



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 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, Marie Jauregui, Ian Achimore, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Haley Mullay

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Cathy Pieroni, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Gil Botello, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Derek Kawaii, Western Municipal Water District; Ryan Shaw, Western Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District; Brian Dickinson, City of Colton; Wayne Miller, Yorba Linda Water District; Nelida Mendoza; Kathy Besser; Jake S. Michael Boccadoro, West Coast Advisors; Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Chair Jasmin A. Hall on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of AB 361, 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 received via email. Jake S., a member of the public provided comments on the Weather Modification Pilot Program proposal. Based on the proposal there will be generators installed in the foothills with silver iodide aerosols. He asked about the timeline of when a decision will be reached for consideration of the proposal. Mark Norton noted the earliest the pilot can commence is October 2022 dependent on funding and advised of an informational meeting about the Weather Modification Program scheduled for October 14. Jake S. asked about public outreach before implementing the proposal and how is the community being made aware of the informational meeting scheduled for October 14. Andrew Turner, Legal Counsel noted that the public comments period is for taking public comments, and requested Jake S. follow up with his

questions to Jeff Mosher. Jake S. noted that Weather Modification Program affects everyone living in the valley and that the process needs to include the general public. A decision on this proposal by SAWPA should include input from the public. Jeff Mosher's contact information was provided to Jake S. to address his questions.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

There were no added or deleted items.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT – AUGUST 2021

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar.

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

6. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Michael Boccadoro of West Coast Advisors provided a presentation on the Sacramento Update. The State is facing significant drought conditions, there are reservoirs approaching levels that haven't been seen since 1977. There are expectations that the Governor will be making announcements in terms of some more stringent possibly mandatory reductions and conservation efforts throughout the state as Governor Brown had done during the last drought cycle. Beth Olhasso of West Coast Advisors continued the presentation and provided an update about the bills that remain on the governor's desk. The legislature adjourned on September 10; 2,776 bills were introduced, 1,672 were passed, 703 signed, 5 vetoed, and 396 are awaiting action (as of October 1).

- AB 818 (Bloom): Non-flushable products – Passed and is anticipated to be signed by the Governor.
- SB 273 (Hertzberg): Stormwater Capture – Passed and signed by the Governor.
- SB 222 (Dodd): Water Rate Assistance Program – Held by Author due to not having a funding source, there were concerns about the water tax, and is expected to be brought back in January for action.
- SB 323 (Caballero): Private Right of Action – Passed and signed by the Governor.

Beth Olhasso noted there was a significant surplus between state and federal funding, and there is \$8.2 billion available for drought and climate resilience from 2021-2024. The following packages were referenced as funding opportunities for SAWPA:

- \$200M for multi-benefit projects that align with the goals of IRWM.
- \$650M for drinking water – prioritizing DACs
- \$650M for wastewater – prioritizing septic-to-sewer conversion
- \$400M for recycled water & groundwater cleanup

- \$250M for regional climate resilience – planning and implementation
- \$420M for Transformative Climate Communities Program at Strategic Growth Council

Jeff Mosher informed the Commission that there's been a lot of coordination with the Legislative Committee in terms of tracking the upcoming grant opportunities. Once more detailed information is gathered from each package/program it will be brought back to the SAWPA Commission. Commissioner Hayes and Harrison suggested a future workshop to discuss further on the potential projects for the grant opportunities, and requested the information be shared with the Commission and the member agencies. Commissioner Gardner noted that with money comes the need for staff to track the funding and we'll need to see if we have all the resources available through SAWPA itself or amongst the member agencies. Chair Hall requested that this item be brought back with a list of projects or suggestions of how we could utilize the funding as well as a communication plan to outreach to each other within the region and possibly set a timeline of 2021-2024.

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

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **PROPOSITION 1 ROUND 2 INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT COMPETITION PROCESS (CM#2021.73)**

Ian Achimore provided the presentation on the *Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Competition Process*, contained in the agenda packet on pages 21-40. At the OWOW Steering Committee meeting on September 23, 2021, SAWPA staff presented and the OWOW Steering Committee adopted the following changes to the rating and ranking criteria:

- Benefit area clarification for inland water bodies to include a ten-mile buffer area,
- A replacement of Round 1's two competition pools of large and small projects, to two new pools for general implementation and disadvantaged community (DAC) projects,
 - The DAC competition pool will also allow for single benefit and single jurisdictional projects to request grant funding. This update will require modifications to OWOW Steering Committee's Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant – OWOW Program Policy.
- Ranking formula updates including:
 - Combining of benefit categories and rounding of weighting factors,
 - Adding extra percentage point categories.

The draft Project Solicitation Package (PSP) is anticipated to be released October 2021 and the OWOW Call for Projects would be scheduled from November 2021 to February 2022. SAWPA staff is recommending competition pool draft update for Round 2. The recommended Round 2 competition pools, not including the North Orange County portion, is for approximately \$18,530,100. After the rating and ranking process, comes the OWOW participatory budgeting process; where Stakeholder Workshops will be held with the goals of transparency, objectivity, and deliberation to receive input on the projects proposed as was done for the OWOW Call for Projects for Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM funding. Commissioner Slawson noted that rating the different projects is almost impossible to take out the subjectivity and believes that SAWPA staff has done a real good job in trying to quantify properties and scoring each project appropriately. Commissioner Harrison noted that he was a part of the Round 1 process and attended the workshops where every applicant was given

the opportunity to present and defend their project, which helped eliminate some of the subjectivity and is looking forward to seeing the same process with Round 2. Commissioner Gardner questioned if there is a mechanism to determine if the project is long-term or short-term and beneficial in the long run. Mark Norton noted that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) requires that the projects have a lifetime of 15 years, at least, and there are monitoring requirements for grant proponents to ensure that the project is operating and meeting the long-term requirements.

Mark Norton provided a supplemental presentation titled *OWOW Funding Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program*. The grant guidelines and PSP were released by DWR on September 23, 2021. There is \$190 million in grant funding available for immediate relief in response to California drought conditions. It addresses immediate impacts on human health, safety, fish and wildlife resources, and to provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies. \$50 million is set aside statewide to support Underrepresented Communities and Native American Tribes, included in the Proposition 1 IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Program. Applicants must be an existing grantee (SAWPA), and it awards up to \$5 million to fund eligible drought relief projects benefiting underrepresented communities or tribes in the funding area. Written comments on the draft PSP are due to DWR by October 8 and SAWPA is anticipated to prepare and submit a comment letter to DWR. Commissioner Harrison suggested selecting the DAC projects that didn't get funded in Round 1. Mark Norton noted he will reach out to the project proponents and advise of this funding opportunity. It was requested that the presentation be provided to the Commission and posted to the SAWPA website.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 7.A.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

A. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no Chair comments.

B. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner comments.

C. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Commissioners' request for future Agenda items.

Chair Hall recessed the meeting at 11:30 a.m. for Closed Session.

9. CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(d)(1)

Name of Case: McKenney vs. Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, et al.
Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVRI 2000088

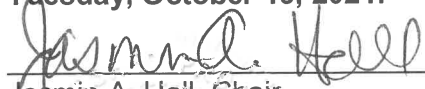
10. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Chair Hall resumed Open Session at 11:35 a.m. and Legal Counsel, Andy Turner announced that the SAWPA Commission received a report from SAWPA staff and counsel; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 9.A.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Hall adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on
Tuesday, October 19, 2021.**



Jasmin A. Hall, Chair

Attest:



Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board