



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2016**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT Thomas P. Evans, Chair, Western Municipal Water District
Ed Killgore, Vice Chair, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (9:31 a.m.)
Ronald W. Sullivan, Secretary-Treasurer, Eastern Municipal Water District
Phil Anthony, Orange County Water District
Terry Catlin, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT None.

ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS PRESENT; NON-VOTING Jasmin Hall, Alternate, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Steve Copelan, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

STAFF PRESENT Celeste Cantú, Rich Haller, Larry McKenney, Mark Norton, Karen Williams, Dean Unger, Rick Whetsel, Ian Achimore, Kelly Berry

The Regular Commission Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Evans at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board. Alternate Commissioner Steve Copelan was present for the roll call; however, Commissioner Killgore arrived at 9:31 a.m. and replaced Alternate Commissioner Copelan at that time.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 1, 2016

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2016

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, approve the Consent Calendar.

Result:	Adopted (Unanimously; 5-0)
Motion/Second:	Anthony/Sullivan
Ayes:	Anthony, Catlin, Evans, Killgore, Sullivan
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. SAWPA STRATEGIC REVIEW – ROUNDTABLE PROJECTS (CM#2016.21)

Mark Norton provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the SAWPA Roundtables, and a two-page handout titled “SAWPA Roundtables.” Norton began with historical information on SAWPA’s vision, mission, and goals, as well as function of and criteria for Roundtable Projects.

Commissioner Sullivan noted he had hoped this meeting would include a review of the formation, function, and value of each SAWPA Roundtable, including whether or not it is appropriate for a Roundtable to continue. Specifically, who requested/initiated the Roundtable, who is funding it, and is SAWPA 100% funding or is it funded by the member agencies (in whole or in part). Norton indicated that these items would be addressed in his presentation. Commissioner Sullivan also requested a regular update given to the Commission on the Roundtables; Norton noted a quarterly written report is provided as part of the agenda packet, but more detailed presentations can be provided about specific Roundtable projects to supplement the quarterly written report.

Detailed information was provided for the following active Roundtables. (FTE = Time utilized of Full Time Employee Working 2080 hrs/year.)

<p>Southern California Salinity Coalition SAWPA Authorization: 2002</p>
<p>Budget: \$338,534 (2016) Total FTE: 0.09 Funding Source: Coalition Members Contributions; SAWPA as a whole contributes \$10,000/year.</p>
<p>Discussion: The Coalition is actively working on a Drought policy to address salt issues that arise with increased salinity resulting from less rainfall dilution. Commissioner Sullivan voiced his support of the Salinity Coalition and a desire for more frequent updates. Chair Evans voiced his desire for increased efforts in communicating task force achievements to the Commission.</p>

<p>Imported Water Recharge Workgroup SAWPA Authorization: 2008</p>
<p>Budget: \$9,920 (2016) Total FTE: 0.03 Funding Source: Workgroup Contributions</p>
<p>Discussion: This workgroup came together to examine the impact of imported water salt content; their efforts allow continued flexibility with anti-degradation rules while importing water. The workgroup and subsequent agreement with the Regional Board helped avoid a new permit requirement and potential litigation, thus saving \$10-\$20 million long term. Commissioner Sullivan voiced his support of this workgroup and suggested SAWPA make better use of this information when working with the State.</p>

<p>Basin Monitoring Program Task Force SAWPA Authorization: 2004</p>
<p>Budget: \$178,197 (2016) Total FTE: 0.21 Funding Source: Task Force Agency Contributions</p>
<p>Discussion: Addresses TDS and nitrate levels in groundwater and the Santa Ana River; mandated by Regional Board; was the first to establish a max benefit demonstration that is and can be applied to basins statewide where agencies, through a collaborative process, can ensure that downstream</p>

beneficial uses are still maintained and managed. SAWPA facilitates the management of this task force. Chair Evans asked why more time is spent to work on this task force compared to others. Norton advised extensive time is needed when an amendment to the basin plan is involved; there is conflict resolution and collaboration as to what the Regional Board will accept. Cantú noted that the result of this work is millions and millions of dollars in savings to every single discharger because we have more flexibility in what we can discharge into the river. If we did not have this task force and its achievements, the dischargers would be forced to upgrade their plants costing them many millions of dollars. We are able to avoid those costs in this watershed because of this task force. Commissioner Sullivan requested a copy of the most recent report submitted to the Regional Board.

Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL Task Force

SAWPA Authorization: 2004

Budget: \$370,000 (2016)

Total FTE: 0.21

Funding Source: Task Force Agency Contributions

Discussion: The Regional Board asked SAWPA to support, and named specific parties who are responsible; the Regional Board is a member. Participants in this task force avoided costs in excess of \$2 billion through the task force efforts according to the Counties Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plan.

