



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2023**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Bruce Whitaker, Chair, Orange County Water District
Mike Gardner, Vice Chair, Western Municipal Water District
T. Milford Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer, San Bernardino Valley
Municipal Water District
David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District
Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

Gil Botello, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Kelly Rowe, Orange County Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Rachel Gray, Edina Goode, Marie
Jauregui, Dean Unger, Rick Whetsel, Ian Achimore, Sara Villa,
Zyanya Ramirez, John Leete

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal
Water District; Van Tran, Orange County Water District; Kevin
O'Toole, Orange County Water District; Craig Miller, Western
Municipal Water District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water
District; Tess Dunham, Kahn Soares & Conway; Rosalyn Prickett,
Rincon Consulting

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

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: MAY 16, 2023

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: APRIL 2023

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result: Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second: Hall/Gardner

Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Harrison, Slawson, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. REGULATORY SUPPORT FOR BASIN MONITORING PROGRAM TASK FORCE | MIDDLE SANTA ANA RIVER PATHOGEN TMDL TASK FORCE | EMERGING CONSTITUENTS PROGRAM TASK FORCE (CM#2023.33)

Rick Whetsel provided a presentation titled SAWPA Task Forces Regulatory Support contained in the agenda packet on pages 21-32. A brief overview of the scope of the regulatory support services was provided. The members of each of the respective Task Forces, Basin Monitoring Program Task Force, Emerging Constituents Program Task Force, and the Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL Task Force, unanimously recommend extending the agreement with Kahn Soares & Conway (KSC) for two additional years to provide the services of Tess Dunham to continue in her role as regulatory advisor. This recommendation is based upon her professional expertise and the progress made during her tenure in advancing the goals of each of these Task Forces. Ms. Tess Dunham thanked the Commission for the opportunity and noted that the benefit for the Task Force members and the Regional Board is taking the initiative of revising the Basin Plan to keep it up to date and to recognize the new science and technology and information we have which is a benefit to everyone. There was no discussion.

MOVED, to authorize the General Manager to execute the following:

1. General Services Agreement with Kahn Soares & Conway and SAWPA; and
2. Task Order KSC374-03 with Kahn Soares & Conway in the amount not to exceed \$133,000.00 for FY 2023-24 and for FY 2024-25, to provide strategic and regulatory support for the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force; and
3. Task Order KSC384-03 with Kahn Soares & Conway in the amount not to exceed \$148,500.00 for FY 2023-24 and for FY 2024-25, to provide strategic and regulatory support for the Middle Santa Ana River Pathogen TMDL Task Force; and
4. Task Order KSC392-03 with Kahn Soares & Conway in the amount not to exceed \$48,000.00 for FY 2023-24 and for FY 2024-25 to provide strategic and regulatory support for the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force.

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

B. COLA AND MERIT POOL INCREASES – FY 2023-24 (CM#2023.34)

Jeff Mosher provided a verbal report on the Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) and Merit Pool increases for FY 2023-24 and referenced the memo contained in the agenda packet on pages 53-56. The recommendation is a 4% Merit Pool and a 4.6% COLA increase. While some of the SAWPA member agencies are still in negotiations for their COLA and Merit increases for FY 2023-24, the chart below lists the information currently available from the Chief Financial Officers.

Member Agency	COLA	Merit
EMWD	8.9% Actual Dec'22	2.5% - 5%
IEUA	3% MOU	2.5% per step Increment
OCWD	2% MOU	3% Budgeted
SBVMWD	12.7% FY 2023 1.2% FY 2024	2.5% - 5%
WMWD	4% MOU	1% - 5%

To assess the COLA for FY 2023-2024 the following regional Consumer Price Indexes (CPI) were reviewed:

- Long Beach-Los Angeles-Anaheim index
- Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario index

The CPIs between January and April for the two indexes range from 3.52% to 7.33%, which reflects the current level of inflation. Based on the two indexes and reviewing member agency information, staff is recommending a 4.6% COLA increase, based on the lower end of the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Annual CPI range. The annual CPIs (calculated month over month) are as follows for 2023:

Index	Annual CPIs (All Items)	Months
Long Beach-Los Angeles-Anaheim	3.52% - 5.46%	Jan-Mar
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario	4.57% - 7.33%	Jan and Mar

Commissioner David Slawson asked what the COLA for the previous year was and what is the process for the employees that are maxed out under their pay scale. Mr. Mosher noted that the COLA was at 5% and if an employee is capped out, they look at the performance review and move them to a different position or provide a one-time bonus. It was asked when the last time a position analysis was done. Ms. Williams noted that it has been a couple of years since the last Classification and Compensation Study was done. Commissioner Jasmin Hall suggested that SAWPA investigate doing a Classification and Compensation Study to look at the different job classifications and compare them to the market range. Other agencies would benefit as well and suggests that it is time to start looking at the positions and where they fall within the market so that we do not lose talent with good, qualified people due to old salary ranges that are being used.

MOVED, to approve a 4% merit pool and a 4.6% COLA increase for FY 2023-24.

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

C. INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM REGIONAL RESILIENCE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM (CM#2023.35)

Rachel Gray provided a presentation titled Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) contained in the agenda packet on pages 61-79. The ICARP RRGF has over multiple funding rounds, the RRGF will invest \$125 million into regions advancing resilience and responding to their regions' greatest climate risks through three major activities: capacity building, planning (including identifying climate resilience priorities), and project implementation. The grant opportunity is available through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. The first grant cycle will invest \$21.3 million. At least \$12.5 million of that total will be for regions planning for climate adaptation and developing action plans that prioritize projects or actions addressing the greatest climate risks facing a region, particularly in the most vulnerable communities. Grants will be made available both competitively and on a formula basis.

The goals of the RRGF are to help fill regional planning needs, provide communities with resources to identify climate resilience priorities, and help implement climate-resilient projects across the state. Additionally, the RRGF aims to advance ICARP's statutory mission to develop a cohesive, equitable, and integrated response to the impacts of climate change through direct funding support for local, regional, and tribal adaptation planning across California. ICARP's RRGF has the following objectives:

- Support regional projects aligned with ICARP priorities that improve regional climate resilience and reduce climate risks from wildfire, sea level rise, drought, flood, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events.
- Support projects or actions that address the greatest climate risks in the region, particularly in the most vulnerable communities.
- Fill the gaps in climate resilience funding and support sustainable and cohesive climate resilient projects with regional collaboration.
- Support equitable outcomes.

The final RRGF Solicitation guidelines are anticipated to be released June 13, with a recommendation in July to Commission for approval on submitting a proposal under RRGF to develop CARP and request \$650,000 (no match required). There have been discussions with several agencies on the benefits of how this plan can be beneficial to everyone.

Commissioner David Slawson noted that it is something to endeavor, and the process is informative, and he fully supports moving on. Commissioner Gardner noted that this is the direction the state is going, and it is good to put ourselves in the position to help better shape the program.

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

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

A. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

There were no General Manager's comments received.

B. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no Chair's comments received.

C. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no Commissioners' comments received.

D. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Jasmin Hall requested that a Classification and Compensation Study be revisited soon.

8. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Bruce Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, June 20, 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