Technical Advisory Committee
August 20, 2020
Summary Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chair Andy Okoro on the virtual platform, Zoom.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present:

Doug Schulze, City of Banning
Todd Parton, City of Beaumont
Bonnie Johnson, City of Calimesa
Chris Mann, City of Canyon Lake
Jacob Ellis, City of Corona
Bryan Jones, City of Eastvale (10:00 a.m. arrival)
Chris Lopez, City of Hemet
Grant Yates, City of Lake Elsinore
Armando Villa, City of Menifee
Mike Lee, City of Moreno Valley
Kim Summers, City of Murrieta
Andy Okoro, City of Norco, Chair
Al Zelinka, City of Riverside (9:49 a.m. arrival)
Rob Johnson, City of San Jacinto
Betsy Lowrey, City of Temecula
Gary Nordquist, City of Wildomar
George Johnson, County of Riverside (10:00 a.m. departed)
Paul Jones, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD)
Tim Barr, Western Municipal Water District (WMWD)
Mathew Evans, March Joint Powers Authority

Staff present:

Andrew Ruiz, Chief Financial Officer
Anthony Segura, Senior Analyst
Avie Barron, Senior Analyst
Casey Dailey, Director of Energy & Environmental Programs
Chris Gray, Director of Transportation & Planning
Daniel Soltero, Staff Analyst
Don Ries, Program Manager
Elisa Laurel, Program Manager
Ivana Medina, Staff Analyst
Lupe Lotman, Staff Analyst
Meghan Nazareno, Intern
Princess Hester, Director of Administrative Services
Rachel Singer, Staff Analyst
Riana Fisher, Senior Analyst
Rick Bishop, Executive Director
Steve DeBaun, Legal Counsel
Suzy Nelson, Administrative Assistant
Tyler Masters, Director of Western Community Energy
Guests present:

Erin Sasse, League of California Cities
A.J. Wilson, International City / County Management Association (ICCMA)
Imelda Huerta, City of Menifee
Jose Bazua, City of Jurupa Valley
Michael Wolfe, City of Moreno Valley
Louie Lacasella, City of Murrieta
Danielle Coats, EMWD
Kevin Palmer, Member of the Public

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (San Jacinto / Banning) 18 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain; Items 4.A through 4.H were approved. Representatives from the Cities of Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Perris, and Riverside, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians were not present.

A. Summary Minutes from the July 16, 2020, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting are Available for Consideration.

   Action: 1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the July 16, 2020, Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

B. Finance Department Activities Update

   Action: 1. Received and filed.

C. International City / County Management Association Activities Update

   Action: 1. Received and filed.

D. Regional Streetlight Program Activities Update

   Action: 1. Received and filed.

E. Western Riverside Energy Partnership Program Activities Update

   Action: 1. Received and filed.

F. Emergency Medical Care Committee Activities Update

   Action: 1. Received and filed.

G. 4th Quarter Draft Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019/2020

   Action: 1. Recommended that the Executive Committee approve the 4th Quarter Draft Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

H. TUMF Revenue Update for Fiscal Year 2019/2020

   Action: 1. Received and filed.
5. REPORTS / DISCUSSION

A. Activities Update from the Eastern and Western Municipal Water Districts

Tim Barr, WMWD Deputy General Manager, provided an update on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). PFAS are a class of man-made, water-repellent chemicals that were developed in the 1940s. There are 4,500 different types of PFAS and of these chemicals the two most extensively produced and analyzed for regulatory standards are PFOA and PFOS. These are considered forever chemicals because they are extremely stable within the environment and human body that do not breakdown. PFOS and PFOA are widely used by American manufacturers and can be found in the bag used to pop popcorn, Teflon, Scotch Guard, as well as fire extinguishers.

Paul Jones, EMWD General Manager, reported on current state and federal legislation surrounding PFAS. Of the noted state legislation, Assembly Bill (AB) 2560 (Quirk, Notification and Response Levels), proposes following concerns with the way that the State Board has address PFAS regulations and recognizes that there is a need for a more transparent and informed process that relies on science. Other bills to follow are AB 2762 (Muratsuchi, Cosmetics: Safety), which prohibits the sale, manufacturing, or delivery of cosmetic products containing any of 12 identified ingredients, which includes PFAS / PFOA, and Senate Bill 1044 (Allen, Firefighting Equipment and Foam: PFAS Chemicals), which prohibits the sale or use of class B firefighting foam for training purposes and requires written notification upon sale of firefighting protective equipment that contains PFAS. Currently, there are more than 60 PFAS-related bills within Federal Legislation.

EMWD and WMWD’s position on PFAS regulations is that it needs to be scientifically based, correlate with health effects, and be addressed through the regulatory process, not by a legislative vehicle. Both water agencies are fully committed to the protection of public health and ensuring that the water is safe to drink.

**Action:** 1. Received and filed.

B. Report from the League of California Cities

Erin Sasse reported that jurisdictions need to complete reporting on how the city has spent funds provided by CARES Act. The deadline has been extended to September 4, 2020. Some pending bills reviewed were in regard to the Family Leave Act and Workers’ Compensation for employees who contract COVID-19, include Senate Bill (SB) 1383, Assembly Bill (AB) 685, and SB 1159. The League is currently opposed to all of these bills.

Another pending bill is AB 3269, which relates to planning activities related to homelessness. The League also opposes this Bill.

**Action:** 1. Received and filed.

C. Exploration of a Western Riverside County Economic Development Corporation

Elisa Laurel reported on current activities surrounding the exploration of an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) within Western Riverside County. WRCOG is in its first phase of the discovery process in order to conduct due diligence with its member jurisdictions and regional stakeholders to determine the need of an EDC. A subregional EDC would stand as an independently funded, non-profit organization governed by representatives from both the private and public sectors. EDCs promote job creation and capital investment within a specific geographic area to grow the local economic base. Another benefit of an EDC is it helps existing businesses grow while recruiting new businesses to the area.
Staff has currently interviewed 14 out of 18 member jurisdictions, the County of Riverside, and Chambers of Commerce. Staff is still working on additional outreach with stakeholders that include non-profits and the Inland Empire Economic Partnership. As a next step to this effort, staff is conducting further research in the discovery phase which consists of reviewing existing EDC models, regionally, statewide, and nationally, that would best fit the needs of the Western Riverside County subregion. An Ad-Hoc Steering Committee will be convened to guide the vision and direction of the EDC as additional information is made available.

**Action:**
1. Received and filed.

6. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rick Bishop reported that the Public Service Fellowship Program has received 60 applications from 14 universities. Staff’s next steps will be conducting interviews and to place the Fellows into host agencies by the end of the month. The next Future Forward webinar will be held on August 27, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. and will be about Navigating Virtual Governance and the Brown Act in a COVID-19 Climate. WRCOG’s 2020 Annual Report is complete and released.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas.

8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no general announcements.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., via the Zoom platform.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m.