested a copy of the regular member list with contact information to communicate with members directly, introducing themselves as part of the Association and market their services. This is not a benefit previously offered to other affiliate members; thus, board input is required.