



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2023**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Bruce Whitaker, Chair, Orange County Water District
Mike Gardner, Vice Chair, Western Municipal Water District
Gil Botello, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

T. Milford Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer, San Bernardino Valley
Municipal Water District
Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

Kelly Rowe, Orange County Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Edina Goode, David Ruhl, Marie
Jauregui, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Zyanya Ramirez, Alison Lewis,
John Leete, Haley Gohari

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal
Water District; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency;
Mike Markus, Orange County Water District; Kevin O'Toole, Orange
County Water District; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley
Municipal Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water
District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Tom
Lindsey, Yorba Linda Water District; Jesse Armendarez, San
Bernardino County

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Bruce Whitaker on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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: FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: JANUARY 2023

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **FYE 2024 AND 2025 GENERAL FUND DRAFT BUDGET (CM#2023.16)**

Karen Williams provided a presentation titled FYE 2024 and 2025 General Fund Draft Budget, contained in the agenda packet on pages 19-47. On February 7, 2023, SAWPA staff presented the FYE 2024 and 2025 Goals and Objectives to the Commission for their review. On February 9, 2023, the first draft FYE 2024 and 2025 Budget was presented to member agencies' financial staff at the Budget Workshop. There were no comments or suggested changes from the member agencies' financial staff. As per the Budget Schedule, the Budget will be presented to the Commission in three meetings. The OWOW and Roundtable Budgets were presented on February 21, 2023, the General Fund Draft Budget will be presented today, and the Brine Line Fund Budget will be presented to the PA 24 Committee following this meeting.

Commissioner Gil Botello asked what the timeframe is for the weather modification pilot project. Ms. Williams noted that it is a four-year pilot project, and it is due to start November 2023 and go through 2027. Chair Bruce Whitaker asked what the 10% increase in labor and benefits are. Ms. Williams noted that 8% is towards the COLA and Merit, and the rest is for medical, benefits, and workers comp. The Commission commended Ms. Williams on the presentation and how well and comprehensive it was. Ms. Williams noted that the combined Comprehensive Budget will be presented for approval on April 4, 2023.

This item is to receive and file; no action was taken on agenda item no. 6.A.

7. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

A. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

Chair Bruce Whitaker noted that he appreciates to be back in-person and to have the opportunity to spend time with the fellow Commissioners and SAWPA staff and observe the nice changes that have occurred to the Board Room since he last attended in 2018. Mr. Whitaker noted that he attended the Urban Water Institute Conference in Palm Springs and there was great discussion on a statewide sense of coming together to start lobbying strongly for common sense reforms in our state government to try to ensure that we have the ability to sustain drought in the upcoming years.

B. **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioners' comments.

C. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Mike Gardner asked that there be some discussion on taking a position on Senate Bill 366. This is essentially the beginning of the implementation of the Solve the Water Crisis, and it would be beneficial to further discuss during the legislative update.

8. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Bruce Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

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Bruce Whitaker

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Bruce Whitaker, Chair

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Sara Villa

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board