



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

OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2022

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>	
Katrina Foley, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Absent
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Board of Supervisors	Present
Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Absent
<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, Kelly Rowe
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Jeff Mosher, Mark Norton, Ian Achimore, Rick Whetsel, Karen Williams, Edina Goode, Pete Vitt, 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 AB 361, this meeting was conducted virtually, and all votes were taken by oral roll call.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments; there were no public comments received via email.

3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

MOVED, approve the September 23, 2021 meeting minutes.

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

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program Status Report (SC#2022.1)**

Jeff Mosher indicated that the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Program was authorized by the SAWPA Commission as a Program that would optimize local water supply. It is a watershed wide SAWPA project that includes its five member agencies. A feasibility study was preformed and is now in the process of coordinating a Pilot Project. He added that the Program is currently receiving a lot of interest from the public; Committee members' awareness of this Program is useful, as the topic may present itself in other venues.

Mark Norton provided a presentation on the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program (Pilot Program) contained in the agenda packet on pages 11-27.

Staff is working on a future grant 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. Efforts continue to conduct outreach and prepare outreach material associated with the pilot weather modification program for the watershed. An offer to provide an informational presentation by SAWPA staff, answer questions and seek funding support has been made to over 60 agencies in the watershed. Tribal nations within the watershed have also been contacted, some of which have been very supportive.

Committee member Hoffman asked if the Flood Control Districts have been involved in the process and what are their thought regarding retention of excess water. Mr. Norton stated that there were Flood Control District representatives in the Technical Advisory Committee during the feasibility study and they have since then been contacted during the Pilot Program phase. They have advised SAWPA of areas that should not be included in the Pilot Program as they do not have proper stormwater infrastructure or areas that have had recent wildfires where a full regrowth should take place before seeding. He added that the Flood Control Districts are cautiously optimistic and are willing to remain partners but remain neutral.



Committee member Robertson asked which counties will be included in Pilot Program. Mr. Norton stated that Riverside County, Orange County, San Bernardino, and a small area in the northwestern part of the watershed which is considered Los Angeles County. She indicated her support in having Mr. Norton provide a presentation to the Energy and Environmental Committee at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.A.

B. Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program: 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program (SC#2022.2)

Rick Whetsel provided a presentation on the Disadvantage Communities Involvement Program: 2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drouth Relief Grant Program contained in the agenda packet on pages 33-40.

The 2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program provides at least \$190 million in drought relief funding projects. As an existing Grantee of the DACI Program, SAWPA is eligible for an award of up to \$5 million to fund eligible drought relief projects benefiting Underrepresented Communities or Tribes within the Santa Ana River Watershed. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the final Guidelines and the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) in October 2021.

To align with the goals of SAWPA's DCI program, Project Eligibility Requirements previously developed by the SAWPA DCI Program Technical Advisory Committee for rating and ranking Technical Assistance projects were employed as eligibility gates. Due to the tight deadlines established by DWR for grant awards, SAWPA staff has focused the request toward entities that were previously aided with Technical Assistance through the SAWPA DCI program to develop water projects aiding disadvantaged communities in the watershed. SAWPA released a Call for Project in December 22.

Committee member Whitaker asked what criteria does DWR use to demonstrate benefits to underrepresented communities? Mr. Whetsel stated that the PSP requests for two quantifiable benefits that provide water to communities that face the loss or contamination of their water supplies, to address immediate impacts on human health and safety, and to protect fish and wildlife resources.

Committee member Robertson clarified that agencies had the ability to submit their grant applications to SAWPA and directly to DWR to receive funds. Mr. Whetsel stated that agencies who applied to SAWPA's grant program were advised to also submit directly to DWR.

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.B.

C. Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Call for Projects Update (SC#2022.3)

Mark Norton provided a presentation on the Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Call for Projects Update contained in the agenda packet on pages 43-58.

The OWOW Call for Project was opened on January 13, 2022, as the draft IRWM Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) were released on December 10, 2021. An OWOW rating and ranking criteria have been previously approved by the OWOW Steering Committee and the SAWPA Commission. An updated staff



recommendation would be brought to both governing bodies if the draft PSP had major revisions that would impact the OWOW Call for Projects and the OWOW rating and ranking criteria. Mr. Norton described the minor changes found in the most recent PSPS draft. These minor changes have been incorporated into the Call for Projects application form. The Call for Projects is scheduled to close on March 25, 2022.

Committee member Hoffman asked how many projects have been submitted. Mr. Norton stated that there have been no submissions at this point.

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.C.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Committee member Spiegel stated that she has observed Committee member Hoffman informing the community of the grant opportunities discussed at the OWOW Steering Committee. She praised and thanked him for his efforts.

6. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 12:14 p.m.

APPROVED: September 22, 2022

Bruce Whitaker, Convener

Attest:

Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board