



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

**OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2021**

Committee Members	
<u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u>	
Bruce Whitaker, Convener, Orange County Water District	Present
Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District	Present
<u>County Supervisor Representatives</u>	
Doug Chaffee, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Absent
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Board of Supervisors	Present
Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Present
<u>County Municipal Representatives</u>	
Deborah Robertson, Mayor, City of Rialto	Present
Ted Hoffman, Councilmember, City of Norco	Present
Nicholas Dunlap, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton	Absent
<u>Business Community Representative</u>	
James Hessler, Director of West Coast Operations, Altman Plants	Present
<u>Environmental Community Representative</u>	
Garry W. Brown, President, Orange County Coastkeeper	Absent
<u>Regional Water Quality Control Board Representative</u>	
Joseph Kerr, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Absent
Others Present	
<u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u>	T. Milford Harrison, Jasmin A. Hall, Kelly Rowe
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Jeff Mosher, Mark Norton, Ian Achimore, Marie Jauregui, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Zyanya Ramirez
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof LLP

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Bruce Whitaker, 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 Orders N-29-20 and N-08-21 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 – June 22, 2021

MOVED, approve the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Hessler/Robertson
Ayes:	Hagman, Hessler, Hoffman, Robertson, Spiegel, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	Dennstedt
Absent:	Brown, Chaffee, Dunlap, Kerr

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Incorporate the SBVMWD Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan into the OWOW Plan (SC#2021.9)

Mark Norton introduced Matthew Howard, Water Resources Senior Planner at the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD), who provided the PowerPoint presentation titled 2020 Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan (2020 Upper SARW IRUWMP) on pages 13-27 of the agenda packet.

SBVMWD has combined two of their foundational documents: 1) the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), and 2) the San Bernardino Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan (RUWMP) to create the 2020 Upper SARW IRUWMP.

The purpose of the IRUWMP is to focus on local issues specific to the upper watershed and to assess water management opportunities in greater detail. To facilitate agencies in the region being eligible for grant funds that are coming available, staff recommends incorporating into the OWOW Plan Update 2018. SAWPA staff will also work with SBVMWD staff to ensure that projects submitted to SAWPA for grant funding are incorporated into the OWOW Plan Update 2018.

City of Riverside, Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson asked if the Santa Ana River Parkway and Open Space Plan (SARP&OSP), which was approved by the Coastal Conservancy in May 2018, is mentioned in the 2020 Upper SARW IRUWMP. The SARP&OSP identifies opportunities for recreation, education, greening, aesthetic improvements, and wildlife habitat along the corridor of the Santa Ana River and in parts of the river channel that can be improved without infringing on water quality, water supply, or necessary flood control. The SARP&OSP involved regional stakeholders and the public. Mr. Howard said the Plan does not mention the SARP&OSP but will review to incorporate in the next Upper SARW IRUWMP.



Committee Member Spiegel asked if the plan references fire season during a dry year. Mr. Howard stated that they automatically add a 10% buffer to the total water demand during dry years to account for fire season, change in population and climate change. Committee Member Spiegel asked how are the recently passed SB 9 and 10 being addressed in the plan. Mr. Howard noted the plan does not consider SB 9 and 10; they're going to keep track on water demands as SB 9 and 10 are implemented in the next five years and may have to incorporate them in the next plan.

SAWPA Commissioner T. Milford Harrison stated that part of the mitigation under SB 9 and 10 is the elimination of outdoor watering as there will be less landscape land in a multi-family per parcel scenario. SAWPA Commissioner Kelly Rowe agreed and added that it will have a negative effect on water infrastructure.

Committee Member Hoffman asked if the drought year summaries factor in the decrease of water in water wells. Mr. Howard stated that the groundwater basins were studied and showed a tremendous amount of storage in their water basins. One of the goals stakeholders have realized is how do they adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change.

MOVED, 1) Receive a presentation from representatives of San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) about the 2020 Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan and, 2) Incorporate the 2020 SBVMWD Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan by reference in an appendix to the OWOW Plan Update 2018.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Dennstedt/Hessler
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Hessler, Hoffman, Robertson, Spiegel, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Brown, Chaffee, Dunlap, Hagman, Kerr

B. Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Competition Process (SC#2021.10)

Ian Achimore provided the presentation, Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Competition Process, on pages 57-94 of the agenda packet.

The draft Proposition 1 - Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) is scheduled to be released in October 2021 and is expected to have minimal changes that impact the OWOW rating and ranking criteria updates, allowing for an OWOW Call for Projects from November 2021 to February 2022. If the draft PSP makes major policy changes, SAWPA will delay the Call for Projects to gather further input from stakeholders and bring an updated recommendation of the OWOW rating and ranking criteria to the OWOW Steering Committee at a future meeting.

Assuming the Department of Water Resources (DWR) releases the draft PSP in October, SAWPA expects the OWOW Governance to approve the Round 2 Projects in March of 2022. DWR would announce awarded projects in May 2023 and SAWPA would execute their agreement with DWR in April of 2024.



A virtual OWOW workshop for watershed stakeholders was held on August 26, 2021 to share updates to the OWOW rating and ranking criteria. Mr. Achimore ensued discussion on the updates suggested:

- 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 IRWM Implementation Grant – OWOW Program Policy.
- Ranking formula updates including:
 - Combining of benefit categories and rounding of weighting factors,
 - Adding extra percentage point categories.

Committee Member Hoffman asked if by including a ten-mile buffer benefit area for inland water bodies and therefore encouraging more project proponents, could it possibly dilute the funds or make the process more difficult for SAWPA staff? Mr. Achimore clarified that although a ten-mile buffer will be included, the projects will still need to be related to water supply, flood control or habitat improvements. The projects cannot be a recreation or education project. With these criteria, the projects are familiar to SAWPA staff allowing for an easy process. Committee Member Hoffman suggested a better definition of the term Benefit Area for the project proponents.

SAWPA Commissioner Kelly Rowe commended SAWPA and DWR staff in their efforts to have a straightforward analysis and provide an open forum for all stakeholders to provide input.

Convener Bruce Whitaker commended Mr. Achimore in his attempt to simplify a complicated process to the Committee Members. Convener Whitaker then expressed his concerns regarding the bonus percentages and wanted assurance that they would not undermine the importance of the primary priorities which are to increase water supply and water quality. Mr. Achimore stated that although it is difficult to predict the types of projects that will be received, based on Round 1 the projects that received bonus percentage were groundwater or water conservation projects. Convener Whitaker suggested the term non-governmental organizations (NGOs) be better defined; Mr. Achimore stated that they will define it in the Call for Projects.

SAWPA Commissioner Jasmin Hall expressed concerns with the rating and ranking criteria and will discuss with internal staff offline.

MOVED, Adoption of the updated OWOW rating and ranking criteria and modifications to the Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant – OWOW Program Policy subject to major revisions as a result of the scheduled October 2021 Department of Water Resources draft Proposition 1 Round 2 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) release.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Hoffman/Dennstedt
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Hessler, Hoffman, Robertson, Spiegel, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Brown, Chaffee, Dunlap, Hagman, Kerr



5. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**
There were no Committee Member comments.
6. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
There were no requests for future agenda items.
7. **ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting ended at 1:11 p.m.

APPROVED: January 27, 2022



Bruce Whitaker, Convener

Attest:



Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board