



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 20, 2024**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Bruce Whitaker, Chair, Orange County Water District [9:50 a.m.]  
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 [9:47 a.m.]

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Mike Gardner, Vice Chair, Western Municipal Water District

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

Gil Botello, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
Denis Bilodeau, Orange County Water District

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Rachel Gray, Edina Goode, Rick  
Whetsel, Alison Lewis, Bonnie Gallagher, Sara Villa, Zyanya  
Ramirez, Melissa Bustamonte, Dean Unger, John Leete, Rachel  
Rowlee

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities  
Agency; John Kennedy, Orange County Water District; Lisa Haney,  
Orange County Water District; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley  
Municipal Water District; Mallory O'Connor, Western Municipal Water  
District; Ryan Shaw, Western Municipal Water District

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Secretary-Treasurer, T. Milford Harrison 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: FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

**B. MICROSOFT DYNAMICS GREAT PLAINS SUPPORT, MAINTENANCE, AND FINANCIAL  
SYSTEM REPLACEMENT STUDY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (CM#2024.7)**

**Recommendation:** Direct the General Manager to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains Support, Maintenance, and a Financial System Replacement Study.

**MOVED**, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

## 6. **NEW BUSINESS**

### A. **IRRIGATION REPLACEMENT AND LANDSCAPE REFRESH AWARD (CM#2024.8)**

David Ruhl provided a presentation on the SAWPA Building Irrigation Replacement and Landscape Refresh contained in the agenda packet on pages 39-46. On December 21, 2023, a Notice Inviting bids was issued for the Irrigation Replacement and Landscape Refresh Construction Project (Project). The project is to replace the irrigation system, refresh vegetation, and make minor improvements to the demonstration garden. A pre-bid meeting was held on January 10, 2024, and construction bids were received and opened on January 31, 2024. The estimated construction costs are \$190,203.00 and seven (7) bids were received as follows:

| <b><u>Bidder</u></b>               | <b><u>Amount</u></b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| David Ollis Landscape              | \$237,159.00         |
| Four Seasons Landscaping           | \$206,360.21         |
| Evolution Landscaping and Plumbing | \$244,712.25         |
| Mariposa Landscapes, Inc.          | \$207,966.25         |
| <b>FS Contractors, Inc.</b>        | <b>\$189,734.75</b>  |
| American Landscape                 | \$245,784.38         |
| Marina Landscape                   | \$206,487.34         |

SAWPA staff reviewed the four (4) lowest bids received and contacted their references. Based on the staff's analysis, FS Contractors submitted the lowest responsive, responsible bid, and is qualified to perform the work. SAWPA's staff recommendation is to authorize the General Manager to award a contract for public works construction to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, FS Contractors, Inc., for the Irrigation Replacement and Landscape Refresh Project (Project), in an amount not to exceed \$189,734.75; and approve \$240,000 from the Building Reserve Fund for construction and inspection support for the Project.

**MOVED**, That the Commission

1. Authorize the General Manager to award a contract for public works construction to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, FS Contractors, Inc., for the Irrigation Replacement and Landscape Refresh Project (Project), in an amount not to exceed \$189,734.75; and
2. Approve \$240,000 from the Building Reserve Fund for construction and inspection support for the Project.

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

**B. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE (CM#2024.9)**

Rachel Gray provided a presentation on the Santa Ana River Weather Modification Pilot Program (Pilot Program) Status Update contained in the agenda packet on pages 49-72. An overview was provided on the background of the Pilot Program. It is a four (4) year program with four (4) target areas of the mountains surrounding the watershed with an emphasis on increasing snow precipitation. There are fifteen (15) ground seeding unit locations (AHOG and CNG). There have been a few seeding events; November 17-18, December 21-22, December 29-30, January 3, January 20-22, and February 1. A brief overview was provided on the CNG Units that were turned on and the cumulative hours for each seeding event. Ms. Gray noted that there were three (3) separate occasions where the fire department were called due to residents thinking there was a fire at the SBMWD facility. The local fire department was notified about the Pilot Program and expressed doing additional signage in the area to help minimize future calls. It was noted that due to the conditions, cloud seeding is not being performed during the current storm.

Ms. Gray noted that an Operations Plan documenting project communication, operational criteria for cloud seeding, and suspension criteria for the program was developed. SAWPA is also coordinating the pilot project planning with Desert Research Institute (DRI) on the validation component of the pilot to verify deposition and measure elemental silver in snow before and after cloud seeding to verify increase in precipitation and stream flows.

A SAWPA Communications Plan documenting communication with SAWPA Member Agencies, local funding partners, stakeholders, and the public, was prepared and includes outreach and communication materials. A summary of the outreach efforts to raise awareness includes installation of Pilot Program signs at six (6) site unit locations, press release was distributed in January following the initial cloud seeding event, an email address has been established for public questions (to date, 22 responses answered and documented), and developed a cloud seeding event chart and is accessible on SAWPA's website.

Chair Bruce Whitaker attended the meeting at 9:50 a.m. during Agenda Item No. 6.B. and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

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

**7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

**A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – DECEMBER 2023****B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – DECEMBER 2023 (CM#2024.10)****C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – DECEMBER 2023 (CM#2024.11)****D. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT****E. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT****F. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

There were no comments/reports from the Chair.

**G. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioner comments.

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

There were no Commissioner requests for future agenda items.

**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, March 19, 2024.**

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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