



MOUNTAIN COUNTIES WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
CHARTER & GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee of Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (Mountain Counties) is to monitor development and represent the interests of Mountain Counties before the State Legislature and U.S. Congress and State and federal regulatory agencies within the guidelines of the Water Policy Principles adopted by the Board of Directors (Board) of Mountain Counties.

COMPOSITION

The Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee shall consist of a minimum of four (4) Executive members appointed by the Board of Mountain Counties. Each committee member shall be an employee or representative of an Executive or Associate Member of Mountain Counties and shall be dedicated to the purposes of Mountain Counties as stated in its Bylaws. The Committee Executive members shall appoint one of its members to serve as Chair of the Committee for purposes of facilitating its meetings and communications with the Board, its President, the ACWA State Legislative Committee Region 3 representatives and the Executive Director of Mountain Counties.

Each Committee member may appoint an "alternate member" from the membership organization by advance notification and approved by the President of Mountain Counties for the purpose of attending and participating in meetings of the Legislative Committee in the appointed member's absence. Members are encouraged to contact their alternate if the member is unable to attend the meetings either in person or via conference call.

MEETINGS

The Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee shall meet at such times and places and by such means as it determines necessary to effectively conduct business. A majority of the members of the Committee either present at the meeting and/or on a telephone conference line shall constitute a quorum for conducting business of the committee. However, the adoption of any position on proposed legislation or regulatory affairs must be approved by majority vote of the Executive members either present at the meeting and/or present via telephone conference line. The Legislative Committee shall report regularly to the Board of Mountain Counties about the activities of the committee, including but not limited to any position taken on legislation or regulatory affairs.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Hear and evaluate any proposal for federal or State legislation or regulatory action that affects the interests of Mountain Counties.
- Adopt, on behalf of the Board of Mountain Counties and consistent with the legislative policy principles adopted by the Board, positions on federal and State legislation and regulatory action affecting the interests of Mountain Counties. However, the Board retains the authority to directly consider any item under review by the Legislative Committee.
- Recommend to the Board proposed legislation for sponsorship by Mountain Counties or by individual members of Mountain Counties, if appropriate.
- Represent the interests of Mountain Counties before federal and State policymakers consistent with the legislative policy principles adopted by the Board.
- Recommend to the Board changes to its adopted legislative policy principles.
- Regularly coordinate and communicate with ACWA State Legislative Committee, Region 3 representatives.
- Communicate the policies, positions and activities of Mountain Counties on legislative and regulatory issues to the Board, the membership of mountain Counties, interested stakeholders and the public through reports, press releases and other means of communication in furtherance of the purpose of the Legislative Committee.
- Present the Board with opportunities to retain expert consultants and other resources that would enhance the effectiveness of the Legislative Committee in fulfilling its purpose.

GUIDELINES:

The Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (Association) has established a Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee to address important policy issues and monitor development at the state and federal levels. The following guidelines are established to assist this committee in conducting its business in an efficient, effective and transparent manner.

The Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee is charged with annually reviewing legislation and regulations of importance to Association members. In order to conduct this advocacy in a fashion equitable to its membership, and efficient in execution of its mission, it is essential that certain guidelines are set forth for the benefit of its Committee and the Association. These Guidelines are intended to be supportive of and consistent with the Association's Charter, Bi-Laws and Policy Principles.

Committee members shall take action/positions based on the interests of the Executive membership. If there is a known or perceived conflict, the Committee shall remain neutral, discuss the conflict with the appropriate member, and/or seek the guidance of the Executive Director and/or the Board of Directors.

Legislative Committee meetings are open to any members of the Association that are current in the payment of dues and assessments. The Committee Chair may, however, determine whether to allow or limit comment on agenda items from those other than the members of the Committee or the Executive Director in furtherance of the business of the Committee. The Executive Director may attend and participate in meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

Member attendance is critical. A continued lack of attendance by a member shall be reported to the Board and can result in removal by Board action. Should a vacancy occur in the Committee, (member or alternate) the Board shall appoint a replacement.

Normal costs for operating the Committee will be paid by the members through their member agency's usual and customary means.

The Committee is authorized to develop proposed amendments to legislation and provide assistance and information to members and staff of the legislature and administration, consistent with the Association's Charter and Bi-Laws. The Committee may also develop analysis and testimony for legislative and/or state or federal regulatory proceedings and hearings.

If the Committee either encounters a matter that is not yet addressed by the Charter, By-Laws, Policy Principles, or the Rules/Guidelines, or if there is uncertainty on how to apply the matter before the Committee, the Committee will develop, through majority vote and consistent with the Charter, a recommended action, including an estimated schedule of need, and seek timely Board concurrence through the Executive Director. If there is not sufficient time to seek Board concurrence, the Committee will consult with the Executive Director on the matter before taking such action. If the Executive Director is also not available in a timely manner, the Committee Chair shall consult with the Board President. If none of the parties are available, the Committee is authorized through unanimous decision of its Executive members, to move forward and take action on behalf of the Association. The Committee Chair shall report any such action to the Board and the Executive Director in a timely fashion.