



PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT

A CENTURY OF SERVICE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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September 12, 2019

**AGENDA FOR A MEETING
OF THE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND
OUTREACH COMMITTEE
OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT**
Committee Members: Don Wilson-Chair, Robert Alvarado
to be held at the District's office at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

3:30 p.m.

DENNIS D. LaMOREAUX

General Manager

ALESHIRE & WYNDER LLP

Attorneys

NOTE: To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to participate in any Board meeting please contact Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 at least 48 hours prior to a Board meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Agenda item materials, as well as materials related to agenda items submitted after distribution of the agenda packets, are available for public review at the District's office located at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale (Government Code Section 54957.5). Please call Dawn Deans at 661-947-4111 x1003 for public review of materials.

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES: The prescribed time limit per speaker is three-minutes. Please refrain from public displays or outbursts such as unsolicited applause, comments, or cheering. Any disruptive activities that substantially interfere with the ability of the District to carry out its meeting will not be permitted, and offenders will be requested to leave the meeting. (PWD Rules and Regulations, Appendix DD, Sec. IV.A.)

Each item on the agenda shall be deemed to include any appropriate motion, resolution, or ordinance to take action on any item.

- 1) Roll call.
- 2) Adoption of agenda.
- 3) Public comments for non-agenda items.
- 4) Action Items: (The public shall have an opportunity to comment on any action item as each item is considered by the Committee prior to action being taken.)



- 4.1) Consideration and possible action on approval of minutes of meeting held July 31, 2019.
- 4.2) Consideration and possible action on adoption of Legislative Advocacy Policy. (Regional Leadership and Outreach Committee Goal/General Manager LaMoreaux)
- 4.3) Consideration and possible action on outreach activities for 2019. (Public Affairs Director Shay)
 - a) Outreach report.
 - b) Upcoming events/2019 plans.
 - c) Greater A.V. Water Emergency Coalition.
- 5) Information Items.
 - 5.1) Update on Proposition 218 process and outreach plans for 2019 Rate Study. (Regional Leadership and Outreach Committee Goal/Public Affairs Director Shay/Finance Manager Williams)
 - 5.2) Other.
- 6) Board members' requests for future agenda items.
- 7) Date of next Committee meeting.
- 8) Adjournment.



DENNIS D. LaMOREAUX,
General Manager

DDL/dd

P A L M D A L E W A T E R D I S T R I C T
B O A R D M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 11, 2019 **September 17, 2019**
TO: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE **Committee Meeting**
FROM: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.2 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY POLICY. (REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE GOAL/GENERAL MANAGER LaMOREAUX)***

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Committee recommend adoption of the Legislative Advocacy Policy to the full Board.

Alternative Options:

The Committee can choose to not recommend adoption of the Policy.

Impact of Taking No Action:

There is no impact from no action.

Background:

From time to time, the District is requested to support or oppose legislation. These requests are reviewed by staff, and depending on the timeframe needed for a response, the General Manager sends a response and reports to the Board or the request is presented at a Board meeting for discussion. However, there is no policy for this process.

The purpose of the attached policy is to guide District officials and staff in considering legislative or regulatory proposals that could have an impact on the District and to allow for a timely response to important legislative issues. Consideration of this item is a goal of the Regional Leadership and Outreach Committee.

Strategic Plan Initiative/Mission Statement:

This item is under Strategic Initiative No. 5 – Regional Leadership.
This item directly relates to the District’s Mission Statement.

Budget:

Adoption of this policy will not affect the budget.

Supporting Documents:

- Legislative Advocacy Policy

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY POLICY

Purpose:

The purpose of the policy is to guide Palmdale Water District (District) officials and staff in considering legislative or regulatory proposals that are likely to have an impact on the District and to allow for a timely response to important legislative issues. Although the expenditure of public funds for the purpose of supporting or opposing a ballot measure or candidate is prohibited (Cal. Gov. Code §54964), the expenditure of public funds is allowed to advocate for or against proposed legislation or regulatory actions which will affect the public agency expending the funds (Cal. Gov. Code §53060; *Stanson v. Mott* (1976) 17 Cal. 3d 206).

