



...A United Voice for the Santa Ana River Watershed

**OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 21, 2019**

Committee Members	
<u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u>	
Kati Parker, Convener, Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Present
Denis A. Bilodeau, Orange County Water District	Present [11:10 a.m.]
<u>County Supervisor Representatives</u>	
Doug Chaffee, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Present
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Board of Supervisors	Present
Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Absent
<u>County Municipal Representatives</u>	
Deborah Robertson, Mayor, City of Rialto	Absent
Rusty Bailey, Mayor, City of Riverside	Present
Jose Solorio, Councilmember, City of Santa Ana	Absent
<u>Business Community Representative</u>	
James Hessler, Director of West Coast Operations, Altman Plants	Present
<u>Environmental Community Representative</u>	
Garry W. Brown, President, Orange County Coastkeeper	Present
<u>Regional Water Quality Control Board Representative</u>	
Linda Ackerman, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Absent
Others Present	
<u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u>	T. Milford Harrison
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Rich Haller, Karen Williams, Larry McKenney, Rick Whetsel, Ian Achimore, Dean Unger, Kelly Berry, Katie Lucht, Sara Villa
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	Marsha Westropp, Orange County Water District; Meg McWade, City of Fullerton

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Kati Parker, Convener, at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

- WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
Introductions were duly noted and recorded.



2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – September 26, 2019

MOVED, approve the September 26, 2019 meeting minutes.

Result:	Adopted (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Bailey/Brown
Ayes:	Bailey, Brown, Hessler, Parker, Spiegel
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	Chaffee
Absent:	Ackerman, Bilodeau, Hagman, Robertson, Solorio

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DCI) Technical Assistance for Community Needs Project Funding Recommendation (SC#2019.16)

Rick Whetsel provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DCI) Program: Technical Assistance for Community Needs Project Funding Recommendation*; revised copies were provided to the Committee, staff and the public.

Committee Member Bilodeau arrived at 11:10 a.m., during the PowerPoint presentation for Agenda Item No. 4.A.

The DCI Program is a Proposition 1 funded effort within the Integrated Regional Water Management Program to ensure the involvement of disadvantaged communities, economically distressed areas, and underrepresented communities in the integrated regional water management planning. The DCI Program has four (4) Program Elements; 1) Strengths and Needs Assessment, 2) Education and Engagement, 3) Project Development, and 4) Administration. Program Element 3), Project Development includes Activity 18: Technical Assistance for Community Needs. The objective is to provide technical assistance funding to support the development of projects that address the needs of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities. It requires evaluation of projects, plans, and programs following a set of evaluation criteria developed by the DCI Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Activity 18 allocated funding is for \$2.9M. The Technical Assistance criteria has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). A number of projects were collected September 27 and November 1, 2019, since then the application submittal process has been closed. Thirteen (13) projects were recommended for DCI Program Technical Assistance funding, and three (3) projects are recommended for consideration within other DCI Program Activities.

Committee Member Chaffee questioned if there are any remaining funds that are not allocated? Whetsel noted that all funds are allocated and there isn't any additional funding. Committee Member Spiegel asked how the determination was made for each project on the partial and full funding. Larry McKenney noted that the Technical Advisory Committee adopted criteria for the project ranking and selection process and was approved by DWR. Committee Member Bailey asked, if recipient does not use all of its funding, and time will be short, is there a process already in place to reallocate funding. Will it go to the other projects and how will the priority of projects be determined? Whetsel stated that the details haven't been worked out, but the idea is to not lose the money and give the extra funding to other selected projects. Committee Member Hessler requested further information on the City of Fullerton's project. Meg McWade, Director



of Public Works, City of Fullerton informed the Committee that the City of Fullerton is working with Orange County Water District Consultant's study for the best approach to remove Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) from the well's groundwater supply. The requested funding is for the design phase of the project. Marsha Westropp, Orange County Water District requested that Whetsel elaborate more on the determination of the scoring criteria for funding of each project. Whetsel noted the allocations were not tied solely to the criteria. There is a scoring scale of 0-5, and with the scoring by the Technical Advisory Committee almost every project scored about the same – the scoring did not give a lot of variability amongst the projects. Committee Member Brown noted that speaking from a Non-governmental Organization (NGO), there is an inherent problem if you want NGOs to participate in any of this. The bulk of the money that flows through here goes to agencies and water districts, all of which have secure income, high reserves and cash flow. That is not the situation for non-profits, and it takes about six to eight months to receive money. There has to be some kind of mechanism that everyone could agree to, and NGOs could participate in this program. Committee Member Bailey recommended that some of the money be set aside for only NGOs to compete. Mark Norton noted that this has been brought forward to the SAWPA Commission and a fund of \$50,000 was established that was set aside towards non-profit organizations. Also, under Proposition 1 IRWM, a 10% funding was established to help non-profit organizations, though DWR changed the rules and unfortunately it wasn't part of their guidelines. McKenney recommended that this idea be considered for further discussion at the January 23 meeting and to include for discussion the pending proposed water bond measures. Committee Member Bailey conquered.

This item was for information purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.A.

B. OWOW Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Project Grant Application Update (SC#2019.17)

Ian Achimore provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *OWOW Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Project Grant Application Update* contained in the agenda packet on pages 17-21. The grant funding for the OWOW and North Orange County projects, and grant administration by SAWPA totals to \$24.1 M. The funding is divided into two parts; general implementation funding and disadvantage community implementation funding. The proposed projects must respond to climate change and contribute to regional water self-reliance and must address the most critical needs to the Santa Ana River watershed. SAWPA staff and a representative from the North Orange County IRWM group met with DWR upper management on October 2 to request changes in their grant funding policies that don't allow grant reimbursement to projects that are exclusively education and outreach, or for recreational elements of projects. These DWR policies were not included in their written grant guidelines, so stakeholders were not aware of these changes at the time of DWR's pre-application Workshop held on August 14. DWR apologized for not citing these policies in their guidelines, but said they were not able to change the policies. As a result, the OC Smartscape Project declined to move forward with their \$300,000 grant request and the City of Santa Ana's Raitt & Myrtle Park was not able to utilize \$689,072 in funding that were dedicated to items such as a skate park. The North Orange County IRWM stakeholders decided to roll that \$989,072 in funding to Round 2 which will be solicited by DWR in 2021. With that \$989,072 reduction, the ultimate grant application submitted to DWR totaled to \$23,091,428 for ten (10) projects. SAWPA, and consultant Dudek, worked with the project proponents to submit the final application to DWR on November 1.



Committee Member Bilodeau left the meeting at 11:50 a.m., during the PowerPoint presentation for Agenda Item No. 4.B.

Achimore noted that DWR will make their final award announcement mid-2020. SAWPA and DWR's Grant Agreement and SAWPA Sub-Agreements with project proponents are anticipated to be developed in 2020.

This item was for information purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.B.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

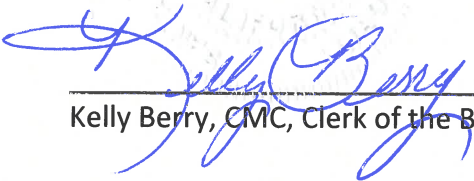
The meeting ended at 11:55 a.m.

APPROVED: May 28, 2020



Kelly E. Rowe, Convener

Attest:



Kelly Berry, CMC, Clerk of the Board