



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 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
David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

Gil Botello, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Alison Lewis, David Ruhl, Dean Unger, Jeff Mosher, John Leete,
Karen Williams, Marie Jauregui, Melissa Bustamonte, Rachel Gray,
Rick Whetsel, Shavonne Turner, Zyanya Ramirez.

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal
Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Mallory
O’Conor, Western Municipal Water District; Lisa Haney, Orange
County Water District; Susan Longville, San Bernardino Valley
Municipal Water District.

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

There were no items to be added or deleted.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JUNE 18, 2024

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. SAWPA BUILDING – LOBBY REMODEL (SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS) AND ADA UPGRADES PROJECT (CM#2024.36)

David Ruhl provided a presentation on the SAWPA Building Lobby Remodel (Security Improvements and ADA Upgrades Project, contained in the agenda packet on pages 13-23.

Mr. Ruhl noted that the building plans were completed in February 2024 and were submitted to the City of Riverside for Plan Review. Comments were provided by the city and plans have been revised to address the comments and resubmitted to the city. It is anticipated that approved plans will be received in July 2024. The project is categorically exempted from CEQA.

The Commission expressed their approval of the lobby remodel design and commended SAWPA for emphasizing safety in the redesign.

MOVED, to 1) Direct the General Manager to file a Notice of Exemption for the Lobby Remodel and ADA Upgrades project with the Riverside County Clerk’s Office; and 2) Direct the General Manager to issue a Notice Inviting Bids, upon completion of the Final Plans and Specifications, for the Construction of the Lobby Remodel and ADA Upgrades Project.

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

B. LAKE ELSINORE AND CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE UPDATE (CM#2024.37)

Rick Whetsel provided a presentation on the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force (Task Force) Status Update, contained in the agenda packet on pages 27-31.

The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) adopted a TMDL for nutrient discharges to Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore in 2004, which became effective on September 30, 2005, after EPA approval. The TMDL set numeric targets for various nutrient concentrations and established load allocations for both non-point and point sources. In 2005, stakeholders formed the Task Force, administered by the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA), to coordinate and share implementation costs. The Task Force includes various dischargers such as MS4 permittees, wastewater treatment plants, agricultural operators, and other relevant agencies. LESJWA continues to manage the Task Force's activities, including regulatory advising, monitoring, alum applications, and fishery studies. Currently, the Task Force is updating the TMDL Staff Report to revise numeric targets and incorporate updated land use data and further nutrient reductions.

The Commission thanked Mr. Whetsel, noting that his presentation clarified many aspects and expressed their appreciation for the information he provided.

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. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Jeff Mosher reported that the latest language from West Coast Advisors indicates a reduction in funding for integrated regional water management from \$300 million to \$100 million. This decrease was not unexpected given current discussions. The \$100 million, if allocated like Prop 1, would translate to just \$12 million for the Santa Ana River Watershed. This situation underscores the importance of diversifying funding sources, as emphasized by the Commission, highlighting the ICARP grant for developing a climate adaptation and resiliency plan as an example. Future discussions will address potential funds in the bond if it is approved and other programs, reinforcing the strategy to secure state funding for the watershed.

B. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

There were no reports from the General Manager.

C. CHAIR’S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no comments/reports from the Chair.

D. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Commissioner Gardner noted that Senate Bill 366, the California Water Plan bill by Senator Caballero, passed unanimously out of the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Policy Committee and will now move to the Fiscal Committee, where no significant issues are anticipated. Although there have been minor amendments on the Assembly side, they are not expected to cause any problems in the Senate. The governor is expected to sign the bill, which will be beneficial for California.

E. COMMISSIONERS’ REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no 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 10:23 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, July 16, 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