



Long Beach Water

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Board of Water Commissioners
June 11, 2020 Board Meeting

CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

Recommended Action:

Adopt the 2020 Federal and State Policy Platform to inform staff of strategic engagement and actions on behalf of the Long Beach Water Department.

Executive Summary:

In 2016, the Board of Water Commissioners adopted a Federal and State Policy Platform. The policy platform was intended to be high level enough to allow for flexibility of strategic engagement or actions as needed, while also taking into account the specifics of the LBWD's asset and resource portfolio, resource planning goals and needs, and current system configuration and needs.

In the subsequent years, staff has been able to successfully use these legislative objectives and priorities to inform timely responses to evolving policy opportunities and challenges. Therefore, staff underwent an effort in 2020 to update the platform. Subject matter experts throughout the Department provided input and feedback to reflect LBWD's current objectives and priorities. Staff previously presented the updated platform to the Board for additional input and now brings it forward for adoption.

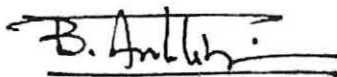
Once the platform is adopted, staff will work with the Board to monitor its content. If substantive or material changes are needed, staff will return to the Board with updates or revisions to the platform.

Staff Recommendation.

Adopt the 2020 Federal and State Policy Platform to inform staff of strategic engagement and actions on behalf of the Long Beach Water Department.

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact.


B. Anatole Falagan
Assistant General Manager

Date

6/4/2020


Christopher J. Garner
General Manager

Date

6/4/20

Attachment

Long Beach Water Department

Federal and State Policy Platform

June 2020

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.

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.