

CITRUS HEIGHTS WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2019

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 8:31 p.m. by President Sheehan and roll was called. Present were:

Caryl F. Sheehan, President
Raymond A. Riehle, Vice President
David C. Wheaton, Director

Absent:

None.

Staff: Hilary Straus, General Manager
Susan Sohal, Administrative Services Manager
David Gordon, Operations Manager
Missy Pieri, Engineering Manager/District Engineer
Chris Castruita, Management Services Supervisor/Chief Board Clerk
Madeline Henry, Management Services Specialist/Deputy Board Clerk
Rex Meurer, Water Efficiency Supervisor

VISITORS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

BUSINESS:

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Letter of Support for Senate Bill 669

Management Services Supervisor Castruita requested the Board consider approved a letter of support for a Safe Drinking Water Trust (Caballero). State of California (State) Senate Bill (SB) 669, authored by State Senator Anna Caballero of Salinas, proposes an alternative proposal to a water tax that would address a lack of access to safe drinking water for some people who live in rural, disadvantaged communities. The bill would invest funds from the State General Fund budget surplus into a Safe Drinking Water Trust. The investment income from the trust would be used to ensure that community water systems in disadvantaged communities could operate their systems in order to provide clean drinking water.

Most Californians have access to safe drinking water like that provided by CHWD, but some disadvantaged communities do not. Lack of access to safe drinking water is considered a public health issue by many throughout the State. A funding gap exists for operations & maintenance (O&M) costs

for community water systems that treat water. In general, O&M costs cannot be financed using existing state and federal drinking water funding sources.

At their February 21, 2018 Meeting, the CHWD Board of Directors (Board) approved Resolution 03-2018, which expresses general opposition to any type of water tax or public goods charge. Unlike a water tax, the proposed Trust would provide funds to low-income communities with fewer negative impacts to local water providers and their customers. By using State General Fund monies rather than levying a tax on CHWD rate-payers, the Trust would keep water more affordable for those rate-payers including low-income rate payers living within the District.

Both the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the Regional Water Authority (RWA) support the Safe Drinking Water Trust, as outlined in letters dated March 13, 2019 and March 1, 2019, respectively. Both ACWA and RWA encourage member agencies to adopt similar positions of support.

Management Services Supervisor Castruita stated that should the Board approve the letter of support, staff will distribute it to local State representatives and appropriate State Senate and Assembly committee members.

ACTION: Director Wheaton moved and Director Riehle seconded a motion to issue a letter in support of SB 669, and authorize the General Manager to issue future letters concurrent with this position.

The motion carried 3-0 with all Directors voting yes.

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 533

Water Efficiency Supervisor Meurer requested the Board consider approving a letter of support for Water Conservation Tax Relief Legislation (Holden). State of California (State) Assembly Bill (SB) 533, authored by State Assembly Member Chris Holden of Pasadena, proposes to exclude any amount received as a rebate, voucher, or other financial incentive from local water agencies for expenses to participate in a water efficiency program from gross income for individuals or corporations (see Attachment 1). The goal of the exemption is to expand water-saving programs and reduce the administrative burden that agencies such as Citrus Heights Water District (CHWD) face in providing these programs.

Both the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) support the legislation, as outlined in a letter of support dated March 1, 2019 to Assembly Member Holden (see Attachment 2). Both RWA and CalWEP encourage member agencies to adopt similar positions of support.

Water Efficiency Supervisor Meurer stated that should the Board approve the letter of support, staff will distribute it to local State representatives and appropriate State Senate and Assembly committee members.

ACTION: Director Riehle moved and Director Wheaton seconded a motion to issue a letter in

support of AB 533, and authorize the General Manager to issue future letters concurrent with this position.

The motion carried 3-0 with all Directors voting yes

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

APPROVED:



CHRISTOPHER CASTRUITA
Deputy Secretary
Citrus Heights Water District



CARYL E. SHEEHAN, President
Board of Directors
Citrus Heights Water District