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# Call to Order

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Special Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Monday, October 11, 2021

# Public Comment

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Any person may address the Board on matters within its jurisdiction.

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# Memorandum

Date: October 11, 2021

To: San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Board of Directors

From: Richard Corneille, Chairperson Advisory Commission on Water Policy

The following are my comments on the staff report for the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors today to "Discuss and Consider Alternative Forum to the Advisory Commission on Water Policy. Please also refer to my Memorandum of August 12<sup>th</sup> which was submitted as part of the meeting record regarding the benefits of the Commission.

First it is disappointing that your staff did not reach out to Commission elected members to discuss their ideas on changes to the Commission, rather than just recommending the Commission be replaced with the proposed Water Forum. I know that Commissioners are open to improvements to facilitate communications, collaboration, and engagement.

Most of the good ideas for the Water Forum could be implemented within the current Commission framework. For example, expanding invitations to Commission meetings to business leaders, realtors, attorneys, engineers, consultants, academics, etc. by advertising the meetings and adding them to the email list. Representatives from these interests could possibly be included on the Commission. Also having breakfast or luncheon meetings, rather than in the evenings during dinner hours, would greatly encourage attendance. The Commission meetings have already included speakers from other Agencies such as Orange County Water District and Metropolitan Water District on matters of interest, as well as agencies within the District Divisions presenting their agency's programs and issues. Over the years the Commission has been the primary water education forum for its elected members, as evidenced by the outpouring of support submitted by these agencies at your August 12th Workshop. Rotating meetings in the Divisions is also a good idea to encourage participation.

The Commission has had four scheduled meetings per year. This last year your staff cancelled two of the four meetings because there were "no topics to discuss". Staff is proposing five meetings per year for the Water Forum. I wonder how you will find topics and staff time for five meetings, when your staff has not been able to bring enough topics or support for just two Commission meetings this year.

As stated in the staff report, there have been many improvements in the technology to facilitate communications and information since the Advisory Commission was formed. The BTAC has been a great addition of agency staff (not elected officials) to address technical issues and identify and implement regional solutions. The District has had more public meetings with at least three workshops and two Board meetings every month. However, most elected officials don't have the time to attend these additional meetings, so they rely on their staff and the Commission as their source of information.

In summary, I believe that the reason for staff's position on abolishing the Commission is that the function of the Commission is overseeing District policies and making recommendations that the staff and Board would need to address. The Water Forum has no such provisions and, as stated, is an organization solely for education, professional networking and conversation.

Thank you.

# Closed Session

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## 2.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION

(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)

Name of case: Endangered Habitats League et al. v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers et al.,

Case No. 2:16-cv-09178 (C.D. Cal.)

# Discussion Item 3.1 (Pg. 2)

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**Heather Dyer, MS, MBA** – Chief Executive Officer/General Manager

## Discuss and Consider Alternative Forum to the Advisory Commission on Water Policy

### **Staff Recommendation**

- 1) Consider the item discussed and provide feedback to staff.
- 2) If the Board decides to move forward with dissolution of the Advisory Commission, direct staff to:
  - Place an item on an upcoming Board meeting to adopt Resolution 113X Forming the “Water Forum (name tbd); and
  - Place an item on an upcoming Board meeting to formally rescind No. Ordinance 77

# Director Comments and Discussion

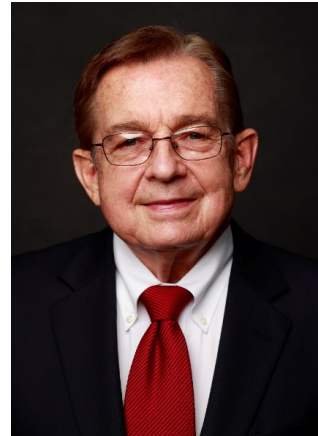
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# Adjournment

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