



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 17, 2021**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Bruce Whitaker, Vice Chair, Orange County Water District
Mike Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer, Western Municipal Water District
David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District
June D. Hayes, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

T. Milford Harrison, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Kelly E. Rowe, Alternate, Orange County Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, David Ruhl, Carlos Quintero, Marie Jauregui, Rick Whetsel, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Haley Mullay

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Cathy Green, Orange County Water District; Michael Markus, Orange County Water District; Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District; Brian Dickinson, City of Colton; Dustin Hardwick, California Rural Water Association

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 and N-08-21, this meeting was conducted virtually, and all votes were taken by oral roll call.

2. ROLL CALL

An oral roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

There were no added or deleted items.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 3, 2021

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the August 3, 2021, meeting minutes.

Result: Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second: Gardner/Whitaker

Ayes: Gardner, Hall, Hayes, Slawson, Whitaker
 Nays: None
 Abstentions: None
 Absent: None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROPOSAL FOR GRANT APPLICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SMALL COMMUNITY WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEMS SERVING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN THE SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED (CM#2021.59)

Jeff Mosher provided a brief background report on the proposal for grant application assistance program for small community water/wastewater systems serving disadvantaged communities in the Santa Ana River Watershed. This item was discussed during the previous Commission meeting, and direction was given to SAWPA staff to bring item forward at a later meeting to allow time for Commissioners to further discuss with their appropriate staff. Mark Norton provided the presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 15-24. The purpose is to provide technical assistance support for small community water/wastewater systems who lack the staffing and technical expertise to apply for government grants. Mr. Norton referenced the presentation slide Proposal Options, Costs, and Member Agency Share on page 21 of the agenda packet and went over Option 1, 2, and 3 and requested feedback.

| Option | Total Cost Estimate | SAWPA Member Agency Cost | Support Timing |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 – No Project | \$0 | \$0 | |
| 2 – Equal Share | \$150,000 | \$30,000 | Thru September 2022 |
| 3 – Proportionate Share | \$150,000 | \$69,250 SBVMWD \$46,150 OCWD \$17,300 EMWD \$17,300 WMWD \$0 IEUA | Thru September 2022 |

Mr. Norton noted there is an Option 4 that would be split into two (2) funding phases, with the first phase of \$50,000 at an equal share amongst all member agencies of \$10,000 to evaluate which of the communities really have the best chance of having a project that’s going to be ready for a grant application submittal. The second phase would be for up to \$100,000 divided proportionately based on the needs of small community systems within the corresponding member agency’s service areas.

Commissioner Gardner questioned if this is an ongoing program or just a one-time effort, and noted he is hesitant to commit to an ongoing program. Jeff Mosher noted that it’s proposed to be a one-time effort, though there could be potential reoccurring funds to address small system issues. Commissioner Hayes thanked SAWPA staff, in advance, on making sure that qualified agencies are involved and noted that San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District’s (SBVMWD) Board is unanimously in favor of the project and will support either Option 2 or 4. A qualified agency was defined as an agency that would be capable of maintaining and implementing the resulting grant project products long-term. Commissioner Slawson noted that he’s in support of the proposed project, including Option 2 for an equal share of \$30,000; and has confidence that SAWPA staff will recommend criteria to ensure that appropriate projects are selected. Commissioner Whitaker noted that the most equitable option is a two-step process as defined in Option 4; a lesser amount of funding initially, and then once projects are selected, Step 2 the funding can be contributed proportionately. It will help justify Orange County Water District’s (OCWD’s) contribution to clarify the projects that have overall watershed benefit. Commissioner Gardner noted he is also in support of Option

4, particularly if IEUA can participate with the equal share of \$10,000. Michael Markus, General Manager of OCWD, informed the Commission that based on previous discussions made during the General Managers meeting, California Rural Water Association (CRWA) has already done some work on the issues for disadvantaged communities and have identified about seven (7) mutual water companies in the SBVMWD service area, two (2) in Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD's) area, and one (1) in Western Municipal Water District's (WMWD's) area. Although he voiced his support of Option 4 alongside the Commissioners, he felt that the initial funding phase should be more appropriately set at \$5,000 per agency, for a total of \$25,000. Chair Hall thanked Michael Markus on providing additional input from the General Managers discussion. Commissioner Hayes noted she is in full support of reducing the first phase of option 4 from \$50,000 to \$25,000 as well. Commissioner Gardner made a motion to approve Option 4 as presented by SAWPA staff with implementation in two (2) Phases; Phase 1 – Proceed with an initial assessment funded by equal shares of \$5,000 per SAWPA member agency, and Phase 2 – Proportionate contributions by member agencies totaling up to \$125,000 based on the needs of small community systems within the member agencies service areas identified in Phase 1.

