



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 5, 2022**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Marco Tule, 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**

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

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, David Ruhl, Edina Goode,
Rick Whetsel, Ian Achimore, Marie Jauregui, Sara Villa, Dean Unger,
Zyanya Ramirez, Haley Mullay, Alison Lewis, Jessica McDermott

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal
Water District; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency;
William McDonnell, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Michael Markus,
Orange County Water District; Kevin O'Toole, Orange County Water
District; Shavonne Turner, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water
District; Derek Kawaii, Western Municipal Water District; Mallory
Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Tim Barr, Western
Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District;
Wayne Miller, Yorba Linda Water District; Nelida Mendoza

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Marco Tule 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; there were no public comments received via email.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

There were no items to be added or deleted.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 15, 2022

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: FEBRUARY 2022

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **AUTHORIZATION FOR NETWORK COORDINATOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (CM#2022.20)**

Ian Achimore provided a presentation on the Authorization for Network Coordinator Request for Proposals (RFP), contained in the agenda packet on pages 21-31. The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Roundtable of Regions formally began in 2006 as an informal partnership, led by engaged staff and two co-chairs. For the past three (3) years JM Consultants has served as the Network Coordinator. The principal of JM Consultants announced she is retiring on June 30, 2022. There is a funding agreement in place to fund this consultant support for this FY and FYE 2023. In order to utilize the funding and ensure the Roundtable operates efficiently for the next year, the Roundtable has requested SAWPA issue an RFP to acquire the services of a new consultant. The RFP includes a one-year timeline, with an option to extend it to two years if further funding is received by cost share parties. With the release of the RFP, the responses will be due May 9, 2022, with optional virtual interviews scheduled for May 16-19, 2022, and SAWPA Commission approval of contract anticipated for June 21, 2022.

MOVED, to authorize the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to fill the collaboratively funded Network Coordinator consultant for the California Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Roundtable of Regions.

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

B. **JOINT ROUNDTABLE OF REGIONS LETTER ADVOCATING FOR IRWM FUNDING (CM#2022.21)**

Ian Achimore provided a presentation on the Joint Roundtable of Regions Letter Advocating for IRWM Funding, contained in the agenda packet on pages 67-76. The state-wide Roundtable of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Regions has requested that SAWPA draft and submit a letter to the California Governor and State Legislature regarding the expected budget surplus that will likely lead to more water and drought related funding available in the State's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget. As was done last calendar year during the State's Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget process, SAWPA has worked with our legislative relations consultant and drafted a letter that requests \$510 million statewide in IRWM grant funding. Staff has also discussed the letter with the SAWPA member agency legislative staff workgroup that meets regularly.

The \$510 million amount was also the amount dedicated to the statewide IRWM Program in the Proposition 1 water bond which passed in November 2014. SAWPA is currently working with the Roundtable of Regions to acquire the signatures of 48 IRWM regions

across the State and submit it by April 8, 2022. By advocating for \$510 million, it would ensure the Santa Ana Funding Area, also known as the Santa Ana River Watershed IRWM Region, would receive a similar investment of \$63 million as received via Proposition 1.

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

C. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (CM#2022.22)

Mark Norton provided a presentation on the Santa Ana Weather Modification Pilot Program Status Report & Proposed Implementation Schedule, contained in the agenda packet on pages 81-91. The North American Weather Consultants (NAWC) conducted the ground seeding site analysis for potential ground seeding unit locations in the watershed. Their report reflects a listing of 15 ground seeding sites, specific locations, and potential local operators of the units including property owners and public agencies. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Mitigated Negative Declaration Analysis Draft Initial Study is complete. There is a Public Hearing meeting scheduled April 19, and the final CEQA report is expected to be completed by June 2022.