Stormwater Quality Standards Task Force

SAWPA Authorization: 2003

Budget: \$143,878(2016)

Total FTE: 0.09

Funding Source: Task Force Agency Contributions

Discussion: This task force is concluding its efforts and transitioning into a regional monitoring program. Members: OC Flood Control, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and SB County Flood Control, Regional Board, SAWPA. This was not a requirement of the Regional Board; the entities came together looking for more regional and less expensive approaches to meet standards throughout every single reach in the river. Of the \$143,878 2016 budget, SAWPA will contribute \$50,000. The avoided costs to the task force participants is \$1-\$2 billion per county for bacteria treatment at all stormwater pipe outfalls according to the task force CDM Economic Analysis.

Santa Ana Fish Conservation Team & Arundo Mitigation Bank

SAWPA Authorization: 2002; 2011

Budget: \$322,761 (2016)

Total FTE: 0.21

Funding Source: Task Force Agency Contributions, SAWPA Mitigation Credit Sales

Discussion: SAWPA staff administers the Arundo removal contracts and conducts work under the fish conservation team. SAWPA contributes \$10,000. The results of the Arundo removal efforts have created increased flows to downstream parties from the non-native plant removal. The fish conservation team provides a strong stakeholder involvement through a Riverwalk habitat survey program and other river habitat restoration efforts.

Emerging Constituents (EC) Program Task Force SAWPA Authorization: 2012
Budget: \$87,638 (2016) Total FTE: 0.09 Funding Source: Task Force Agency Contributions
Discussion: Annual EC monitoring reports 2010-2013 provided important data and information to guide the SWRCB Blue Ribbon Panel and reduce from over 100 down to seven the required EC monitoring constituents; savings of over \$5 to \$10 million long term within the watershed in reduced monitoring costs.

Forest First SAWPA Signed MOU: 2011
Budget: \$54,569 (2016) Total FTE: 0.02 Funding Source: Outside Agencies
Discussion: Formalized an MOU with the USFS; no task force formed at this point, but it is anticipated a task force will be formed within the next year. USFS has institutionalized SAWPA relationship as a template for others in the State. Benefits include protection of water quality, release of more water to downstream, and reduce debris flows to recharge basins.

DWR Water Energy Grant Implementation SAWPA Authorization: 2015; 2016
Budget: \$938,985 (2016) Total FTE: 0.17 Funding Source: \$2.34M grant; \$520,000 local match partners
Discussion: Provides water and energy savings to disadvantaged communities through turf removal and retrofit and indoor water/energy efficiency devices. This is a grant-funded program, with a local match for the turf removal portion. SAWPA staff handles implementation and management; grant funding fully pays for SAWPA's 0.17 FTE.

Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) Administration SAWPA Authorization: 2000
Budget: \$100,000 (2016) Total FTE: 0.16 Funding Source: LESJWA Member Agency Contributions
Discussion: Constructs projects that benefit Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and upper watershed water quality. SAWPA provides staff support to Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force and the LESJWA Board. Funded by LESJWA's five member agencies, one of which is SAWPA. Chair Evans, a former LESJWA Board Member, noted SAWPA contributes \$10,000 annually, but also bills LESJWA for SAWPA staff time. LESJWA funds and holds an annual informational summit for the public; the next summit will be held April 27 at Elsinore Valley MWD.

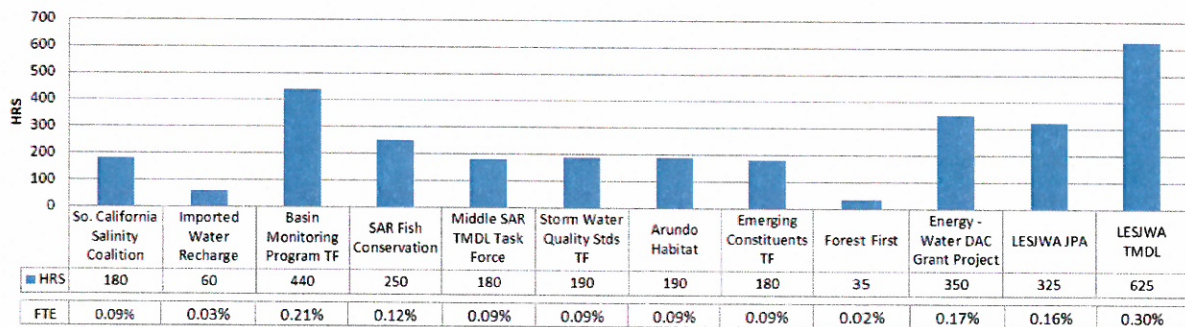
Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force
SAWPA Authorization: 2004
Budget: \$981,780 (2016)
Total FTE: 0.30
Funding Source: Task Force Agency Contributions and OWOW DWR Grant
Discussion: Formed with the support of the Regional Board; SAWPA provides staff support through LESJWA to the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force. Commissioner Sullivan requested copies of monitoring reports (including the location of the monitoring stations), as well as copies of reports going to the State.

