



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 21, 2021**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

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  
Marco Tule, Alternate, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Christina Fuller, Orange County Water District; Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Constantine Karos, CDM Smith; Steven Wolosoff, CDM Smith; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Vice Chair Bruce Whitaker 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: SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**B. ACCENT IT SERVICES – 15 MONTH PERIOD (CM#2021.64)**

Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to execute the Task Order No. ACS100-23 with Accent Computer Solutions for a 15 Month Period starting October 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$107,375.

**MOVED**, to approve the Consent Calendar.

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

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. SAWPA BUILDING – LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS (CM#2021.65)**

Jeff Mosher informed the Commissioners that Operations Manager, Carlos Quintero has accepted a General Manager position at Sweetwater Authority and thanked him for his many years of service at SAWPA. Carlos Quintero thanked the Commission and stated it has been an honor to work at SAWPA and is very grateful for the all the opportunities. The Commission thanked him for his years of service and dedication to SAWPA and the extended knowledge of the Inland Empire Brine Line; and wished him well as he begins his next chapter.

Carlos Quintero provided the presentation titled *SAWPA Landscaping Improvements* contained in the agenda packet on pages 21-28. The existing irrigation system has been in place since the SAWPA building was constructed in the early 1990s. The drip irrigation is not optimized for the existing vegetation and trees; some areas are overwatered, and others are underwatered. The proposed improvements include replacing the existing irrigation system with a more water efficient system, improving the landscaped area and demonstration garden surrounding the SAWPA building. A Task Order was issued to BGB Design Group to evaluate the SAWPA building landscape and demonstration garden and provide recommendations on how to address the deteriorated areas of the property. The scope of work for the Task Order includes the preparation of plans and specification (bid) documents, as well as providing support during project construction. The estimated cost is \$130,795. Commissioner Hayes questioned what are the provisions for regular upkeep of the landscaping including regular repair and upgrading of irrigation? Carlos Quintero noted we currently have a contract with a landscaper that will continue to perform the general maintenance and upkeep of the landscaping. Alternate Commissioner Dennstedt questioned if the Demonstration Garden still has the original signage and if it will be part of the repairs and upkeep? Jeff Mosher noted the signage is not part of the scope of work, though SAWPA's Operations staff can remount signs as applicable. Alternate Commissioner Dennstedt noted that WMWD has been hosting a Master Gardener class, featuring a colored booklet on landscape design that talks about the different types of plants and succulents they have; and suggests SAWPA staff investigate doing something similar for the Demonstration Garden. Commissioner Gardner agrees with the value of having signage for a Demonstration Garden; and there are funds available under the Building Reserve Funds and replacing the irrigation system is something that needs to be done for the landscaping improvements.

**MOVED**, direct the General Manager to prepare bid documents for the SAWPA Building Landscaping Improvements.

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

**B. SAWPA BUILDING – LOBBY SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS (CM#2021.66)**

Carlos Quintero provided the presentation titled *SAWPA Building – Lobby Security Improvements* contained in the agenda packet on pages 31-38. SAWPA issued a Task Order to Gillis & Panichapan Architects (Architect) for an amount not to exceed \$42,600 to provide an architectural and engineering assessment of the existing SAWPA building and develop conceptual design drawings for the lobby to improve security. The architect prepared a preliminary design report providing options to add a partition inside the existing lobby to maintain the main door open during business hours and providing a controlled-access secondary door within the lobby to access the offices and common areas (i.e., Board Room). The estimated cost for the lobby improvements is approximately \$260,000 and does not include any potential American with Disabilities Act improvements required by the City of Riverside, as part of the permitting process. Alternate Commissioner Dennstedt noted that she met with Jeff Mosher and Carlos Quintero, and this was the design they came up to provide the best lobby security. It was noted that with Commission approval there will be another opportunity to look over all finishing touches of scheme colors, flooring, Agency logos, and throw rugs.

**MOVED**, direct the General Manager to prepare bid documents for the SAWPA Building Lobby Security Improvements.

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

**C. REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING TASK FORCE – SANTA ANA REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM DATA VIEWER (CM#2021.67)**

Rick Whetsel provided the presentation titled *Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force Santa Ana Regional Monitoring Program Data Viewer* contained in the agenda packet on pages 93-102. This online dashboard replaces tabular quarterly reports and provides Regional Board staff access to the complete record of regional bacteria data and more robust analyses of the data to create lasting knowledge of watershed conditions and compliance for stakeholders. The dashboard includes an interactive graphical user interface that provides critical data-driven information and incorporates complex plots and maps to support analyses of data. It will be hosted on the SAWPA website and maintained by CDM Smith through the Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force. Constantine Karos of CDM Smith provided an overview of the Monitoring Program Data Viewer Dashboard and how to effectively produce graphs and reports through the interface. Commissioner Gardner noted that the data

viewer is very user friendly and is very efficient especially when wanting to look up any historical data.

