



**PROJECT AGREEMENT 23 COMMITTEE**  
Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP)  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 5, 2021**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mike Gardner, Chair, Western Municipal Water District Governing Board  
Jasmin A. Hall, Vice Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency Governing Board  
Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District General Manager  
Susan Lien Longville, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Governing Board

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Michael Markus, Orange County Water District General Manager

**ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT [Non-Voting]**

Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**MEMBER AGENCY STAFF PRESENT**

**Eastern Municipal Water District**

Brian Powell  
Nick Kanetis  
Leighanne Kirk

**Inland Empire Utilities Agency**

Cathy Pieroni  
Joshua Aguilar

**Orange County Water District**

Adam Hutchinson

**San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District**

Chris Jones  
Matthew Howard  
Adekunle Ojo  
Shavonne Turner

**Western Municipal Water District**

Craig Miller  
Ryan Shaw  
Jason Pivovaroff

**Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority**

Jeff Mosher  
Karen Williams  
Mark Norton  
Marie Jauregui  
Ian Achimore  
Dean Unger  
Sara Villa  
Haley Mulla

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Jesus Gastelum, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District; Brian Dietrick, Woodard & Curran

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Project Agreement (PA) 23 Committee was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Vice Chair Hall. Pursuant to the provisions of AB 361, 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. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Vice Chair Hall noted that the change of representation from Western Municipal Water District, Commissioner Mike Gardner is now on the Project Agreement (PA) 23 Committee. It is recommended that the PA 23 Committee appoint a Chair. Committee Member Mouawad made a motion to appoint Mike Gardner as Chair of the PA 23 Committee.

MOVED, to appoint Mike Gardner as Chair of the PA 23 Committee.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Passed)
Motion/Second:	Mouawad/Longville
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Longville, Mouawad
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Markus

**4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JUNE 1, 2021**

Vice Chair Hall called for a motion to approve the June 1, 2021; meeting minutes as posted.

MOVED, approve the June 1, 2021, meeting minutes.

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Passed)</b>
Motion/Second:	Longville/Mouawad
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Longville, Mouawad
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Markus

**5. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**A. Overview of the Santa Ana Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP)**

Ian Achimore provided a presentation on the Overview of the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP) contained in the agenda packet on pages 9–34. The SARCCUP project partners include Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA)'s (5) five member agencies and Orange County Coastkeeper. There are three (3) components in the SARCCUP program that the member agencies developed: 1) Groundwater banking, includes banking and conjunctive use. 2) Habitat improvement includes arundo removal and sucker fish habitat restoration. 3) Water Conservation includes water efficiency budget creation, water-use efficient landscaping design and upgrades. In 2015, SARCCUP received a grant for the amount of \$55 million, along with \$95 million in local match that is coming from the member agencies. SAWPA is the lead for the program management and has hired Woodard and Curran to help lead the effort for the water conservation component. Mr. Achimore provided a brief overview of the groundwater banking, habitat, and water conservation within the SARCCUP program.

Vice Chair Hall asked how much water is stored in the water banks and reservoirs, and if half of it goes to the Metropolitan Water District (Metropolitan) and the member agencies? Mr. Achimore stated 137,000-acre feet is stored in the water banks. Under an Agreement between Metropolitan and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD)

Metropolitan may purchase SBVMWD's surplus water provided that 50% of its purchase be available to agencies participating in SARCCUP. Craig Miller, General Manager of Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) noted that SBVMWD will determine if they have water beyond their own needs in their own service area, and they would decide that they don't need that water and would offer it to Metropolitan and then through Metropolitan, SARCCUP could get half of that surplus water. Joe Mouawad, General Manager of Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) noted the 137,000-acre feet is a total capacity of the system. Surplus water is available from SBVMWD, then the member agencies can purchase up to 50%. Committee Member Longville noted that she was very pleased to see the announcement that the districts in Riverside County had joined SARCCUP and how it is the best kept secret in the Santa Ana Watershed.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.A.

**B. SARCCUP Schedule Overview**

Brian Dietrick, Woodard & Curran, reviewed the SARCCUP detailed schedule contained in the agenda packet on pages 35–44. Orange County completed their CEQA in early 2021. WMWD has additional wells and the Riverside Arlington Basin, and CEQA is expected to be completed by mid 2022. The overall completion of all projects has an anticipated construction deadline of September 2023. There was no discussion.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.B.

**C. SARCCUP Project Updates**

The SARCCUP Project Updates presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 45–69 was presented by representatives from Eastern Municipal Water District (Leighanne Kirk), Western Municipal Water District (Jason Pivovarovff), Orange County Water District (Adam Hutchinson), San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water Department (Chris Jones), and Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (Ian Achimore). Committee Member Longville requested an invitation be extended to her for the Mountain Avenue West Recharge Facility Dedication Ceremony scheduled for October 28. Committee Member Gardner asked if everyone is satisfied that the construction deadline will be met and what is the process if we can't meet the deadline. Ian Achimore noted that negotiation would take place with the Department of Water Resources and extend the agreement.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.C.

**D. SARCCUP Grant Payment Updates**

Ian Achimore provided a presentation on the SARCCUP Grant Payment Update contained in the agenda packet on pages 71-74. As of June 30, 2021, the amount of grant invoiced is 48% of the total \$55 million. There was no discussion.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.D.

**E. Update on Sub-Agreement Amendments**

Ian Achimore provided a verbal update on the SARCCUP Sub-Agreement Amendment between SAWPA and the Member Agencies. Four (4) of the Sub-Agreement Amendments with the Member Agencies have been executed, SBVMWD is expected to have theirs finalized end of October 2021. There was no discussion.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.E.

**6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Vice Chair Hall adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Project Agreement 23 Committee on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.**



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Mike Gardner, Chair

Attest:



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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board