



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 19, 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, Karen Williams, David Ruhl, Rachel Gray, Rick  
Whetsel, Ian Achimore, Marie Jauregui, Sara Villa, Zyanya Ramirez,  
Melissa Bustamonte, John Leete, Pete Vitt

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal  
Water District; John Kennedy, Orange County Water District; Mallory  
O'Connor, Western Municipal Water District; Craig Miller, Western  
Municipal Water District; Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda Water  
District; Tess Dunham, Kahn Soares & Conway; Nilo Hamidzada

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**

Jeff Mosher requested Agenda Item No. 6.C be removed from the agenda and deferring it to a future meeting due to it not being ready for consideration.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

**B. TREASURER'S REPORT: JANUARY 2024**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

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

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

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. BASIN MONITORING PROGRAM TASK FORCE AND THE DECLARATION OF CONFORMANCE WITH THE STATE'S RECYCLED WATER POLICY (CM#2024.12)**

Ian Achimore introduced Tess Dunham of Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP, and she provided a presentation on the Basin Monitoring Program (BMP) Task Force and the Declaration of Conformance with the State's Recycled Water Policy contained in the agenda packet on pages 19-37. SAWPA has served as the BMP Task Force administrator since August 2004. The Declaration of Conformance was drafted by Ms. Dunham with feedback and review done by the BMP Task Force members.

The purpose of the 2019 Recycled Water Policy (Policy) is to encourage the safe use of recycled water from wastewater sources in a manner that implements state and federal water quality laws and protects public health and the environment. The Policy also provides direction to regional water boards, proponents of recycled water projects, and the public on appropriate criteria that should be used by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and regional water boards when issuing permits for recycled water projects. The Declaration of Conformance is intended to demonstrate that the existing Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Santa Ana Region, and subsequent Basin Monitoring Task Force actions, collectively fulfill the requirements of the Policy.

Ms. Dunham referenced the slides and provided a brief description of each of the five (5) requirements to comply with the Santa Ana Region's TDS/N Management Plan with the 2019 Recycled Water Policy Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. A presentation was provided to the Regional Board on behalf of the BMP Task Force on March 15, 2024. The Commission commended Ms. Dunham for her presentation, and all her efforts in collaboration with the member agencies to push forward and continue to have recycled water.

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

### **B. INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY PROGRAM REGIONAL RESILIENCE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM (CM#2024.13)**

Rachel Gray provided a presentation on the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (RRGP) contained in the agenda packet on pages 41-50. SAWPA staff applied for grant funding from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program and was chosen to receive grant funding of \$644,190 to develop the Santa Ana River Watershed Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (Plan).

The Plan would advance multi-beneficial projects with a diverse range of stakeholders with a common goal to increase resilience in the watershed. The regional Plan would daylight the interconnectivity of individual and regional projects and demonstrate the upstream/downstream benefits while building on types of stakeholders engaged in the

plan development. The regional Plan would also consider affordability risks and underrepresented communities related to climate vulnerabilities and establish a clear connection between resilience initiatives and equitable outcomes. This effort would provide benefits to a wide array of stakeholders (member agencies, utilities, cities, communities) and provide a mechanism for future funding from a variety of funding sources for implementation of projects that advance watershed resilience.

The next steps are to adopt Resolution 2024-4 authorizing the General Manager, or designee to execute the funding agreement between SAWPA and OPR, release the issuance of Request for Proposals for a Consultant, Consultant proposal review and selection process, and the coordination of the Plan development. It was questioned if there is a match funding requirement from the member agencies. Ms. Gray noted there is no match funding requirement as part of this grant, it is all funding going to SAWPA.

**MOVED**, That the Commission adopt Resolution No. 2024-4 authorizing the General Manager, or designee:

1. The SAWPA General Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the funding agreement with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and any amendments thereto.
2. The SAWPA General Manager, or designee, will serve the function of Authorized Signatory, as shown in the attached Authorized Signatory Form.
3. The SAWPA must keep Authorized Signatory Forms up to date. SAWPA shall notify OPR in writing of any change in Authorized Signatory within seven (7) working days.

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

**C. SARCCUP PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES – CONSULTANT SUPPORT (CM#2024.14)**

Agenda Item No. 6.C was removed by staff from the agenda.

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

**E. PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JANUARY 2024**

**F. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, DECEMBER 2023**

**G. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JANUARY 2024**

**H. SECOND QUARTER FYE 2024 EXPENSE REPORT**

**I. BUDGET VS ACTUAL VARIANCE REPORT – FYE 2024 SECOND QUARTER – DECEMBER 31, 2023 (CM#2024.17)**

**J. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**K. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Jeff Mosher informed the Commission that the Administrative Services Manager, Edina Goode retired, and Karen Williams is the acting Manager. SAWPA staff are currently recruiting to fill the position.

The weather modification is proceeding, and we are getting a lot of inquiries through emails and phone calls. SAWPA's Communications Specialist, Melissa Bustamonte is responding within 24-48 hours. Commissioner Harrison suggested changing the name from weather modification to cloud seeding to avoid misleading people.

The OWOW Steering Committee is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> and an agenda will be distributed this week.

**L. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Jeff Mosher referenced the Communications Report contained in the agenda packet on pages 169-171. Staff is updating the Brine Line Marketing Plan, as well as new and improved outreach materials for the Inland Empire Brine Line.

**M. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

Chair Bruce Whitaker noted he attended the Urban Water Conference and was impressed by the excellent panel of branding and commends SAWPA for the new concepts.

**O. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Hall requested information on the following: the Santa Ana River clean-up, what is the effect and cost for displacing the people that are homeless and the impact its causing? Also, with all the big storms that have taken place how much stormwater has been captured and can that information be shared.

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

Commissioner Hall requested an update on the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) efforts.

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Bruce Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, April 2, 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