



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 2, 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  
Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency [9:45 a.m.]

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

David J. Slawson, Eastern 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, David Ruhl, Rachel Gray, Sara Villa, Zyanya Ramirez,  
Melissa Bustamonte, John Leete, Pete Vitt

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal  
Water District; Lisa Haney, Orange County Water District; Craig  
Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Doug Johnson, Ralph  
Andersen & Associates

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**

It was noted that there was one (1) public comment received via – email from a public citizen (Claire Miller) stating the following message:

*“We would like the cloud seeding project to be discussed. It is imperative this is voted on for our community’s health.*

*What a tragic mistake for our wonderful community to be the Guinea pigs for such a movement. Our family has already been experiencing negative health implications from this pilot program and we have started the process of looking to move out of the area.*

*Please, consider this a topic of discussion to hear what a majority of people are passionate about—healthy, natural living while protecting our families from government experiments.”*

Jeff Mosher suggested having a future agenda item to provide a summary of the cloud seeding operations for the past nine (9) months allowing a place for discussion.

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

There were no items to be added or deleted.

## 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

### A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 19, 2024

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

### B. TREASURER'S REPORT: FEBRUARY 2024

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

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

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

## 6. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA

### A. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Beth Olhasso of West Coast Advisors provided a presentation on the Sacramento Update. Regarding the snowpack water supply, it is normal, and the final manual snow survey is expected to be performed today. With regard to the Drought/Water Supply, all the reservoirs are full and are being managed to handle the snow melt that is coming through. Oroville's at 124% of normal which is 88% capacity. San Luis is at 84% capacity, and they are moving some water south to get into storage.

Ms. Olhasso referenced the Legislative Update – Bills slides and noted that this is the Second Year of the Two-Year Session; April 26 is the Policy Committee deadline, and provided a brief update on the following Bills:

- SB 366 (Caballero) CA Water Plan: Long-term supply targets
- AB 460 (Bauer-Kahhan) Water Rights
- AB 1337 (Wicks) Diversion or Curtailment
- Bonds AB 1567 (E. Garcia) & SB 867 (Allen) \$15B
- PFAS SP 903 (Skinner) CASA & NRDC ban all non-essential uses of PFAS by 2034
- Connection and Capacity Fees: SB 1210 (Skinner), SP 937 (Weiner), and AB 1820 (Schiavo)
- POTW Effluent Testing: AB 3073 (Haney) Illicit substances, and SB 1147 (Portantino) microplastics
- Water Use Efficiency: SB 1110 (Ashby) and SB 1330 (Archuleta)
- Groundwater: AB 2079 (Bennett)

Ms. Olhasso noted that at the beginning of the year the legislative budget had a \$30-\$60-billion-dollar deficit, and now it is at \$70 billion. The legislative leadership and the Governor have decided to take initial action to reduce the deficit and tap into reserves by reducing budget items from previous years. Specifically, \$88.4 million was 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 was released on March 12. There was a Board Workshop on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Another draft is anticipated to be released in the next couple of months. Ms. Olhasso referenced other regulatory updates and

highlighted on the Advanced Cleat Fleets. There was a workshop that took place on March 25<sup>th</sup> for CARB to consider public agency utility fleet needs (AB 1594).

Commissioner Hall arrived at 9:45 a.m. during the Legislative Report.

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

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY (CM#2024.18)**

Jeff Mosher introduced Doug Johnson of Ralph Andersen & Associates, and he provided a presentation on the SAWPA Survey Agencies for Compensation Study contained in the agenda packet on pages 25-30. Compensation surveys are a necessary part of assessing and updating an organization's compensation plan to anticipate and understand what the labor market is doing. The survey data informs decision makers and provides a data-driven framework for allocating resources to wages and benefits. Also to optimize the authority's ability to recruit and retain employees. Mr. Johnson referenced the Labor Market Selection Criteria and provided a brief report on each criterion, historical practices, geographic proximity, nature of services, employer size, and economic similarity.

Ralph Anderson & Associates analyzed labor market agencies based on their established compensation methods and typical policy objectives of special districts and public agencies to achieve recruitment and retention objectives. A total of twelve (12) agencies were identified as survey agencies. The list was shared with SAWPA member agencies' General Managers and their Finance and Human Resources departments. Commissioner Jasmin Hall suggested including the Chino Basin Conservation District, Chino Basin Watermaster, and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board as a baseline for surveyed agencies. Mr. Johnson noted he could research it, though typically special districts do not like to include state data unless there is a very localized element or specialty. The state pays very poorly compared to most public agencies in California. Mr. Johnson noted once all the data is collected from the agencies listed, the results will be brought back to the Commission and if it is not a useful survey and would want to include more agencies it can certainly be done.

**MOVED**, to approve the recommended labor market survey agencies for the Classification and Compensation Study being conducted by Ralph Andersen & Associates.

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

## **8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

### **A. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

There were no General Manager comments received.

### **B. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Jeff Mosher referenced the Communications Report contained in the agenda packet on pages 31-32.

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

There were no Chair comments received.

**D. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioners' comments received.

**E. 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 10:24 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.**

DocuSigned by:

*Bruce Whitaker*

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Bruce Whitaker, Chair

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

*Sara Villa*

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board