



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 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

David Ruhl, Dean Unger, Edina Goode, Jeff Mosher, John Leete,
Karen Williams, Marie Jauregui, Melissa Bustamonte, Zyanya
Ramirez

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors;
Cathy Pieroni, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Craig Miller, Western
Municipal Water District; Kevin O'Toole, Orange County Water
District; Mallory O'Connor, Western Municipal Water District; Michael
Boccardo, West Coast Advisors; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal
Water District; Robert Ennis, City of Riverside; Tom Lindsey, Yorba
Linda Water District.

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: SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE RESERVE FUNDS REVIEW (CM#2023.56)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Set target limit for R-01 Brine Line Operating Reserves to \$2,179,659 for FYE 2024 and transfer the amount over target of \$141,358 to R-07 Pipeline Replacement and Capital Investment, and
2. Keep the current balances at 06/30/2023 and continue to accrue interest for the following reserves:
 - a. R-02 Brine Line Debt Service
 - b. R-04 Pipeline Capacity Management
 - c. R-05 OC Future Treatment & Disposal Capacity

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

6. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Michael Boccadoro, of West Coast Advisors, provided a presentation on the Sacramento Update. He reported on the current conditions of California's major water supply reservoirs and stated that they were all at capacity or above average.

Beth Olhasso, of West Coast Advisors, continued the presentation and noted that the Senate considered 1,000 bills and are scheduled to be signed by the Governor before October 14. She indicated there was huge focus on climate, water, and labor issues in California. She then provided a brief overview of the following bills:

- Water Supply
 - SB 366 (Caballero) CA Water Plan: long-term supply targets
- PFAS
 - AB 246 (Papan) – PFAS in menstrual products
 - AB 1423 (Shiavo) – Product Safety – PFAS
 - AB 727 (Weber) – CASA bill – Product Safety cleaning products
- Non-Functional Turf
 - AB 1572 (Friedman): non-functional turf; potable water
- Water Rights
 - AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan)
 - AB 1337 (Wicks)
 - SB 389 (Allen)

Ms. Olhasso highlighted ACA 13 which requires constitutional amendments that change voter threshold. The FYE 2023-24 Budget included \$25M for ICARP Regional Resilience Grant Program to support regional climate resilience planning and implementation – including drought impacts. Jeff Mosher confirmed that SAWPA submitted a grant application for this program and indicated that if SAWPA is not awarded, the member agencies are still able to apply for funds.

Ms. Olhasso introduced the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) as a low-cost financing to communities for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. It was noted that the current budget allocation for SRF stands at \$1.3 billion. However, it was emphasized that this

amount is not substantial for the implementation of planned projects. Due to budget constraints and limitations, there will be no loan program offered through the Clean Water State SRF for the fiscal year 2025-26. Mr. Mosher indicated that SAWPA is currently utilizing two SRF loans for projects related to the Inland Empire Brine Line (Brine Line). SAWPA will closely track developments within the SRF to assess its availability for upcoming Brine Line projects.

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE (CM#2023.57)

Rachel Gray provided a presentation titled Santa Ana River Weather Modification Pilot Program Status Update, contained in the agenda packet on pages 39-61.

SAWPA contracted with the North American Weather Consultants Inc. to conduct the SAWPA Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot operations. The pilot project is being funded by Proposition 1 - Round 2 Grant, SAWPA member agencies, and local funding partners. The pilot project is a four-year project spanning the four winter seasons starting in 2023 and running between November 15 and April 15 for each season.

Ms. Gray stated that site access agreements have been secured with eleven (11) project sponsors to locate the fifteen (15) ground-based cloud seeding units. A schedule for final biological survey, site improvements, equipment installation, and operator training has been developed. An Operations Plan documenting project communication, operational criteria for cloud seeding, and suspension criteria for the program was developed. A SAWPA Communications Plan documenting communications with funding partners, stakeholders, and the public, is being prepared and will include outreach and communication materials. The pilot project is set to begin on November 15, 2023.

SAWPA contracted Desert Research Institute and Frank McDonough, Associate Research Scientist, as validation consultants. They will verify the deposition of silver iodide and increases in precipitation and stream flows, evaluate increases by target areas in watershed, and will review the operations and suspension criteria.

Commissioner Hall raised a question regarding the choice made by SAWPA between Cloud Seeding ground-based units and aircraft for the distribution of iodine. Commissioner Hall inquired if this decision was driven by cost-effectiveness. Mr. Mosher explained that the preference for ground-based cloud seeding was primarily based on cost-effectiveness. He further elaborated that the industry is shifting towards ground-based cloud seeding methods. The unique topography of the watershed in our region makes it particularly suitable for ground-based cloud seeding. He noted that this approach allows for the silver iodide particles to disperse more effectively into the clouds, thereby supporting the effectiveness of the cloud seeding operation.

A question seeking clarification about the validation process was raised. Mr. Mosher outlined one of the methods used, which involves analyzing the snow before and after the distribution of silver iodide to assess the effectiveness of the weather modification efforts. This analysis helps determine whether silver iodide is present in the snowpack, serving as an indicator of targeting the right areas in the upper mountain elevations.

Alternate Commissioner Kelly Rowe was asked to share his insights on this topic. Mr. Rowe, who initiated the development of the Weather Modification Pilot Program a decade ago and had conducted extensive research on the subject, provided his perspective. He stated that

based on his research and understanding, he had no concerns or reservations regarding the development of the program and proposed validation methods. He voiced his full support for the Weather Modification Pilot project.

Commissioner Hall asked about SAWPA's ability to mitigate potential floods and raised questions regarding public perception, particularly the possibility of the public attributing floods to the Weather Modification Pilot. Ms. Gray clarified that within the Operations Plan, specific criteria are outlined that dictate when SAWPA must suspend operations in the event of a large storm. This precaution is designed to prevent any increase in rainfall that could contribute of flooding. She added that SAWPA is collaborating with local flood control districts to monitor and assess areas susceptible to debris flows from wildfire impacted areas and other potential concerns. Regarding public communications, she highlighted SAWPA's communication plan, which ensures continuous and transparent interaction with stakeholders and the public.

This item is to receive and file; no action was taken on agenda item no. 7.A.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – JULY 2023

B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – JULY 2023 (CM#2023.58)

C. PERFORMANGE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – JULY 2023 (CM#2023.59)

D. OWOW QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2023

E. ROUNDTABLES QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2023

F. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Jeff Mosher informed the Commission that he spoke at Chapman University's seminar on Climate Change and Extreme Weather. He also noted that he was at CASQA conference in San Diego and was part of the "Water Supplier's Perspectives on Urban Stormwater Capture and Use" panel. He added that Rachel Gray moderated a panel discussion alongside our member agencies at the 2023 California Adaption Forum.

The Commission thanked him for the report and requested to be informed ahead of time of future SAWPA engagements so that they can have the opportunity to attend.

G. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

H. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no Chair's comments received.

I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no Commissioners' comments received.

J. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

9. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Bruce Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

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Bruce Whitaker

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Bruce Whitaker, Chair

Attest:

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Sara Villa

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board