The purpose for identifying Legislative Advocacy Procedures outlined in this Policy is to provide clear direction to District staff with regard to monitoring and acting upon bills during state and federal legislative sessions. Adherence to Legislative Advocacy Procedures will ensure that legislative inquiries and responses will be administered consistently with “one voice” as to the identified Advocacy Priorities also outlined in this Policy. The Legislative Advocacy Procedures and Advocacy Priorities will provide the District, General Manager, or other designee defined as the Assistant General Manager or outside Lobbying Firm contracted with by the Board of Directors, discretion to advocate in the District’s best interests in a manner consistent with the goals and priorities adopted by the Board of Directors. This policy is intended to be manageable, consistent, and tailored to the specific needs and culture of the District.

Policy Goals:

- Advocate the District’s legislative interests at the State, County, and Federal levels.
- Inform and provide information to the Board of Directors and District staff on the legislative process, key issues, and legislation that could have a potential impact on the District.
- Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), and local government associations on legislative and regulatory issues that are important to the District and the region.
- Seek grant and funding assistance for District projects, services, and programs to enhance services for the community.

Policy Principles:

The Board of Directors recognizes the need to protect District interests and local control and to identify various avenues to implement its Strategic Plan Initiatives and long-term goals. It is the policy of the District to proactively monitor and advocate for legislation as directed by the Advocacy Priorities and by the specific direction of the Board of Directors.

This policy provides the District’s General Manager, or other designee, the flexibility to adopt positions on legislation in a timely manner, while allowing the Board of Directors to set Advocacy Priorities and, so long as the position fits within the Advocacy Priorities, staff is authorized to take a position without prior Board approval.

Whenever an applicable Advocacy Priority does not exist pertaining to legislation affecting the District, the matter shall be brought before the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled Board meeting for formal direction from the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has designated the Standing Committee known as the “Regional Leadership and Outreach Committee” the authority to adopt a position when consideration by the full Board of Directors is not feasible within the time-constraints of the legislative process.

Generally, the District will not address matters that are not pertinent to the District’s local government services, such as social issues or international relations issues.

Legislative Advocacy Procedures:

It is the policy of the District to proactively monitor and advocate for legislation as directed by the Advocacy Priorities and by the specific direction of the Board of Directors. This process involves interaction with local, state, and federal government entities both in regard to specific terms of legislation and to promote positive intergovernmental relationships. Accordingly, involvement and participation in regional, state, and national organizations is encouraged and supported by the District.

Monitoring legislation is a shared function of the Board of Directors, General Manager, or designee. The Legislative Advocacy Procedures are the process by which staff will track and respond to legislative issues in a timely and consistent manner. The General Manager, or other designee, will act on legislation utilizing the following procedures:

1. The General Manager, or other designee, shall review requests that the District takes a position on regarding legislative issues to determine if the legislation aligns with the District’s current approved Advocacy Priorities.
2. The General Manager, or other designee, will conduct a review of positions and analysis completed by CSDA, ACWA, and other local government associations when formulating positions.
3. If the matter aligns with the approved priorities, the District’s response shall be supplied in the form of a letter to the legislative body reviewing the bill or measure. Advocacy methods utilized on behalf of the District, including but not limited to, letters, phone calls, emails, and prepared forms, will be communicated through the General Manager, or designee. The General Manager, or designee, shall advise staff to administer the form of advocacy, typically via letters signed by the General Manager, or designee, on behalf of the Board of Directors.
4. All draft legislative position letters initiated by the General Manager, or designee, shall state whether the District is requesting or stating “support,” “support if amended,” or

“oppose unless amended” action on the issue and shall include adequate justification for the recommended action. If possible, the letter should include examples of how a bill would specifically affect the District, e.g. “the funding the District will lose due to this bill could pay for “X” capital improvements.”

