



Long Beach Water

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Board of Water Commissioners

April 30, 2020 Board Meeting

CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

Subject:

Review the first half of the 2020 Long Beach Water Department Legislative Platform and provide comments and direction to staff if necessary.

Executive Summary:

In 2016, the Board of Water Commissioners adopted a legislative platform to provide direction for Long Beach Water staff to take positions and action on legislative and regulatory proposals. With the success of that process, staff has undertaken the effort to update the platform.

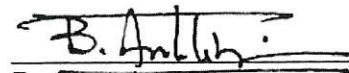
Per the attachment, topics of Supply Reliability, System Reliability, Local Supply Development, and Environmental Stewardship are brought forward in draft form for the Board to consider and discuss.

Staff intends to bring the second half of the platform for consideration and discussion at a future date. Once that review is complete, staff intends to return with the entire platform for consideration and adoption.

Staff Recommendation/Fiscal Impact:

Review, comment and provide direction.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact.



B. Anatole Falagan
Assistant General Manager

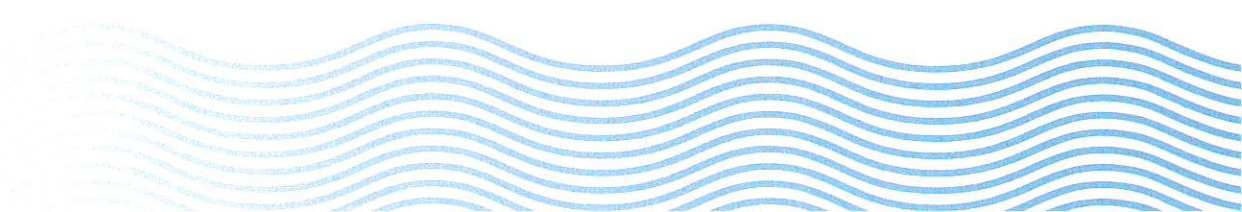
4/23/20
Date



Christopher J. Garner
General Manager

4/23/20
Date

Attachment



Long Beach Water Department

Federal and State Policy Platform

Spring 2020

PART 1

This Federal and State Legislative Agenda and Platform, upon review and approval by the Long Beach Water Commission, will serve as a basis for positions and actions to be adopted by Long Beach Water Department on legislation and regulatory proposals.

SUPPLY RELIABILITY

Conservation, Drought Resiliency, and Water Use Efficiency

- Support conservation and water use policies which recognize historical investments in local supply development and conservation programs.
- Support the development, implementation, and appropriate federal and state financial assistance of cost-effective urban water conservation programs.
- Support federal and state policies which create long-term, permanent water savings while maintaining or improving quality of life for end-users, including individual water metering in multifamily housing.
- Support regulatory policies and funding that maximizes efficient water use and reduces water waste, while also reflecting local conditions, demand hardening and historic conservation results.
- Ensure that water conservation and water use efficiency activities and programs do not diminish or otherwise impact the existing water rights of the entity engaged in water conservation or water use efficiency.
- Support policies that encourage the voluntary development of cost-effective local water supply portfolios that enhance drought resiliency.

Groundwater

- Support science-based policies that protect groundwater basins from contamination.
- Support land use policies that preserve and protect groundwater recharge basins.
- Support voluntary expansion of conjunctive use management of groundwater and surface water supplies.
- Support additional federal, state and local funding for groundwater management programs.
- Support increased use of stormwater and recycled water for recharge of groundwater basins, in a manner that does not degrade groundwater.
- Support local control of groundwater uses and groundwater rights.

- Support practical and feasible implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), including continued local control of groundwater uses.
- Support financial and technical assistance for the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs).

Delta Conveyance

- Support state policies and funding to advance Delta conveyance and ecosystem improvements that align with California's coequal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration.

Flood Risk Management

- Support policies which further flood risk management efforts in the Los Angeles River and the San Gabriel River in order to protect lives, structures, groundwater basins, water quality, water supply and the socio-economic fabric of Long Beach and its citizens.

SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Resource Planning and Management

- Support state and federal policies and funding opportunities that promote system resiliency, sustainability, and efficiency, including support for integrated planning, conservation, voluntary utilization of cost-effective improved water use monitoring, adaptation to rising sea level and extreme weather events.
- Support local control for planning management and use of water supplies to address local needs and contribute to long-term sustainability.
- Support efforts that facilitate the development of local or regional conveyance facilities that assist in providing more efficient distribution of water supplies, consistent with local and regional planning activities. The mitigation and project costs of these local conveyance facilities should be the responsibility of the project(s) beneficiaries.

LOCAL SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT

Desalination

- Support additional state and federal funding for desalination projects including planning and design consistent with LBWD resource planning and management objectives.
- Support policies to streamline the regulatory approval process of desalination projects.

- Support research and policies that minimize environmental impacts and reduce energy use of desalination projects and that encourage the development of emerging technologies that will make desalination projects more cost-effective and environmentally compatible.

Greywater

- Support research and the development of standards for commercial greywater systems for both indoor and outdoor use with the concurrent goals of protecting public health and water quality while expanding the utilization of greywater to displace potable water use.
- Support efforts to research and document the potential benefits of greywater systems to mitigate climate change impacts on urban forests and landscape irrigation while protecting public health and water quality.

Recycling

- Support policies that treat recycled water as a resource and not as a waste, including statutory definition of recycled water as a resource rather than a waste.
- Support additional state and federal funding for water recycling projects, consistent with LBWD resource planning and management objectives.
- Support efforts that facilitate research and use of recycled water while protecting water quality and public health.
- Ensure that regulatory decisions on the use of recycled water are science-based.
- Support streamlining of permitting to increase the use of recycled water statewide to meet state policy goals

Stormwater

- Support additional federal, state, and local funding for sustainable stormwater management programs
- Support the development of local sustainable stormwater management plans that use or mimic natural systems and address the effects of increased urbanization
- Support the development of plans that achieve multiple stormwater benefits including the removal of pollutants, the replenishment of groundwater, habitat restoration, and lowered energy use for treatment and disposal of stormwater
- Support state and federal policies and funding that provide local governments with resources to implement stormwater best management practices, including low impact development to capture stormwater at its source and improve recreational water quality at the City's beaches and local waterways.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

- Support locally cost-effective policies that recognize, support and credit the role of water conservation and water use efficiency in reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Support voluntary integration of emissions reductions considerations into state and local water resources planning
- Support the voluntary inclusion and development of cost-effective renewable energy in the delivery and treatment of water supplies and wastewater
- Support policies that encourage the voluntary development of diversified local water portfolios that enhance climate change resiliency
- Support federal and state policies that identify and fund seawater intrusion mitigation and adaptation strategies and projects.

Regulatory Efficacy and Efficiency

- Support measures that achieve science-based regulatory goals while improving regulatory certainty and predictability in the processes – including environmental review under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)
- Support other locally cost-effective water-related measures that promote or advance environmental stewardship, including those projects that have multiple benefits.