

Report on Regional Meetings During March 2018

Report on Monterey One Water Activities

As Board Chair I worked with staff to assign the other board members to committee assignments for the new year - which can get a bit tricky for the agency. That is because in addition to making sure no committee meeting involves a majority of the Board members; since we do have the option of weighted voting, we must also ensure that no one regularly scheduled committee meeting involves more than half of the total votes on the Board. As a result we can have no more than 5 members at each meeting representing no more than 10 weighted votes.

All four of M1W's projects (source water collection, advanced water purification facility (AWPF), a water pipeline from Marina to Seaside, and the injection well to put water into the aquifer) are underway at this time.

At the request of the California Public Utility Commission, the agency is currently assessing the feasibility of providing Cal Am with additional purified recycled water using the maximum reliable operating capacity of the AWPF (7.0 million gallons per day - mgd). Right now the facility has a design capacity of 4 mgd of water and a maximum production capacity of 5 mgd; with space reserved for future expansion up to 7 mgd. Also, because the injection wells (Recharge Well Facilities) only have a maximum design injection rate of 4 mgd the agency is looking at expending the injection well facility.

Farmworker Housing Project

M1W is also entering the construction phase of a project that will include the construction of a pipeline, pump station, and other facilities for an existing Farmworker Housing Complex in Salinas. This will allow them to get off of a septic system and tie into the treatment plant.

Water Reuse Conference

I also attended the three-day Water Reuse Conference in Monterey and presented at a panel discussion on how multiple cooperating agencies are bringing our area closer to new sources of water. In addition, Monterey One Water received an award for the work the agency is doing.

The conference brought about 600 people from water agencies and companies throughout the state to review development, discuss issues, and share possible solutions.

Monterey County Cannabis Tax Revenue forum

I attended Supervisor Mary Adams' Monterey County Cannabis Tax Revenue forum. During the month of March each Supervisor held one forum, and Supervisor Adams held the first Community Forum at CHOMP's Ryan Ranch Outpatient facility. The purpose of the meeting

was to ask the community what the public would like to see done with revenue generated by the Cannabis Tax.

The meeting was well attended with about 80 people present. The Supervisor stated that she would like to keep the revenue focused on four goals that have previously been identified:

1. Safety
2. Education
3. Economic Self Sufficiency
4. Health

The participants came up with some ideas that stayed within Supervisor Adams' parameters such as after school youth recreation and sports engagement programs, but they also came up with programs that were not included in the original ideas. These ideas included things such as building small homes for the homeless, increasing medical programs for undocumented immigrant, and providing financial reimbursements to former inmates who had been convicted for marijuana related crimes.

It turns out that the tax doesn't actually come to that much as either a dollar figure or a percentage of the county's overall budget. That is because county's overall budget is \$1.5 billion; with discretionary spending representing only \$636 million of that. For FY 16/17 and 17/18 the total Cannabis tax was only \$8,448,810, and the county will end up taking about half of that to set up a department to administer the tax; leaving only about \$4.5 million for additional program expenses.

State Assemblywoman Anna Caballero Awards Meeting

I attended a California Special Districts Association event held at Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System building in Salinas. The event honored Assemblywoman Anna Caballero as **Legislator of the Year** for her advocacy of special district and pushing to keep political control local. As a former mayor of Salinas she is aware of the needs that local cities have to stay close to – and control – local issues. Also present was Gary Bales, a Pacific Grove resident, former City Manager, and currently our appointed representative to the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (a special district).

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) represents local agencies that deliver water, fire protection, healthcare, and other essential services throughout the state.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rudy Fischer

Councilman Rudy Fischer