



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

OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 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	Present
<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>	
Joe Kerr, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Present
Others Present	
<u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u>	T. Milford Harrison, June Hayes
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Rich Haller, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, Rick Whetsel, Pete Vitt, Marie Jauregui, Sara Villa
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	Andrew D. Turner, Craig Miller, Paul Jones

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:01 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.

Joe Kerr, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, was welcomed as a new member of the OWOW Steering Committee.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – July 23, 2020**

MOVED, approve the July 23, 2020 meeting minutes.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Passed)
Motion/Second:	Hessler/Rowe
Ayes:	Bailey, Brown, Hagman, Hessler, Parker, Rowe, Spiegel
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	Kerr
Absent:	None

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Funding Update (SC#2020.15)**

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Funding Update*; contained in the agenda packet on pages 13-20. 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. The application included 10 projects for a total grant request of \$23,091,428. The final award notification letter fully funded all projects. 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 by December 2020. The next steps are to ensure that all eligibility criteria that the State requires are met including compliance with stormwater planning, groundwater regulations, and water metering regulations.

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

B. **2019 Santa Ana River Watershed Sustainability Assessment (SC#2020.16)**

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *2019 Santa Ana River Watershed Sustainability Assessment*; contained in the agenda packet on pages 23-45. The Santa Ana River



Watershed Sustainability Assessment (Assessment) was adopted by the SAWPA Commission September 1, 2020. The Assessment was developed to provide feedback to decision-makers and stakeholders of the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Plan regarding how the six (6) plan goals are being achieved across the watershed. These goals include: (1) Achieve resilient water resources through innovation and optimization, (2) Ensure high-quality water for all people and the environment, (3) Preserve and enhance recreational areas, open space, habitat, and natural hydrologic function, (4) Engage with members of disadvantaged communities to diminish environmental injustices, (5) Educate and build trust between people and organizations, and, (6) Improve data integration, tracking, and reporting to strengthen decision-making. The Assessment tracks all six (6) goals with an indicator rating system that was adopted by the Commission in February 2019. Norton referenced the PowerPoint and provided the data results for the twelve indicators outlined. Overall, the watershed is doing very well in meeting its goals, although more data is needed on the Disadvantaged Communities related measures. New data will be available through 2020-21 high-resolution aerial imagery and updates to the State's CalEnviroScreen database. Committee Member Rowe questioned the difference between the indicator results of 190 gallons per person per day versus the State's goal of 50 gallons per person per day. Norton noted that the indicator results reflects both outdoor and indoor water use and the State's goal only reflects indoor use. Committee Member Rowe questioned what the new methodology for parcel assessment entailed. Norton noted that they are working closely with Orange County and Municipal Water District of Orange County and their process of looking at outdoor use and comparing the data with the retail agencies, and with the aerial imagery they are able to develop the more detailed budgets and look at a broader spectrum. Updates of this Assessment are very important as this will document changes over time, especially between wet and dry years. Going forward, SAWPA will update the Assessment every three-to-five years so changes over time can be monitored.

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

C. Santa Ana Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP) Smartscape Project Completion Report (SC#2020.17)

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP) Smartscape Project Completion Report*; contained in the agenda packet on pages 57-66. The Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) 2015 Grant Round funded project SARCCUP includes a Water Use Efficiency Task: The Smartscape and the Water Budget Assistance sub-tasks. The Smartscape is a partnership between SAWPA member agencies and OC Coastkeeper developed to support outdoor water use efficiency with physical improvements to residential irrigation systems. The Smartscape was completed July 30, 2020 for a grant total of \$428,542. The estimated customers served were about 83,350 and the work provided was Irrigation "Tune-Ups", landscape site visits, community workshops, commercial landscape designs, and signage for a conservation garden. Norton thanked Committee Member Gary Brown and his staff for implementing this program within the timeframe and budget provided. Committee Member Hessler noted he appreciates all the work and effort it took in executing the program.

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

D. Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program Status (SC#2020.18)

Rick Whetsel provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program Status Report*; contained in the agenda packet on pages 68-85. 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. Whetsel referenced the benefited Disadvantaged Communities Census Block Groups within the Santa Ana River Watershed. The DCI Program Elements required by the State are: Strengths and Needs Assessment; Education and Engagement; Project Development; and Administration – all which SAWPA has addressed as outlined in the PowerPoint. The Water Education Foundation has completed their Engagement of Best Practices Publication and is available on the SAWPA Website for download.

SAWPA is hosting three (3) statewide virtual Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Lessons Learned Summits scheduled October 8, 13, and 14 to focus on the highlights of SAWPA's DCI Program and findings from other IRWM regions around the State, and he encouraged Steering Committee Members to register. The Technical Assistance (TA) for Community Needs is ongoing, and the allocated funding is \$2.9M. The objective of TA funding is to support the development of projects and programs that address the water needs of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities.

Whetsel informed the Committee that the Assessment of the Water Quality, Riparian, and Aquatic Habitat Impacts of Homelessness in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed (Assessment) has been completed by GEI Consultants and will soon be available for download from the SAWPA website. Committee Member Bailey requested a copy of the Assessment and if there were any findings that could be shared. Mark Norton noted that the Assessment is a development of a framework for monitoring in the future. Data was collected from the ongoing task force efforts through the pathogen TMDL levels in various locations in the Upper Watershed. The Assessment was brought forward to the SAWPA Commission and the Commission suggested SAWPA reach out to additional funding partners for potential monitoring next fiscal year. Thus far, Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District is willing to contribute to help start the process. Committee Member Brown noted that sampling has been done above and below encampments, and what has been found shows that there is an even greater need to have variable integrated extensive sampling data. This sampling could potentially show that there is a direct impact of a homeless encampment to water quality; if we had the data we could actually bring a case that it is a point source direct causation, and there is a new regulatory arena that could assist in water quality improvement efforts. Convenor Parker noted that homelessness is a significant issue, not only for SAWPA but for many agencies. Committee Member Brown stated that SAWPA is a good leader and can bring all the various agencies together and lead the program.

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

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no Committee Member comments.

6. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee Member Brown recommended that the monitoring and work on the Santa Ana River due to the homelessness encampments should be a future agenda item, and the Committee could possibly form a



vision on how SAWPA could be a leader in that role. Commissioner Harrison concurred with Committee Member Brown and noted that we need to devote time, effort, and financial resources to work toward solutions. Committee Member Rowe suggested a future status update on the Weather Assessment and Cloud Seeding Feasibility Study in the Santa Ana River Watershed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 12:16 p.m.

APPROVED: November 19, 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, CMC, Clerk of the Board