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

**D. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT (CM#2021.68)**

Mark Norton provided the presentation titled *Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program Status Report* contained in the agenda packet on pages 105-127. Mark Norton provided a brief background and noted that SAWPA issued a task order for \$14,500 with North American Weather Consultants (NAWC) to conduct the ground seeding site analysis for 16 potential ground seeding sites in the watershed. A Request for Proposals was released July 2021, to conduct the CEQA mitigated negative declaration for the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot program. Four (4) proposals were received and rated/ranked by a consultant review committee composed of SAWPA staff and two SAWPA member agency CEQA experts. From the four (4) proposals, the top three (3) ranked firms will be interviewed in late September and a firm will be recommended for conducting this work and brought to the SAWPA Commission approval in October 2021. The CEQA work is expected to take 6-9 months. Funding for this work, approximately \$61,500, is budgeted and will come from SAWPA Planning carryover funds from FY 2020-21. SAWPA staff has also been conducting extensive outreach with water agencies and other businesses that could benefit from the weather modification program to determine interest in helping to funding the pilot program. Over 20 agencies and organizations have been contacted and presentations about weather modification are being scheduled. Alternate Commissioner Rowe commended SAWPA staff in taking the lead on this project and appreciates all the efforts. Santa Barbara, Los Angeles County, and San Gabriel Valley has been doing cloud seeding for years and we can learn from them; all information is available on the internet. Dr. Martin Ralph, of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, is conducting research off the coast that looks at storms coming in and can predict 5-7 days beforehand on whether it is an atmospheric river or just a nice sized storm which can help plan when to perform cloud seeding efforts; all this information can be found online. Commissioner Hayes noted that she is hesitant on the advantages of cloud seeding for the upper watershed. Commissioner Gardner requested information on the cost of the ground sites, whether they're being leased or purchased, and any historic information on security of the ground facilities; they could be a target to be vandalized and should be protected with chain link fencing.

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

**E. HEADWATERS RESILIENCY PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW (CM#2021.69)**

Ian Achimore provided the presentation titled *Headwaters Resiliency Partnership Overview* contained in the agenda packet on pages 133-152. In late 2020, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) in partnership with other entities such as the San Bernardino National Forest, Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, National Forest Foundation, and SAWPA, has worked to establish a task force-style partnership focused on the Santa Ana River Watershed's headwaters. Referred to as the Headwaters Resiliency Partnership (Partnership), possible priority issues have included supporting activities like fuels reduction and wildfire prevention; community preparation for wildfire response; ecological health and function of the headwater streams; native species habitat, including minimum flow and aquatic organism passage; and promoting education and responsible recreation on our public forest lands. SBVMWD has led monthly planning meetings and a stakeholder workshop to receive input of what should be included in the scope of the Partnership's

activities. SBVMWD and SAWPA have discussed ways SAWPA can also contribute in-kind staff time to the Partnership as SBVMWD currently leads the facilitation of the effort. Mr. Achimore shared a list of tasks performed through the group with recommendations of the potential areas that SAWPA can contribute, specifically partnership agreement management and invoicing or with a funding plan. The next steps are to present to the SAWPA Commission the staff costs and time to partner with SBVMWD on this effort, present possible sources of funding for reimbursement, and decide on SAWPA's involvement. There was no discussion.

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

## **7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

### **A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – JULY 2021**

### **B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – JULY 2021 (CM#2021.70)**

### **C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – JULY 2021 (CM#2021.71)**

### **D. PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JUNE 2021**

### **E. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JUNE 2021**

### **F. BUDGET VS ACTUAL VARIANCE REPORT – FYE 2021 FOURTH QUARTER – JUNE 30, 2021 (CM#2021.72)**

### **G. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**

### **H. FOURTH QUARTER FYE 2021 EXPENSE REPORT**

### **I. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Jeff Mosher informed the Commission that he's been working with Andy Turner in terms of what's happening on the State level regarding COVID mitigation measures and requirements related to Commission and PA Committee meetings, and based on recently adopted AB 361, SAWPA will continue to maintain the current policies for online meetings, including the opportunity for public comment.

### **J. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

### **K. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

Vice Chair Whitaker requested a moment of silence for the passing of Jo Lasorda, the widow of Tommy Lasorda, of the City of Fullerton.

### **L. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioner comments.

### **M. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Commissioners' request for future Agenda items.

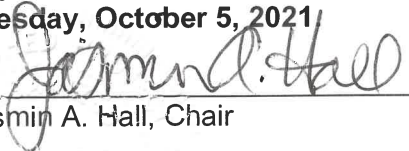
**8. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Vice Chair Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m. in memory of Jo Lasorda.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on  
Tuesday, October 5, 2021**

  
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Jasmin A. Hall, Chair

Attest:

  
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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board