Work continues on the preparation of an application under the DWR Proposition 1 IRWM Round 2 Implementation grant program to cover 50% of the cost of the four-year pilot program with validation. The proposal for grant funding will be entered into SAWPA's OWOW Call for Projects online entry form before the April 25th deadline. Thereafter, the proposal will be competitively rated and ranked among other projects seeking grant funding through the OWOW Stakeholder Budgeting process. The pilot program, including independent validation and capture analysis, is estimated to cost \$300,000-350,000/yr. over the four-year program and is anticipated to generate additional water of 7,800 AF/yr., or a total of 31,200 AF. If Prop 1 Round 2 funding is successful, the local cost share to implement the pilot would be half the amount. For the (50% match) local cost share match, the Commission requested staff to conduct outreach about the pilot program to educate and inform local water agencies about the program and seek out commitments to fund the program as well. Over 60 agencies in the watershed have been contacted. The following agencies have committed funding in the amounts shown below:

Chino Basin Water Conservation District	\$20,000
Big Bear Lake Dept of Water & Power	\$12,000
Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority	\$10,000
San Antonio Water Agency	\$ 5,000
City of Corona	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total:	\$52,000

SAWPA staff is also pursuing a separate US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Applied Science grant for \$200,000 to investigate and develop a validation protocol or guidance document based on the SAWPA pilot program validation that could be used by other water resource agencies seeking to validate the benefits of their cloud seeding programs.

To apply for the Prop 1 grant as well as the Reclamation grant, a schedule of implementation tasks for the pilot program must be defined. At this time, staff recommends that the pilot program kick off at the start of the 2022-2023 winter season, or November 1, 2022. Due to the timing of the grant awards, local funding would be used until grant funding reimbursement becomes available in the Spring of 2023.

The milestones for the pilot start date of November 2022 are as follows:

JUNE 2022

- RFP for cloud seeding operator to be issued.

JULY – AUGUST 2022

- Commission authorization of new contract for pilot program cloud seeding operator by late July 2022 to prepare seeding unit sites.
- Commission authorization of new contract with Independent Validation firm by Aug 2022 to start pilot program evaluation preparations.
- SAWPA would invoice SAWPA member agencies and local agency contributors for 1st year of pilot program operations and validation funding.

APRIL – MAY 2023

- If grant is successful, all Year 2022 costs for the pilot project seeding site setup and operation will count towards 50% local cost share with grant funding anticipated to start in Spring 2023.

Commissioner Hayes noted that according to the proposal, the pilot program would start prior to knowing whether we get the grant or not, and once the pilot program starts it would continue for four years. What is the assurance or probability of getting the grant? Mark Norton noted that we stand a strong chance of receiving funding from the state for this program, the state supports precipitation enhancement, they have a document that reflects it, and it is a regional project with multiple agencies involved and are supportive in a collaborative approach. It is a multi-benefit that would improve water quality as well as water supply. Commissioner Hayes asked how can we be sure that it is a truly independent validation? Jeff Mosher noted that the idea of the independent validation was because this program requires independent information for the Commission to review. To understand the results, you need to see the data, and that will come out of the pilot program. Desert Research Institute are well known in this industry of evaluating atmospheric weather, climate change, and including cloud seeding. They are experts and they publish research. As a result, their reputation requires that they be independent. Commissioner Hayes noted that Valley District will be having their Water Resources Workshop at 2:00 p.m. where there will be a presentation on some of the studies on Weather Modification.

Vice Chair Whitaker and Commissioner Rowe commended Mark Norton for the informative and thorough report, and noted they remain highly supportive of starting this pilot program in November 2022. Wayne Miller of Yorba Linda Water District noted 70% of the costs are ground seeding and operation. Is the plan to have all four years funded at once, or is it a fixed cost? Mark Norton noted that the structure is based on a four-year program based on the recommendation of the consultant. The feasibility study suggested a three-to-five-year program to allow accounting for fluctuations in seasonal rainfall and conditions. Commissioner Gardner noted that he would like to see this program move forward this year, the only question he has is if any of our member agencies have taken this to their Board and if so, will they commit? Commissioner Gardner anticipates taking this item to his respective Board to further discuss and seek their input. Commissioner Slawson noted he is confident that this will be a successful project, and this item was presented to his Board as an informational item and no concerns were raised. Commissioner Rowe noted that OCWD has Water Resources Development in their Policy and Cloud Seeding is a water resource and noted that his Board would participate in this program.

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

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

A. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no Chair comments.

B. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no Commissioners' comments.

C. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Commissioners' request for future Agenda items.

Chair Marco Tule recessed the meeting at 10:47 a.m. for Closed Session.

8. CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: One case.

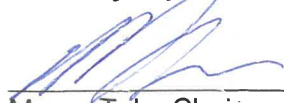
9. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Chair Marco Tule resumed Open Session at 11:15 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. 8.A.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Marco Tule adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, April 19, 2022.



Marco Tule, Chair

Attest:



Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board