



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

OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2023

Committee Members	
<u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u>	
Brenda Dennstedt, Convener, Western Municipal Water District	Present
T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District	Present
<u>County Supervisor Representatives</u>	
Vicente Sarmiento, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Absent
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Board of Supervisors	Present
Jesse Armendarez, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Absent
<u>County Municipal Representatives</u>	
Deborah Robertson, Mayor, City of Rialto	Present
Wes Speake, Councilmember, City of Corona	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	Present
<u>Regional Water Quality Control Board Representative</u>	
William Ruh, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Present
Others Present	
<u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u>	Bruce Whitaker, Kelly Rowe
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Edina Goode, Ian Achimore, Jeff Mosher, John Leete, Marie Jauregui, Pete Vitt, Rachel Gray, Sara Villa, Zyanya Ramirez
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof LLP, Christy Suppes, Orange County Public Works, June Hayes, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Lisa Haney, Orange County Water District, Mallory O'Connor, Western Municipal Water District, Manuel Escamilla, County of Orange, Thomas Crowley, City of Rialto, Toyasha Sebbag, City of Rialto.

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Brenda Dennstedt, Convener, at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503.



1. **CALL TO ORDER | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

4. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 26, 2023**

Committee Member Dennstedt called for one motion for approval of both the November 17, 2022, and January 26, 2023 meeting minutes. With legal counsel's approval, Committee Member Harrison moved to modify the motion and was seconded by Committee Member Speake.

MOVED, approve the November 17, 2022, and January 26, 2023, meeting minutes.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Milford/Speake
Ayes:	Brown, Dennstedt, Harrison, Hessler, Robertson, Ruh, Spiegel, Speake
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Armendarez, Dunlap, Sarmiento

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **RECOGNIZE VICENTE SARMIENTO, JESSE ARMENDAREZ, AND WES SPEAKE TO THE OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE (SC#2023.4)**

Rachel Gray announced the appointment of Vicente Sarmiento, Jesse Armendarez, and Wes Speake. Committee Member Speake thanked the Committee and SAWPA staff.

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.A.

B. **INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY PROGRAM REGIONAL RESILIENCE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM (SC#2023.5)**

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 19-34.

The ICARP RRGp aims to invest \$9.4 million in its first grant cycle for regions engaged in climate adaptation planning and action plans targeting the most significant climate risks, especially in vulnerable communities. The grant will be awarded competitively and through a formula basis, with future rounds of funding available for project implementation. Its primary objectives include supporting regional planning, assisting communities in identifying climate resilience priorities, and facilitating the execution of climate-resilient projects statewide.

SAWPA's strategy focuses on aligning with state priorities, such as addressing climate change vulnerabilities and enhancing equitable outcomes, to access future funding opportunities. The approach involves identifying climate risks like drought, extreme heat, flooding, sea level rise, and wildfires and developing adaptation strategies for a more resilient watershed. SAWPA plans to leverage its expertise in integrated watershed management to define watershed-scale climate risks, create climate adaptation strategies, and establish resiliency projects while fostering partnerships across the



region. The goal is to develop a Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, supported by funding from ICARP RRG, to address climate change risks in the Santa Ana River Watershed. This plan will improve funding competitiveness, enhance watershed resilience, promote multi-beneficial projects, and emphasize equitable outcomes, benefiting various stakeholders and securing funding for future resilience projects.

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.B.

C. RIVERSIDE COUNTY STORMWATER RESOURCE PLAN CALL FOR PROJECTS (SC#2023.6)

Ian Achimore provided a presentation titled Update on Riverside County Stormwater Resource Plan Call for Projects, contained in the agenda packet on pages 105-114.

Senate Bill 985, passed in 2014, mandates the development of a local stormwater resource plan (SWRP) to access grants for stormwater and dry weather runoff capture projects. Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD) is exploring grant funding and has opened a "Call for Projects" for water agencies to submit project concepts. There may be funding available pending legislative and voter approval. The Feasibility Study aims to identify suitable locations for stormwater recharge for water supply benefits, primarily in areas with minimal water quality concerns. The next steps involve submitting concepts to the RCFC&WCD by August 3, 2023, and potential coordination for grant applications with other agencies in the Santa Ana River Watershed.

Committee Member Ruh inquired about whether Quail Valley would be included in the ongoing projects of the Riverside County SWRP and emphasized the urgency of providing assistance to the area. Mr. Achimore clarified that, as of now, the Eastern Municipal Water District has not included the area in their current projects but assured that they would follow up on the matter.

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.C.

D. PROPOSITION 1 STATUS UPDATE

Marie Jauregui provided a presentation titled Proposition 1 Status Update, contained in the agenda packet on pages 115-137. She presented the updates by showcasing slides featuring project names, brief descriptions, and their respective progress status.

Regarding Proposition 1 Round 2, the grant award acceptance letter was sent to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on June 1, 2023, and SAWPA is currently awaiting grant agreements from DWR.

Mr. Mosher mentioned that Proposition 1, Round 2, represents the final allocation of Integrated Regional Water Management funding from DWR. This doesn't necessarily imply that there won't be additional funding available through another bond in the future. SAWPA's focus has been on exploring ways to anticipate and secure future funding sources, as the funding landscape is evolving.

Committee Member Dennstedt emphasized the significance of the Santa Ana Zoo Stormwater Capture and Diversion Project within the City of Santa Ana. She pointed out that this project's high visibility to the general public provides a valuable opportunity to showcase the water community's efforts and convey the message to the public.

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.D.



6. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Mosher acknowledged that today's discussion has highlighted some of the key aspects SAWPA is actively pursuing. He expressed the importance of the OWOW Steering Committee input in assessing these matters as we gather further details, explore possibilities, and identify opportunities. The efforts are closely linked to the OWOW Program, and the OWOW Steering Committee will play a significant role in guiding and supporting these initiatives.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Committee Member Dennstedt proposed holding the next OWOW Steering Committee meeting in person. Mr. Mosher explained that, after consulting with legal counsel, it was determined that the OWOW Steering Committee meeting is not legally required to adhere to the Brown Act rules. To provide flexibility, SAWPA has established this meeting as a hybrid format. SAWPA acknowledges the benefit of occasional in-person meetings and intends to arrange one, especially with the addition of new committee members.

8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 11:47 a.m.

APPROVED: November 16, 2023

DocuSigned by:

Brenda Dennstedt

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Brenda Dennstedt, Convener

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Sara Villa

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board