



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 19, 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  
T. Milford Harrison, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

June D. Hayes, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

Kelly Rowe, Orange County Water District

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, Edina Goode, Ian Achimore, Rick Whetsel, Marie Jauregui, Sara Villa, Haley Mullay, Alison Lewis, Dean Unger, John Leete

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Cathy Pieroni, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Michael Markus, Orange County Water District; Kevin O'Toole, Orange County Water District; Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District; Paul Kielhold, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Ryan Shaw, Western Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District; Toyasha Sebbag, Chino Basin Water Conservation District; Malcolm McLaren, EcoTech Services, Inc.; Aaron Echols, Inland Empire Resource Conservation District; Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

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: JUNE 21, 2022

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

### B. TREASURER'S REPORT: MAY 2022

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

### C. RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF REMOTE COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (CM#2022.37)

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2022-13 Proclaiming A State of Emergency Persists, Re-Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Gavin Newsom, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of all Commission and Committee meetings of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority for the period of July 23, 2022 to August 22, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act Provisions.

### D. APPROVAL OF SALARY SCHEDULES (CM#2022.47)

Recommendation: Approve the salary schedule for FY 2023 as required by CalPERS.

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

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

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### A. CITY OF RIVERSIDE EASTSIDE CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE WATER ENERGY COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK PROJECT (WECAN) TURF REMOVAL / DROUGHT-TOLERANT LANDSCAPING PROJECT (CM#2022.48)

Rick Whetsel provided a presentation on the Water-Energy Community Action Network (WECAN) Landscaping Project, contained in the agenda packet on pages 35-46. The WECAN Program is to replace up to 100,000 square feet of turf grass with drought tolerant landscaping in Riverside's Eastside neighborhood. It is available at no cost to residential homeowners who meet income eligibility requirements. The strategic goals implemented through WECAN is to conserve water, reduce turf grass, and install drought tolerant landscaping and help increase biodiversity.

In December 2021, the SAWPA Commission authorized staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit competitive proposals from licensed landscaping firms to implement Turf Removal / Drought-Tolerant Landscaping Services (Project) within the City of Riverside Eastside Climate Collaborative Program area. SAWPA received one (1) proposal in response to the RFP from EcoTech Services, Inc. SAWPA staff conducted an interview with EcoTech staff to review their scope of work and cost estimate to assure they had a clear understanding and had appropriately budgeted the project. Additionally, SAWPA staff conducted phone interviews with SAWPA member agency and other agency staff familiar with EcoTech to verify the contractor's qualifications, experience, and past work performance. SAWPA staff is confident in the recommendation to proceed with a Task Order and Agreement with EcoTech Services for the City of Riverside Eastside Climate Collaborative WECAN Turf Removal / Drought-Tolerant Landscaping Project.

There was a brief discussion on the post project inspection. Malcolm McLaren of EcoTech Services noted that they will conduct a one-month and three-month project site visits/surveys including photo documentation.

**MOVED,** Authorize the General Manager to execute the following:

1. General Services Agreement with EcoTech Services, Inc.; and,
2. Task Order No. ECOT397-04 with EcoTech Services, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$567,150, to oversee and implement the City of Riverside Eastside Climate Collaborative WECAN Turf Removal / Drought-Tolerant Landscaping Project.

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

**B. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM OPERATIONS CONSULTANT (CM#2022.49)**

Mark Norton provided a presentation on the Santa Ana Weather Modification Pilot Program Operations Consultant, contained in the agenda packet on pages 95-107. On June 7, 2022, the SAWPA Commission authorized staff to proceed with the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operations consultant of the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Project. The project is a four-year project (November 15 to April 15 of 2022-2026). The proposed work is based on past work prepared by the North American Weather Consultants feasibility study, ground seeding site analysis, CEQA, and concurrent validation and stormwater capture analysis. The focus of the pilot will be on seeding the four mountain ranges or target areas surrounding the watershed with an emphasis on increasing snow precipitation. SAWPA staff was directed to pursue grant funding for the project and prepared a watershed wide SAWPA project application for DWR Proposition 1 Round 2 seeking 50% grant funding for a multi-year pilot project. Local agency funding was also sought from water agencies across the watershed amounting to \$94,000 in funding commitments.

One (1) proposal was received from North American Weather Consultants, and based on SAWPA staff's evaluation of the proposal, North American Weather Consultants' proposal was considered responsive to the project needs. The estimated four-year proposed cost for the work is \$1,061,912. Since funding for the pilot project operations, validation and stormwater increase capture analysis were not included in the FYE 22-23 Budget, the SAWPA staff proposes that SAWPA member agencies and local water agencies cover half of the 1st year of the four-year project with the other half funded by SAWPA General Fund 100 through the Inter-Fund Loan Policy, until it can be reimbursed from a future DWR IRWM Grant. These costs include the first-year costs for SAWPA contract administration (estimated \$50,000), and the DRI validation work (estimated \$50,000) with some contingency (approximately \$5,300). The following table shows the projected annual costs based on the implementation of the project and the approximate SAWPA member agency funding amounts, local water agency funding amounts and grant funding amounts. All grant funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis and will be billed on a quarterly basis to the DWR.

