

**Michele King**

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**Subject:** FW: SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

**From:** system-generated

**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 10:06 AM

**To:** Clerk of the Board <[clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org](mailto:clerkoftheboard@valleywater.org)>

**Subject:** SCVWD Agenda Comment Form

Submitted on Fri, 01/18/2019 - 10:05 AM

Submitted values are:

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**Agency, Business or Group (if applicable)**

Public

**Board Meeting Date**

2019-01-22

**Agenda Item Number**

4.4

**I would like to**

Express Opposition

**Comment Form**

This is a version of a comment I made to the Board Policy and Planning Committee on July 23, 2018.

Unfortunately, the open-and-transparent BPPC handed my complaint about the closed-and-non-transparent FAHCE Ad Hoc Committee to the closed-and-non-transparent FAHCE Ad Hoc Committee. I hope you appreciate the irony. Having heard nothing from them, I turn to you.

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This is a request that you review the policies surrounding the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) Ad Hoc Committee, specifically the exception to the Brown Act and the use of Ad Hoc category for a committee that does not have a limited term.

You will not find the FAHCE Committee on your web site under Board Committees nor under Board Advisory Committees. The committee does receive assignments under the yearly Board agenda item, where it is noted that the committee is an exception to your general policy of Brown Act compliance for all Board

committees. Your 2018 Strategic Plan does list the FAHCE Ad Hoc Committee as an established Board Committee, although those committees are said to meet regularly and are open to the public.

When you created the committee on April 12, 2016, the motion specified that "Committee meetings be held in exception to the provisions of the Brown Act, in the best interest of the District". That exception was to be re-affirmed each year; that has not to my knowledge occurred. And only someone who read the April 2016 item would even know of that requirement.

The 2018 Strategic Plan, under Water Supply, says the FY19 Focus is to "Complete the planning, permitting, and other actions necessary to finalize resolution of the complaint."

and that you will

"Monitor progress and develop strategies through the FAHCE Ad Hoc Committee meeting."

I suspect that "planning", "permitting", "monitoring progress", and "developing strategies" often do not require confidentiality.

You have a lack of visibility on District progress or lack thereof. Yet you send your Government Affairs "observers" to GCRCD public meetings to take notes and report back to you (they refused to tell me why they were there, so "report back" is just a guess).

I'll close with my definition of "transparency": If it Can be known, it Should be known. You can treat "transparency" as a door wide open and only closed a little under exceptional conditions. This has been your standard approach except for FAHCE. Or you can treat "transparency" as a door completely closed and only opened a little under exceptional conditions.

A standing committee can have a Closed Session component; County Parks Acquisition Committee worked that way.

Please remove the Brown Act exception for this committee.