



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

## OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2020

<b>Committee Members</b>	
<b><u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u></b>	
Kati Parker, Convener, Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Present
Kelly E. Rowe, Orange County Water District	Present
<b><u>County Supervisor Representatives</u></b>	
Doug Chaffee, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Present
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Board of Supervisors	Absent
Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Present
<b><u>County Municipal Representatives</u></b>	
Deborah Robertson, Mayor, City of Rialto	Present (11:29 a.m.)
Rusty Bailey, Mayor, City of Riverside	Present
Jose Solorio, Councilmember, City of Santa Ana	Present
<b><u>Business Community Representative</u></b>	
James Hessler, Director of West Coast Operations, Altman Plants	Present
<b><u>Environmental Community Representative</u></b>	
Garry W. Brown, President, Orange County Coastkeeper	Absent
<b><u>Regional Water Quality Control Board Representative</u></b>	
Joe Kerr, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Present
<b>Others Present</b>	
<b><u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u></b>	None
<b><u>SAWPA STAFF:</u></b>	Rich Haller, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, Rick Whetsel, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Kelly Berry
<b><u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u></b>	Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof LLP; Justin Scott-Coe, General Manager Monte Vista Water District; Sandra Rose, Board Member, Monte Vista Water District

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-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom, this meeting was conducted virtually. 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 – September 24, 2020**

**MOVED**, approve the September 24, 2020 meeting minutes.

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

**4. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. Monte Vista Water District | Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Program (SC#2020.19)**

Mark Norton introduced Justin Scott-Coe, Monte Vista Water District (MVWD) General Manager, who provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Septic to Sewer Conversion Project* (Project); contained in the agenda packet on pages 14-24. Committee Member Robertson joined the meeting at 11:29 a.m., during the presentation of Agenda Item No. 4.A.

The Project encompasses a densely populated unincorporated area and will improve environmental conditions for many residents. MVWD will seek full Project partnerships including the cities of Montclair and Chino moving forward. There was a brief discussion about abandonment or removal of existing septic systems. Scott-Coe stated they are working closely with agencies to ensure future safety of the environment, the public, and first responders. The Inland Empire Utilities Agency will handle the increased capacity from the septic-to-sewer conversion. Scott-Coe is confident that when the Project feasibility study is submitted to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) they will approve the Project.

Mark Norton recommended support of any project proponents in line with Proposition 1 IRWM funding requirements, although this was an informational report. The state recently advised that grant applications for Round 2 funding will be received in summer of 2021. This item was brought before the Committee at the request of the County of San Bernardino and Monte Vista Water District as informational for potential Round 2 funding.

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

**B. Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification for Water Supply Feasibility Study (SC#2020.20)**

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification for Water Supply Feasibility Study*, contained in the agenda packet on pages 29-67, which had been requested by the Committee at an earlier meeting. Committee Member Rowe voiced his support and thanked Mark Norton for championing the project. Committee Member Kerr asked if staff had reached out to CalFire given the use of natural gas/propane as part of the cloud seeding process. Mark Norton noted he had discussions about fire concerns with our



consultant who advised ground-based units are cleared of brush and constantly monitored for any potential risk of fire; there is close, ongoing coordination with CalFire. Committee Member Hagman voiced his support but noted that at times within some areas there may be liability issues – such as initial rain or snowstorms in areas recently impacted by severe wildfire damage. Mark Norton referenced a program implemented by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works which was temporarily halted until there was adequate regrowth of vegetation after they experienced a series of wildfires. Should that occur here, we would discontinue the program until adequate regrowth occurred in areas impacted by wildfire.

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

**C. Phase 1A Monitoring Program to Assess Homelessness Impact on Water Quality in Upper Santa Ana River (SC#2020.21)**

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Assessing Homelessness Impacts on Water Quality, Riparian and Aquatic Habitat in Upper Santa Ana River Watershed*; contained in the agenda packet on pages 71-101. Committee Member Bailey voiced support on behalf of the City of Riverside.

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

**D. Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program Status (SC#2020.22)**

Rick Whetsel provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program Status Report*; contained in the agenda packet on pages 104-116.

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

**5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Convener Parker noted there will be changes to the OWOW Steering Committee in 2021. She will no longer be on the Committee and Kelly Rowe will be the next Convener. Committee Member Bailey stated he will no longer be on the Committee in 2021, and it has been a pleasure serving.

**6. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 12:28 p.m.

**APPROVED:** March 25, 2021

Bruce Whitaker, Convener

Attest:

Kelly Berry, CMC, Clerk of the Board