- a. Support – Legislation in this area advances the District’s goals and priorities.
 - b. Oppose – Legislation in this area could potentially harm, negatively impact or undo positive momentum for the District or does not advance the District’s goals and priorities.
5. The General Manager may also provide a letter of concern or interest regarding a legislative issue without taking a formal position on a piece of legislation. Letters of concern or interest are to be administered through the General Manager, or designee.
 6. When a letter is sent to a state or federal legislative body, the appropriate federal or state legislators representing the District shall be included as a copy, or “cc,” on the letter. The appropriate contacts at CSDA, ACWA, and other local government associations, if applicable, shall be included as a “cc” on legislative letters, as well as the District’s Board of Directors.
 7. A position may be adopted by the General Manager, or designee, if any of the following criteria is met:
 - a. The position is consistent with the adopted Advocacy Priorities;
 - b. The position is consistent with that of organizations to which the District is a member, such as CSDA or ACWA; or
 - c. The position is approved by the Board of Directors or the Regional Leadership and Outreach Committee.
 8. All legislative positions adopted via a process outside of a regularly scheduled Board Meeting shall be communicated to the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. When appropriate, the General Manager, or other designee, will submit a report, either written or verbal, summarizing activity on legislative measures to the Board of Directors.

Advocacy Priorities:

- *Revenue, Finances, and Taxation:*

Ensure adequate funding for special districts’ safe and reliable core local service delivery. Protect special districts’ resources from the shift or diversion of revenues without the consent of the affected districts. Promote the financial independence of special districts and afford them access to revenue opportunities equal to that of other types of local agencies. Protect and preserve special districts’ property tax allocations and local flexibility with revenue and diversify local revenue sources.

Support opportunities that allow the District to compete for its fair share of regional, state, and federal funding, and that maintain funding streams. Opportunities may include competitive grant and funding programs. Opportunities may also include dedicated funding streams at the regional, state, or federal levels that allow the District to maximize local revenues, offset and leverage capital expenditures, and maintain District goals and standards.

- *Governance and Accountability:*

Enhance special districts' ability to govern as independent, local government bodies in an open and accessible manner. Encourage best practices that avoid burdensome, costly, redundant, or one-size-fits-all approaches. Protect meaningful public participation in local agency formations, dissolutions, and reorganizations, and ensure local services meet the unique needs, priorities, and preferences of each community.

Oppose additional public meeting and records requirements that unnecessarily increase the burden on public resources without effectively fostering public engagement and enhancing accountability of government agencies.

Promote local-level solutions, decision-making, and management concerning service delivery and governance structures while upholding voter control and maintaining Local Agency Formation Commission authority over local government jurisdictional reorganizations and/or consolidations.

- *Human Resources and Personnel:*

Promote policies related to hiring, management, and benefits and retirement that afford flexibility, contain costs, and enhance the ability to recruit and retain highly qualified, career-minded employees to public service. As public agency employers, support policies that foster productive relationships between management and employees.

Maintain special districts' ability to exercise local flexibility by minimizing state-mandated contract requirements. Oppose any measure that would hinder the ability of special districts to maximize local resources and efficiencies through the use of contracted services.

- *Infrastructure, Innovation, and Investment:*

Encourage prudent planning for investment and maintenance of innovative long-term infrastructure. Support the contracting flexibility and fiscal tools and incentives needed to help special districts meet California's changing demands. Promote the efficient, effective, and sustainable delivery of core local services.

Prevent restrictive one-size-fits-all public works requirements that increase costs to taxpayers and reduce local flexibility.

P A L M D A L E W A T E R D I S T R I C T
B O A R D M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 11, 2019 **September 17, 2019**
TO: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE **Committee Meeting**
FROM: Ms. Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director
VIA: Mr. Dennis D. LaMoreaux, General Manager
RE: ***AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.3 – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
ON OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR 2019. (PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR SHAY)***

A detailed report on the Outreach activities listed below will be provided at the Committee meeting.

- a) Outreach report.
- b) Upcoming events/2019 plans
 - Sept. 24 – 2019 Rate Study Workshop @ Buena Vista Elementary, 5:30-8 p.m.
 - Sept. 28 – Annual Night at the Rural Museum @ AV Fairgrounds, Harley Davidson Building, 5 p.m.
 - Oct. 14 – Café con Leche Radio Show
 - Oct. 19 – Coffee with Director Dizmang @ Spudnuts, 9-11 a.m.
 - Oct. 23 – Imagine a Day Without Water
 - Oct. 30 – GAV Water Emergency Coalition @ Hellenic Center, 9 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
 - Nov. 2 – 3rd Annual Dia de Los Muertos Fiesta @ Poncitlan Square, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
 - Nov. 2 – 8th Annual Stem Conference for Girls
- c) Greater A.V. Water Emergency Coalition.