Year	Estimated Annual Cost (inclusive of 1. Operations, 2. Validation, 3. Surface Water Analysis, and 4. SAWPA Admin)	50% DWR Grant (and use of SAWPA Fund 100 General Fund)	Local Water Agency Share (for 50% Local Cost Share)	Total for SAWPA Member Agencies (for 50% Local Cost Share)	Cost per SAWPA Member Agency (for 50% Local Cost Share)
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$403,000	\$201,500	\$61,000	\$140,500	\$28,100
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$466,000	\$233,000	\$11,000	\$222,000	\$44,400
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$339,000	\$169,500	\$11,000	\$158,500	\$31,700
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$362,000	\$181,000	\$11,000	\$170,000	\$34,000
Total	\$1,570,000	\$785,000	\$94,000	\$691,000	

Commissioner Rowe noted that he supports this program and informed the SAWPA Commission that OCWD's staff has four (4) documents from the 1950's produced on behalf of the Santa Ana River Weather Corporation. There was experimenting done with cloud seeding from the Santa Ana Watershed all the way down to the Mexican border, and the findings were about 15-20% increase in rainfall. The documents will be posted on OCWD's website.

**MOVED**, to authorize the following:

1. Approve General Services Agreement and Task Order No. NAWC370-03 with North American Weather Consultants, Inc. (NAWC) for an amount not to exceed \$1,061,912 for the four-year Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Project Operations services.
2. Approve funding for SAWPA's share of the 1st year of the weather modification pilot project, \$140,500, by invoicing each SAWPA member agency, \$28,100 per agency. This funding reflects SAWPA's share of the 1st year of NAWC costs, pilot validation consultant costs, and SAWPA administration costs and contingency.
3. Approve funding, \$201,500, for 50% of the 1st year of the weather modification pilot project (covering NAWC, pilot validation, SAWPA administration, contingency costs) from the SAWPA Fund 100 General Fund reserves, per the Inter-Fund/Inter-Project Loan Policy. Those funds will be reimbursed by a future DWR IRWM Grant.

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

**C. INLAND EMPIRE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT TASK ORDER APPROVAL (CM#2022.50)**

Ian Achimore provided a presentation on the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District Task Order Approval, contained in the agenda packet on pages 159-169. Per the June 7, 2022, Commission meeting, SAWPA staff is recommending approval of Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) General Services Agreement and Task Order IERCD387-01 to remove *Arundo donax* in the Santa Ana River Watershed's headwaters. The \$147,777.07 task order would be funded solely through the proceeds of the sale of mitigation

credits from the Santa Ana River Mitigation Bank. Revenue from the mitigation bank is kept in a separate interest bearing SAWPA fund – the Arundo Management & Habitat Restoration Fund. The fund's current balance is approximately \$864,000. The total length of the schedule is five (5) years. The first two years would include IERCD acquiring access to parcels, as many of these acres are owned by private landowners or other public agencies, and initial removal with handheld mechanical equipment. The last three years of the schedule would include semi-annual retreatment of any Arundo re-growth using EPA-approved herbicides (Glyphosate and Imazapyr). Brooke Jones of Yorba Linda Water District asked if the herbicides used would pollute the water that comes down the Santa Ana River. Ian Achimore noted that under the contract with IERCD the field technician plan states that the herbicides used are EPA approved and will be directly plant sprayed, not sprayed in the waterways.

**MOVED**, to approve Task Order IERCD387-01 and the associated General Services Agreement with Inland Empire Resource Conservation District in the amount of \$147,777.07 for the Arundo Donax Removal in the Santa Ana River Basin Headwaters Project.

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

**D. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED STORMWATER ASSESSMENT OPPORTUNITY (CM#2022.51)**

Jeff Mosher and Ian Achimore provided a presentation on the Santa Ana River Watershed Stormwater Assessment Opportunity, contained in the agenda packet on pages 203-233. Jeff Mosher provided a brief background of SAWPA's role in the watershed, and the future of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning in terms of grant funding and watershed planning.

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) approached SAWPA in January 2022 to submit a Water Management Options Pilot (Pilot) proposal under their Fiscal Year 2022 Basin Study program by their deadline of September 7, 2022. The purpose of the Basin Study program is for the Reclamation to provide in-house staff time and expertise to local agencies to evaluate water supply and demand imbalances as well as solutions. The assessment is to conduct a regional review of potential stormwater capture and use for water supply and other beneficial uses. Specific goals would be to provide information to water districts and City water departments for stormwater capture projects that provide the following:

- Augment groundwater supplies for potable use, including through decentralized and integrated approaches
- Divert dry-weather flows to Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs)
- Control discharge of stormwater to WWTPs for indirect potable reuse, or recycled water use

Stormwater capture projects can provide multi-benefits that could be considered in the assessment of alternatives and projects. These can include:

