



Long Beach Water

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Board of Water Commissioners

May 14, 2020 Board Meeting

CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

Subject:

Review the second 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 Water Quality, Water/Energy Nexus, Finance, and Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Response are brought forward in draft form for the Board to consider and discuss.

Once all input from the Board is incorporated, 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.

5/5/2020

B. Anatole Falagan
Assistant General Manager

Date

5/6/20

Christopher J. Garner
General Manager

Date

Attachment

Long Beach Water Department

Federal and State Policy Platform

Spring 2020

PART 2

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.

WATER QUALITY

Quality

- Support continued federal and state funding assistance to upgrade water treatment systems.
- Support legislative and administrative efforts to adopt cost-effective, science-based drinking water policies, regulations and regulatory decisions to help ensure the protection of human health and maintain or improve water quality from constituents of emerging concern.
- Support legislative and administrative policies to secure funding for the monitoring and remediation of constituents of emerging concern in drinking water supplies, including 'polluter and/or responsible parties pay.'
- Support regulatory and legislative activities to ensure support for a fair and balanced compliance and enforcement structure for potable and related water charges.
- Support watershed-based management and point source pollution control programs that protect and improve surface and groundwater water quality for the environment and urban and agricultural uses.
- Support policies that provide economically feasible and environmentally sound solutions to non-point source run-off.
- Support policies which afford maximum local control of mandated consolidations and annexations through State Board directives.
- Support promotion of the development of effective technical procedures/solutions for protecting public health, particularly regarding lead and copper.

WATER/ENERGY NEXUS

Energy Efficiency

Given the well documented relationship between energy and water efficiency, LBWD recognizes that energy efficiency also has concurrent benefits for water users and agencies. LBWD encourages federal, state and local policies, funding, and investments that support energy conservation and efficiency.

FINANCE

Finance – General

- Support state and federal tax policies which support water conservation programs.
- Support state and federal tax policies which provide tax exemptions for water conservation incentives aimed at reducing water consumption and increasing groundwater capture.
- Maintain strong support for tax-exempt status for municipal bonds, including current terms of ownership of municipal bonds or classification of entities that may issue these financial instruments.
- Support state and federal funding for water infrastructure projects that are cost-effective; provide long-term benefits to the state and its inhabitants, provided that the direct beneficiaries and cost causers are paying their fair share of the project costs.
- Support the protection of local revenue and the maintenance of reserve accounts of water agencies.
- Support efforts that seek to bring federal sources of funding to California for water infrastructure development and energy efficiency measures through water management.
- Support state legislation to address Proposition 218 challenges including the exempting stormwater and urban runoff management fees and charges from the current constitutional approval requirements for the establishment or increase of a property-related fee or charge
- Support state legislation to address Proposition 218 challenges to exempt fees and charges for water supplies used during fire protection services and fire hydrant system maintenance from property-related services

Finance – Infrastructure

LBWD supports additional federal and state funding for a variety of critical water and wastewater infrastructure projects needed to repair and upgrade the state's aging water systems:

- Supports dedication of federal and state funds to water infrastructure projects:
 - ✓ which are cost-effective,
 - ✓ provide long term benefits to water customers, LBWD and the state; and
 - ✓ where a comprehensively-defined principle of beneficiary pays is upheld.
- Support a drinking water fee structure that recognizes investments by water systems while fully funding the state's drinking water program.

EMERGENCY/DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Security and Emergency Preparedness

- Support state and federal policies and funding opportunities that help ensure the security of water agency assets through robust access control, secure business and SCADA networks.
- Support state and federal policies and funding opportunities which prioritize support to cyber-security objectives including the development of best practices for consistent and ongoing actions to reduce cyber vulnerabilities in process control systems for major water system providers.
- Support state and federal policies which recognize water agencies' role as first responders and align water agencies with public safety in response and recovery efforts.
- Support federal AWIA policy to protect the integrity and resiliency of water and wastewater infrastructure.

Emergency Response: Natural Disasters

- Support federal and state policies which clearly recognize and outline appropriate responses in advance for more severe levels and lengths of drought, a recurring feature in California's climate, and/or more intense and frequent wildfires.
- Support additional federal and state funding for emergency response to mitigate impacts of severe droughts and other natural disasters.

Emergency Response: Disaster Response and Relief

- Support federal and state policies to provide support for water utilities including, but not limited to, critical equipment, tax incentives, and financial assistance.
- Support federal and state disaster relief efforts to mitigate lost revenue during disaster events.