MOVED, to provide direction to SAWPA staff regarding the implementation of the grant application assistance program for small community water/wastewater systems serving disadvantaged communities in the Santa Ana River Watershed by implementing two (2) phases; Phase 1 – Proceed with an initial assessment funded by equal shares of \$5,000 per SAWPA member agency, and Phase 2 – Proportionate contributions by member agencies totaling up to \$125,000 based on the needs of small community systems within the member agencies service areas identified in Phase 1.

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| Result: | Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously) |
| Motion/Second: | Gardner/Hayes |
| Ayes: | Gardner, Hall, Hayes, Slawson, Whitaker |
| Nays: | None |
| Abstentions: | None |
| Absent: | None |

B. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT'S FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, CATHY GREEN FOR ACWA VICE PRESIDENT (CM#2021.62)

Jeff Mosher provided an oral report on supporting Orange County Water District (OCWD) Board Member Cathy Green as a candidate for the office of Vice President of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). He referenced her biography and OCWD's request letter contained on pages 37-42 of the agenda packet. Commissioner Whitaker commended Cathy Green and noted that he is very impressed with her prior experience as Mayor of City of Huntington Beach; she has proven to be affable, open minded, and fair. He heartily endorses Cathy Green for the ACWA role and encourages everyone's support. Cathy Green thanked the Commission for the opportunity to introduce herself as a candidate for ACWA Vice President and noted that her focus is working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders to find smart solutions to the challenges we are now facing. Cathy Green noted she has served on the ACWA Board since 2016 and is currently on ACWA's Executive Board as Region 10 Vice Chair. Commissioner Hayes noted that she is pleased to know her and regularly attends the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO) Meetings and is in full support of Cathy Green. Commissioner Slawson noted that although Cathy Green is more than qualified for the position, he will abstain due to personal divided loyalties. Chair Hall voiced her support the nomination of Cathy Green.

MOVED, to approve Resolution No. 2021-7 to support Orange County Water District's first Vice President Cathy Green as a candidate for the Office of Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Result: | Adopted by Roll Call Vote |
| Motion/Second: | Whitaker/Gardner |
| Ayes: | Gardner, Hall, Hayes, Whitaker |
| Nays: | None |
| Abstentions: | Slawson |
| Absent: | None |

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – JUNE 2021

B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – JUNE 2021 (CM#2021.60)

C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – JUNE 2021 (CM#2021.61)

D. PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, MAY 2021

E. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, MAY 2021

F. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Jeff Mosher referenced the General Manager's Report on pages 85-86 of the agenda packet and informed the Commission that the Watershed Aerial Imagery Project is completed and noted there's information showing the total flows for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

G. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jeff Mosher informed the Commissioners that the Drought and Climate Packages are moving into budget trailer bills and SAWPA staff is working with the Department of Water Resources and West Coast Advisors on future IRWM funding opportunities. SAWPA staff is working on drafting a letter for submittal.

H. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no comments provided.

I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Hayes informed the Commission of the passing of San Bernardino Valley Water District's Legal Counsel, Brendan Brandt.

J. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future Agenda items.

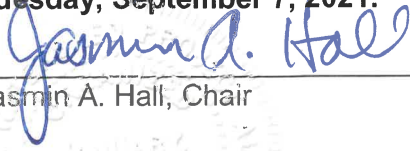
8. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

9. ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business for review, Chair Hall adjourned the meeting in memory of Brendan Brandt at 10:39 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on
Tuesday, September 7, 2021.



Jasmin A. Hall, Chair

Attest:



Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board