



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

OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 23, 2020

Committee Members	
<u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u>	
Kati Parker, Convener, Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Present
Kelly E. Rowe, Orange County Water District	Present
<u>County Supervisor Representatives</u>	
Doug Chaffee, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Absent
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	Present
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, Mark Norton, Rick Whetsel, Ian Achimore, Dean Unger, Kelly Berry, Marie Jauregui, Sara Villa
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	Andrew D. Turner, Gina O'Toole, Tom Crowley, Jordan Brandman, Jeff Sorenson, Christy Suppes, Andrea Macias

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Kati Parker, Convener, at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503. The record will reflect this meeting was conducted virtually.



1. **CALL TO ORDER | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-25-30 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 12, 2020, and Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, any Commission member may call into the Commission meeting without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements. In concert with state and local efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and until further notice, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority will be holding all Board and Committee meetings by teleconference and virtually through the Zoom app. As set forth on the posted meeting agenda, this Committee meeting was accessible to the public by teleconference and through Zoom. Members of the public who were unable to participate by teleconference or virtually were invited to submit comments and questions in writing via email for the Committee's consideration. All votes taken during this meeting were conducted via oral roll call.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments; there were no public comments received via email.

3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – May 28, 2020**

MOVED, approve the May 28, 2020 meeting minutes.

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

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Final Funding Award (SC#2020.14)**

Ian Achimore provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Final Funding Award*; contained in the agenda packet on pages 15-23. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted their final award notification letter to SAWPA for the Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) on June 9, 2020. The application included ten (10) projects for a total grant request of \$23,091,428. Pursuant to Proposition 1 requirements, all project proposals must respond to climate change and contribute to regional water self-reliance. All individual projects must address the most critical needs of the IRWM region, have an expected useful life of 15 years, and have CEQA/permits acquired within 12 months of final grant award. DWR will begin drafting the Proposition 1 Round 2 Implementation grant guidelines documents in 2021. There is an estimated \$27,058,572 in grant funding available for Round 2. SAWPA staff is currently working on drafting the Grant Agreement with DWR and Sub-Agreements with project proponents and are expected to be finalized late 2020.

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

B. **Final Report from Departing CivicSpark Water Resiliency Fellows (SC#2020.13)**

Mark Norton introduced Bailey Lai with the CivicSpark Fellows Program and he provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Supporting the Implementation of Disadvantaged Communities*



Involvement (DCI) Program; contained in the agenda packet on pages 26-39. The DCI Program supports two CivicSpark Fellows each year, beginning in September and ending in August, to provide extra support to Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) funding areas with high numbers of disadvantaged community members and tribal members as defined by Department of Water Resources (DWR). AmeriCorps is a service program dedicated to improving local communities and addressing greatest needs. Managed by the Local Government Commission (LGC) in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and California Volunteers. Mr. Lai referenced his PowerPoint and the 2019-2020 DCI Activities and efforts while working alongside SAWPA staff. The next steps are wrapping up the DCI Program in early 2021 and potentially contracting with SAWPA in the fall to finalize DCI tasks. Convenor Parker and Committee Members Brown, Spiegel, Bailey, and Robertson thanked Mr. Lai for all his hard work and efforts.

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

C. Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program Status (SC#2020.12)

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program Status Report*; contained in the agenda packet on pages 42-62. Norton provided additional information on the Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program due to Committee Member concerns voiced during a previous meeting. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) established the DCI Program to support the following objectives: work collaboratively to involve Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)s, community-based organizations, and stakeholders in IRWM Planning efforts; increase the understanding and identify the water management needs of DACs; develop strategies and long-term solutions that appropriately address the identified DAC water management needs; and, support technical assistance for planning of future construction projects including feasibility, design, CEQA, etc. The State provided a list of DCI Grant Program Eligible Activities and SAWPA's scope achieved all DWR's guideline requirements. Norton noted that SAWPA has received comments from DWR stating that SAWPA is a prime example of totally achieving what was requested. Norton referenced the benefited Disadvantaged Communities Census Block Groups within the Santa Ana River Watershed, and the list of DCI Program Community, City, Agency, and Tribal Contacts that were informed about the services available. The DCI Program Elements required by the State are: Strengths and Needs Assessment; Education and Engagement; Project Development; and, Administration – all of which SAWPA has addressed as outlined in the PowerPoint. SAWPA is hosting three (3) statewide virtual Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Lessons Learned Summits scheduled in October to focus on the highlights of SAWPA's DCI Program and findings from other IRWM regions around the State.

Convenor Parker thanked Mr. Norton for his presentation. Committee Member Rowe noted he appreciates the efforts and quantifying what has been done throughout the Program.

Committee Member Robertson thanked Mr. Norton for his presentation. Committee Member Brown noted that over the years he has had numerous questions on this issue, specifically; the documentation provided addressed questions and concerns he has had through the process, and he thanked SAWPA staff.

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



5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Committee Member Robertson asked when is the next round of participation for the CivicSpark Fellows? Mark Norton noted that the CivicSpark Fellows Program is winding down and coming to an end with Bailey Lai leaving. Norton encouraged all the agencies/cities who might see a need or value to reach out to the Local Government Commission; they engage dedicated, hard-working individuals.

6. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.

APPROVED: September 24, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kati Parker", is written over a horizontal line.

Kati Parker, Convener

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Berry", is written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Berry, CWC, Clerk of the Board