- Water supply
- Reduce reliance on imported water

- Water quality improvements (e.g., through reduced runoff)
- Flood management
- Increased climate resiliency for the region
- Habitat
- Community enhancements such as open space and recreational areas, including disadvantaged communities
- Future grant projects

The types of successful projects socialized with stormwater capture in the watershed that provided a huge benefit in terms of augmenting our groundwater basins are OCWD's Network of Recharge Basins, SBVWCD Recharge Facilities, and CBWCD Percolation Basin. Other areas that the State is looking at as an example of an infiltration chambers project in Los Angeles is the Franklin D. Roosevelt Park Regional Stormwater Capture Project. The park improvements will protect the water quality of local rivers and streams, increase the local water supply, and enhance park amenities. Other examples are the Drywell System for flood protection to provide enhancement of groundwater supply, and Dry Weather Flow diversion to publicly owned treatment works (POTW)s for recycled water.

The proposed study focuses on the stormwater capture in the Santa Ana River Watershed, and the purpose is to provide a regional analysis of potential stormwater capture and use of projects for water supply and other beneficial uses. The assessment report would cover potential stormwater capture through modeling and assessing the existing conditions, defining the alternatives that could be done, the opportunities as well as the constraints on implementing storm water projects, and looking at the regulatory environment. Jeff Mosher noted that after discussing with the member agency staff on the proposed study, the feedback received was to ensure it builds upon existing stormwater and water supply planning efforts. Additional feedback received is to use metrics in assessing potential projects, assemble information on planned projects, to involve other participants such as flood control districts, to be aware of when stormwater is lost to the ocean, to be cognizant of the multiple benefits from stormwater capture projects such as water quality, and that the final report includes an executive summary that provides a narrative to highlight current and future projects in the watershed.

Commissioner Gardner expressed concerns on the costs and operations of implementing dry wells to existing streets. It could work for new development, but it could be too expensive and there would be more trouble than there is benefit to implement dry wells to existing streets. He asked how this benefits the member agencies; water districts serve everyone. Commissioner Gardner noted that if a study would be conducted there would need to be value to SAWPA member agencies. Commissioner Harrison concurred with Commissioner Gardner's concerns and noted that San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District has the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that involves a lot of our agencies and is already doing a lot on stormwater capture and use assessment and is concerned on overlapping and duplicating the work. Chair Tule noted that he also has concerns due to the significant cost associated with taking on projects that disturb existing infrastructure, and it raises the question of the MS4 and to whom the water will belong. Commissioner Slawson said that it would definitely be something to assess and know the exact location, whether it has to be within public streets and if there is conflict with our utilities and/or flood control districts.

Ian Achimore continued the presentation and provided the logistics of the Water Management Options Pilot Program. The initial budget estimate for the total cost of the pilot is \$750,000, and the Reclamation will match 50% of what the local partner (SAWPA) provides. The focus

of the assessment is to prioritize stormwater capture efforts that provide augment groundwater supplies for potable use, divert dry-weather flows to WWTPs, and control discharge of stormwater to WWTPs for indirect potable reuse or recycled water use. It is anticipated to be a two-year study (March 2023-2025) with the final assessment document completed by March 2025. The next steps are to receive SAWPA Commission feedback and prepare a proposed scope of work and review with member agency planning staff. On August 9, the scope will be reviewed with the General Managers and the application for Reclamation will be prepared based on the member agencies input. On August 16, a final recommendation will be presented to the SAWPA Commission for submission of the assessment, with final submittal of the application by September 7, 2022.

Michael Markus informed the Commission that there was significant discussion amongst the General Managers regarding this item and the same concerns were expressed with regards to the value of the study, the cost of the study, and the scope of the study. SAWPA staff has to ensure that all the tasks/activities can fit within the budget, and it is important to coordinate with the Reclamation to make sure that the scope fits within the Reclamation's budget as well. The study could be used to help support future projects that all member agencies are doing, and if we have a watershed wide stormwater report, we could then be able to effectively use that to help obtain grant funding in the future, and in order to achieve that goal the scope has to be very clear and tailored. SAWPA staff should also reach out to the flood control agencies to see if they are willing to contribute financially to the study which would help defer the overall cost of the member agencies. Commissioner Rowe agreed with Michael Markus' comments and noted that the scope does need to be fleshed out and be more specific. Ian Achimore noted that they would come back and address the comments/concerns received.

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

## **7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

### **A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – MAY 2022**

### **B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – MAY 2022 (CM#2022.52)**

### **C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – MAY 2022 (CM#2022.53)**

### **D. PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, MAY 2022**

### **E. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT MAY 2022**

### **F. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 2022**

### **G. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Jeff Mosher congratulated EMWD on the Perris II Desalter Facility completion and announced that the OWOW Steering Committee is scheduled July 28.

### **H. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

There were no Chair comments.

**J. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioners' comments.

**K. 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, Chair Marco Tule adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, August 16, 2022.**

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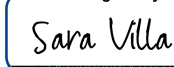


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Marco Tule, Chair

Attest:

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board