

Countywide Water Coordination Committee

MINUTES MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2019

Chair Pine called the meeting to order at 7:38 am at the San Mateo City Hall, Conference Room 3.

Attendance sheet is attached.

1. Public Comments on items not on the agenda.

Carol Steinfeld, provided comment on the need for water security in San Mateo County and to plan for uncertainty with future climate conditions and supply management. Ms. Steinfeld asserted the C/CAG Water Committee, being an existing committee with regional representation, is an ideal body to provide guidance and oversight on the implementation of best practices for water conservation and security in the County. Ms. Steinfeld alluded to the fact that CalWater is in the process of raising rates, while some important aspects of water security, including new technologies in water recycling and reuse are not being considered in urban water management plans.

2. Approval of minutes from the March 15, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Member Diane Papan moved to approve the March 15, 2019 minutes contingent on proposed edits from Sandy Wong to correct the public comment made by Carol Steinfeld; Seconded by Member Chuang; Motion carried 7-0.

3. Receive update and provide direction on enacting legislation, city engagement efforts, staff transitioning and investment planning and other related topics on the proposed Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (FSLRRD).

Deputy County Counsel, Paul Okada, updated the Committee with regards to advancing AB 825 and other issues pertaining to establishing the new Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (FSLRRD). Mr. Okada shared feedback from the Coastal Commission, which expressed concern about whether amending the District would have consequences for the California Coastal Act. County Counsel confirmed the amended legislation would not affect existing law under the California Coastal Act, and that the amended legislation would provide clarity on this issue. Mr. Okada reported that the League of Women Voters also contacted County Council and expressed concern about the level of public involvement in forming the new District. County Counsel has advised reiterating the value of public participation in the documentation and process of forming the new “Board in Waiting” to address this concern. Mr. Okada updated the Committee on feedback from the County legislative consultant, with regards to potential concerns about AB 825 from anti-tax legislators. The concerns revolve mostly around AB 825 referencing existing government code that allows the issuance of revenue bonds without the typical 50% voter approval. County counsel noted that this is similar to powers of other districts, like BART, for example. After making some minor modifications to the draft amendments, the bill will go to the Assembly Legislative Committee for the initial hearing on April 24, and the Appropriations Committee on May 17. Final changes to the bill language can be made through April 30. Finally, County Public Works has met with the Controller’s Office and Local Agency Formation Commission to plan for the transfer of operations between the existing Flood Control District and the FSLRRD. Relevant County staff will meet at least monthly through December 2019 to ensure a smooth transition.

Staff provided updates on city engagement efforts and endorsement of the FSLRRD. At the time of the meeting, 17 out of 21 agencies in San Mateo County had already endorsed the proposal. The Committee discussed what should happen if remaining cities do not endorse the proposal, and it was agreed that the other agencies would need be asked to make up the difference in funding for the first three years. The Committee agreed that the municipal regional stormwater permit requirements to build green infrastructure and attain load reductions for certain pollutants would provide additional incentive for all agencies to participate, especially those that do not have adequate means to develop green infrastructure in the public right-of-way. C/CAG's recent request for additional state funds through Assembly Member Mullin's office to develop designs for regional capture projects would further support this work.

Lastly, staff updated the Committee on the schedule for soliciting members of the new "Board in waiting" for the FSLRRD, developing an RFP for an investment plan and initial staffing. C/CAG plans to bring a solicitation package for approval at its May 9 Board of Directors meeting, and will recommend appointments at its June 13 meeting. The Board of Supervisors anticipates appointments for its two positions at its June 25 meeting. After the Board in waiting is appointed in June, there would be a recruitment process for General Manager for the FSLRRD and a concurrent development of an RFP for creating an investment strategy. The General Manager would then approve the investment strategy RFP for release in October 2019. The Governor has until September 30, 2020 to sign bills, but it is anticipated the bill would be signed much earlier and would become effective January 1, 2020, at which time the Board in waiting would become the governing board.

4. Review and provide input on draft solicitation for appointing the new board of the FSLRRD.

The Committee received and discussed the draft solicitation for recruiting C/CAG Board members to the Board in waiting for the FSLRRD. The solicitation follows the general format as other C/CAG committee solicitations and provides a brief background on the formation of the FSLRRD, the geographic representation of the new Board, terms, and application process. Staff suggested including some financial background on the existing Flood Control District, if appropriate. Len Materman suggested including more definition of the existing Subzones of the Flood Control District and the current MOU projects therein. The solicitation requests a letter of interest by May 31, 2019, and applicants will have an opportunity to speak at the June 13 C/CAG Board meeting, prior to appointments by the Board.

5. Member comments and announcements.

Comments included mention of the Ora Loma Sanitary District site visit to the horizontal levee the week prior, and a planned meeting with staff at the San Francisco International Airport to brief them on the new agency. C/CAG staff also urged agencies that have not already submitted letters of support for the Mullin budget request to do so as soon as possible. The Committee also agreed to agendaize the Committee's schedule and plans for the future for the May 17 meeting.

6. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 am. Next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2019.