



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 16, 2024**

**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  
Denis Bilodeau, Orange County Water District

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jeff Mosher, Edina Goode, Karen Williams, Rachel Gray, Melissa  
Bustamonte, Zyanya Ramirez, Sara Villa, Dean Unger, John Leete,  
Marie Jauregui

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District; Ken Tam, Inland  
Empire Utilities Agency; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities  
Agency; John Kennedy, Orange County Water District; Craig Miller,  
Western Municipal Water District; Mallory O'Connor, Western  
Municipal Water District; Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors

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. WELCOME NEW SAWPA COMMISSIONER**

Bruce Whitaker acknowledged the recent appointment of Denis Bilodeau as Alternate Commissioner of Orange County Water District.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**5. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED**

There were no items to be added or deleted.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: DECEMBER 19, 2023**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

**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

## **7. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **A. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Beth Olhasso of West Coast Advisors provided a presentation on the Sacramento Update. Regarding the Drought/Water Supply, it is very fortunate to have a lot of carryover storage in the reservoirs from the heavy precipitation of last year since it has been a slow start of the water year and not a lot of snowpack. Ms. Olhasso noted that it is the beginning of a two-year session and there are new members coming in after an election cycle. The following Committee Chair changes are referenced below:

- Water, Parks & Wildlife – Diane Pappan (Democrat – San Mateo)
- Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials – Eduardo Garcia (Democrat – Coachella)
- Natural Resources – Issac Bryan (Democrat – Culver City)
- Appropriations – Buffy Wicks (Democrat – Oakland)
- Budget – Jessie Gabriel (Democrat – Encino)

Ms. Olhasso highlighted a few items under the legislative update; all Bills that are in the second year of a two-year session.

- SB 366 (Caballero) CA Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets
- AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan) Water Rights
- AB 1337 (Wicks) Diversion or Curtailment
- Bonds AB 1567 (E. Garcia) & SB 867 (Allen) \$15B
- Newly Introduced SB 903 (Skinner) PFAS, CASA & NRDC to ban all non-essential uses of PFAS by 2034

The Legislative Budget proposal is \$291.5 billion, and the governor is predicting a \$38 billion deficit, though the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) states the budget deficit is \$68 billion. The governor's proposal is to take \$10.4 Billion from "Rainy Day Fund" and \$2.9 billion in cuts to Climate Programs and \$1.9 billion towards delays. Ms. Olhasso noted that specifically for SAWPA, \$88.4 million will be taken from Watershed Climate Resilience Programs, \$174.4 million from Recycled Water, and \$71.6 million from PFAS Support. The Urban Water Use Efficiency Regulations draft came out October 2023, and a meeting took place with the State Board to go over the regulations, the next draft is expected to be released February 2024.

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

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. COMMISSIONER COMPENSATION (CM#2024.1)**

Karen Williams provided a verbal update on Commissioner Compensation. The current per day of service compensation amount is \$250. In accordance with Resolution No. 2017-01, the compensation amount will automatically increase by 5% (from \$250 to \$260) effective January 2024. Alternatively, the Commission could adopt Resolution No. 2024-1 prohibiting

the automatic increase of 5% in the per day of service rate effective January 2024 and maintain the current rate of \$250.

No action was taken, allowing the per day of service rate to increase automatically from \$250 to \$260 effective January 2024.

**B. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MIKE R. MARKUS FOR HIS SERVICE (CM#2024.2)**

Jeff Mosher provided a verbal report commending Mike Markus, the Orange County Water District's (OCWD) General Manager for his 30-plus years of service within the watershed and region. Mr. Mosher provided a list of accomplishments and projects which have strengthened all the collaborative efforts between SAWPA and OCWD.

The Commission thanked Mr. Markus for his years of leadership, service, and professionalism, dedication, and wished him well as he begins his next chapter of retirement. Additionally, the member agency General Managers, Craig Miller, Shivaji Deshmukh, and Joe Mouawad commended Mr. Markus for all his efforts in all the years of collaborating with him. Commissioner Jasmin Hall recommended naming the OWOW Room in Mr. Markus' honor to the "Mike Markus Room." Mike Markus thanked the Commission and his colleagues and stated it has been an honor to work with SAWPA and the talented staff he has worked alongside during his career. Mr. Markus noted that John Kennedy, new appointed General Manager that has been with OCWD for 27 years will bring seamless as far OCWD's participation as well as Lisa Haney, OCWD's Executive Director of Planning and Natural Resources.

**MOVED**, to adopt Resolution 2024-2 to recognize Mike R. Markus for his contributions and service to SAWPA.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Whitaker/Unanimous (4)
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Harrison, Slawson, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

**9. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

**A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – NOVEMBER 2023**

**B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – NOVEMBER 2023 (CM#2024.3)**

**C. PERFORMANGE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – NOVEMBER 2023 (CM#2024.4)**

**D. PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, OCTOBER 2023**

**E. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, OCTOBER 2023**

**F. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Jeff Mosher informed the Commission that the Weather Modification Pilot Program is moving along, and a Press Release article was distributed providing more in-depth information. A Communications Report is anticipated to be included in the Commission Agenda packets.

**G. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

There were no comments/reports from the Chair.

**I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioner comments.

**J. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Commissioner requests for future agenda items.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Bruce Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, February 6, 2024.**

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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