Relative to each task force, Commissioner Sullivan requested an accounting of the source and amount of money coming in and where/how the money is spent. Commissioner Anthony agreed, and emphasized his desire to understand what SAWPA does relative to each task force, what SAWPA is paid to do and who pays SAWPA to do it, as well as the amount contributed to each task force by SAWPA. It was the consensus of the Commission for staff to provide a more detailed overview of each task force prior to budget approval, and include in that overview the information requested by the Commissioners over the course of this presentation.

Commissioner Sullivan voiced concern that duplicative work is being performed and suggested perhaps studies could be combined to save on consulting time. Mr. Norton stated that concerted efforts are undertaken to avoid duplicative work and whenever opportunities arise to combine efforts, they are undertaken. An example is the upcoming Regional Monitoring Program for pathogens required by the Regional Board, which is being combined with the Middle SAR Pathogen TMDL efforts to avoid duplication and reduce costs. Commissioner Sullivan also voiced his desire for increased monitoring of the flows going into the Inland Empire Brine Line from each reach, and the results of that increased monitoring provided to the Commission. Mr. Haller indicated that his Department is responsible for this monitoring and monitoring results are actively being taken at strategic locations to address discrepancies in total suspended solids measurements.

Chair Evans referenced a table from Norton’s PowerPoint presentation titled “Total SAWPA Labor Hours for Roundtables – FYE 2016,” and requested at a future Commission meeting staff update the table and provide for each task force how much is directly paid by SAWPA and how much does SAWPA receive, in cash, for each of these activities. This would provide the Commission with a more complete picture; perhaps it could be provided on an annual basis. Additionally, Chair Evans requested staff provide the Commission more detailed reporting, with an emphasis on task force costs, activities and benefits.

Total SAWPA Labor Hours for Roundtables - FYE 2016



FTE = Full Time Employee Working 2080 hrs/year
 HRS = Total Hours Worked by All Employees in FYE 2016

6. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive and file the following oral/written reports/updates.

- A. **CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – JANUARY 2016**
- B. **INTER-FUND BORROWING – JANUARY 2016 (CM#2016.19)**
- C. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – JANUARY 2016 (CM#2016.20)**
- D. **GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT**
- E. **STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**
- F. **SAWPA GENERAL MANAGERS MEETING NOTES**
 - March 8, 2016
- G. **CHAIR’S COMMENTS/REPORT**
- H. **COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sullivan noted there had been discussion regarding a designated time by which all sewage was to be eliminated from the Brine Line. At some point this issue should be readdressed.
- I. **COMMISSIONERS’ REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

7. **CLOSED SESSION**

At 11:14 a.m., Chair Evans recessed the meeting to Closed Session. Discussion of Agenda Item No. 7.B. was inclusive of both Spiniello and Charles King Company; Rich Haller participated in the discussion.

- A. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957**

Title: Executive Counsel
- B. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(2)**

Company Name: Spiniello
- C. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(2)**

Number of Potential Cases: One

Chair Evans resumed Open Session at 12:33 p.m., and announced the following action was taken on Agenda Item No. 7.B. by the Commission during Closed Session.

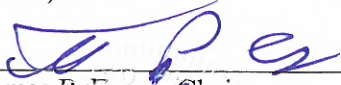
MOVED, authorize the expenditure of up to \$250,000 for the law firm of Hunt Ortmann Palffy Nieves Darling & Mah, Inc. to provide legal services in connection with the Reach V Rehabilitation and Improvement Project construction contracts.

Result:	Adopted (Unanimously; 5-0)
Motion/Second:	Sullivan/Anthony
Ayes:	Anthony, Catlin, Evans, Killgore, Sullivan
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

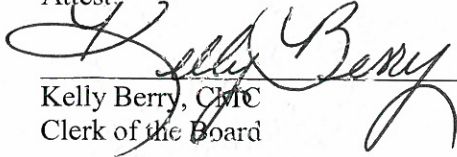
There being no further business for review, Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.



Thomas P. Evans, Chair

Attest:



Kelly Berry, Clerk
Clerk of the Board