



WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023 - 6:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West Valley Water District has called a meeting of the External Affairs Committee to meet in the Administrative Conference Room, 855 W. Base Line Road, Rialto, CA 92376.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director Angela Garcia, Chair
Director Channing Hawkins

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person at 855 W. Base Line Road, Rialto, CA 92376, or you may join the meeting using Zoom by clicking this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8402937790>. Public comment may be submitted via Zoom, by telephone by calling the following number and access code: Dial: (888) 475-4499, Access Code: 840-293-7790, or via email to administration@wvwd.org.

If you require additional assistance, please contact administration@wvwd.org.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public may address the Board on matters within its jurisdiction. Speakers are requested to keep their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. However, the Board of Directors is prohibited by State Law to take action on items not included on the printed agenda.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Updates to the External Affairs Committee
2. Update on State and Federal Lobbying Services.

IV. ADJOURN

DECLARATION OF POSTING:

I declare under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by the West Valley Water District and posted the foregoing External Affairs Committee Agenda at the District Offices on October 12, 2023.

Elvia Dominguez

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: October 23, 2023
TO: External Affairs Committee
FROM: Socorro Pantaleon, Gov't and Legislative Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LOBBYING SERVICES

BACKGROUND:

West Valley Water District (WVWD) remains committed to engaging with legislators and key stakeholders on legislative advocacy and identifying funding opportunities. WVWD currently contracts with Federal Lobbyist (David Turch) and State Lobbyist (Tres Es Inc) to assist the district in advocating for the development of policies, legislation, and appropriations requests.

Lobbying contracts are set to expire in the middle of 2024, during a crucial time of advocacy in the State legislature when bills are meeting deadlines in their house of origin and just a short time before the State Budget is set to be adopted on June 15. To ensure no lapse in contract and smooth legislative year, staff recommends issuing an RFP in accordance with the purchasing policy to review best practices and ensure the agency is receiving cost effective services.

DISCUSSION:

Conducting an RFP process for state and federal lobbying services offers several benefits:

1. **Transparency and Accountability:** Following an RFP process provides transparency and accountability in vendor selection by adhering to a structured evaluation process that is fair, open, and well-documented.
2. **Cost-Effectiveness:** By engaging in a competitive bidding process, we can identify vendor qualifications and effectiveness, and compare pricing from multiple vendors, ensuring that we receive the desired services at the most competitive rates.
3. **Timeline:** We are on a consistent timeline during the break season of the state legislature every two years to reevaluate lobbying services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Budgeted in 2023/24 Fiscal Year.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the identified needs, the benefits of an RFP process, and the potential positive impact on our operations, it is strongly recommended that we proceed with initiating an RFP for state and federal services.

The outlined process and timeline will allow for a well-structured and fair evaluation, leading to the selection of the most qualified vendor(s) to meet our organization's requirements.

- Request for Proposals for Federal and State Advocacy
- Internal Review by staff on internal proposals
- Interviews with selected Firms
- Selected Firm presented to External Affairs Committee
- Approval by the Board of Directors

Respectfully Submitted,

John Thiel

John Thiel, General Manager

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