



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 2, 2019**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Ronald W. Sullivan, Chair, Eastern Municipal Water District
Kati Parker, Vice Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Denis R. Bilodeau, Secretary-Treasurer, Orange County Water District
Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District
T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None.

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

June D. Hayes, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Rich Haller, Larry McKenney, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, Dean Unger,
Carlos Quintero, David Ruhl, Matthew Howard, Kelly Berry

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

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JUNE 18, 2019

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, approve the June 18, 2019 meeting minutes.

Result: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: Bilodeau/Dennstedt

Ayes: Bilodeau, Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Sullivan

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

5. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS

**A. PROPOSED EMERGING CONSTITUENTS AND PFAS SAMPLING STATUS
(CM#2019.70)**

Mark Norton provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 12-20 with a status on the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force. A copy of the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force brochure was provided to the Commission and the public.

Jason S. Dadakis, OCWD Executive Director of Water Quality & Technical Resources provided a PowerPoint presentation, revised slightly from the version contained in the posted agenda packet; copies were given to the Commission and the public along with a handout titled *California Response Levels for PFOA & PFOS*. The OCWD laboratory is the only public agency laboratory in California with a PFAS certification; there are strict sample collection and handling guidelines and the analysis and data reporting are complex and generally take 2-3 weeks. Twelve OCWD retailers received testing orders in March 2019. There are currently nine (9) OCWD retailers with one or more initial results greater than the state Division of Drinking Water (DDW) notification levels for PFOA or PFOS; results are consistent with OCWD monitoring well results downgradient of recharge area. Impacted retailers are providing formal notification to their local governing bodies as required by state law. DDW recommends that retailers discontinue using any source with a concentration greater than the interim state drinking water Response Level (70 ng/L for combined PFOA + PFOS); if continuing to serve, DDW recommends extensive monitoring and public notification.

OCWD is currently conducting field pilot testing of the following treatment technologies, which have been very effective:

- Carbon Absorption: granular activated carbon (GAC)
- Ion Exchange (IX) Resin
- Reverse Osmosis or Nanofiltration (RO or NF)

It was anticipated that DDW might lower interim Notification and Response Levels, based on Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) recommendations, which would have increased the number of affected wells in the OCWD service area. While in discussions with DDW, OCWD received word that DDW was considering a reduction to Notification and Response Levels as early as July 8. Effects of a reduction, both locally and statewide, were presented. A meeting with DDW has been established on July 3 which will be attended by OCWD; requests to DDW will include a 90-day delay in establishing a new Response Level, sharing OEHHA's review of NTP rodent study and basis for recommendation, and prioritize setting PHG + MCL. OCWD is supportive of accelerating an enforceable standard and is seeking transparency and regulatory certainty.

Liselle DeGrave of DeGrave Communications provided the PowerPoint presentation, *Emerging Constituents Task Force Social Media Services, YourSoCalTapWater.org*, contained in the agenda packet on pages 35-46 updating public outreach efforts and social media tools utilized to inform the public on the safety of water supply.

Chair Sullivan asked if the state were to lower the Notification and Response Levels, how many additional areas would be impacted. Mr. Dadakis noted that roughly a third of the wells located in central and north Orange County could be impacted if the standard is lowered; additional DDW monitoring orders issued to adjacent communities are anticipated to assist in determining the extent of where this may be detected in the groundwater. Currently, levels observed locally somewhat mirror what is observed nationally; impact from any particular industry is not necessarily a main source. Future monitoring and areas of monitoring will continue to be driven by DDW orders.

Michael Markus, OCWD General Manager addressed the financial impact to retail water agencies. If Notification and Response Levels were to be reduced on July 8 as currently proposed, one of

their retail water agencies in particular would lose all eleven (11) of its wells necessitating 100% imported water at an annual cost of approximately \$10M. The overall impact to retail water agencies in Orange County collectively could top \$50M. Some retail agencies could potentially lose all their groundwater wells and have no alternate source of water, such as an MWD connection. Other retail agencies in the upper watershed would also be impacted; this will not solely impact Orange County. Markus noted they are requesting the state to work through the statutory process already in place to establish an MCL.

Craig Miller, WMWD General Manager concurred with the comments of Michael Markus. Miller asked how the limits in other areas of the country experiencing and, in some cases, treating these constituents compare with those limits set in California. Dadakis replied California's limits are the lowest.

Alternate Commissioner Hayes asked about the credible health risks at any level. Dadakis noted there is literature on animal studies and studies of individuals who were exposed in the workplace as well as towns impacted by manufacturing, and the conclusions from human studies are a bit more modest than some from the animal studies. Human studies primarily note liver and kidney disease; newer animal studies note pancreatic cancer.

Michael Markus, OCWD General Manager advised that Congress has passed a bill directing the EPA to develop an MCL within two years. A joint letter has been sent to DDW asking for a postponement of the July 8 reduction.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.A.

Chair Sullivan recessed the meeting for a 10-minute break at 10:46 a.m.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. ACCOUNTING REPORTS OVERVIEW (CM#2019.71)

Karen Williams provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 49-61. There was no discussion.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.A.

B. PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA (PPIC) WATER POLICY CENTER SPONSORSHIP (CM#2019.72)

Rich Haller noted the PPIC has become a reliable, independent broker in California's water policy debates, and the Commission has supported sponsorship for several years.

MOVED, authorize staff to sponsor the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) Water Policy Center at the \$10,000 level for FY 2019/2020.

Result:	Adopted (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Harrison/Parker
Ayes:	Bilodeau, Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Sullivan
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

C. **STATUS UPDATE | REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

Rich Haller provided an oral report on the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Legal Services. Responses were due June 27; a list of responding firms was provided to the Commission and the public. Staff will conduct interviews of the 3-4 top ranked firms and bring a recommendation to the Commission at the July 16 meeting.

7. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

The following oral/written reports/updates were received and filed.

A. **AUDIT COMMUNICATION LETTER FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2019 – TEAMAN, RAMIREZ & SMITH, INC.**

B. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

Chair Sullivan commended West Coast Advisors for their efforts during recent meetings in Sacramento.

Chair Sullivan reminded everyone that due to construction at SAWPA, the July 16 Commission meeting will take place at Western Municipal Water District.

C. **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioners comments.

D. **COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

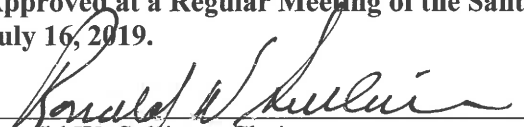
8. **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

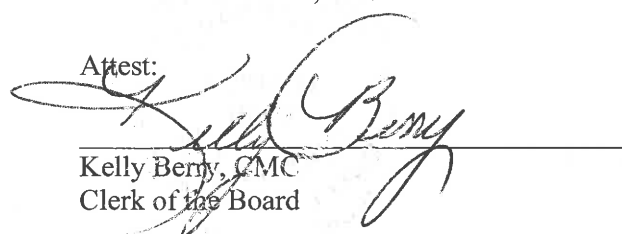
There being no further business for review, Chair Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, July 16, 2019.



Ronald W. Sullivan, Chair

Attest:



Kelly Berry, CMC
Clerk of the Board