



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Bruce Whitaker, Chair, Orange County Water District  
T. Milford Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer, San Bernardino Valley  
Municipal Water District  
Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District

**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, David Ruhl, Rachel Gray, Shavonne  
Turner, Rick Whetsel, Marie Jauregui, Dean Unger, John Leete,  
Zyanya Ramirez

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Lisa Haney, Orange County Water District; John Kennedy, Orange  
County Water District; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley  
Municipal Water District; Mallory O’Conor, Western Municipal Water  
District; Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda Water District

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:31 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: AUGUST 20, 2024**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

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

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

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### A. INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY PROGRAM REGIONAL RESILIENCE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM: DEVELOPMENT OF THE SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN – WORKFLOW (CM#2024.49)

Rachel Gray provided a presentation on the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program: Development of the Santa Ana River Watershed Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan – Workflow, contained in the agenda packet on pages 19-30.

As presented in the June 6 and July 18, 2023, Commission meetings, staff is developing a Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan to supplement the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Plan. The Plan will address climate risks, develop adaptation strategies, and promote resilience projects across the watershed, emphasizing equity for underrepresented communities and fostering partnerships. SAWPA, Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative (ISC3), and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (Soboba) are collaborating as co-applicants, with SAWPA providing oversight, ISC3 managing community engagement, and Soboba contributing tribal perspectives. Grant funding was awarded for the Plan, which aims to connect regional climate efforts with future funding opportunities. Key upcoming tasks include executing agreements and selecting a consultant by late 2024.

Mr. Mosher questioned the role of SAWPA's member agencies in the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Community Advisory Panel (CAP). It was clarified that each member agency will have planning managers represented on the TAC to brainstorm and provide high-level strategies for climate adaptation, overseeing the implementation of these strategies. The CAP will include public and governmental affairs representatives from each member agency, ensuring coordination and communication with CBOs, member agencies, and Soboba decision makers to keep them informed about community engagement and distributed materials. The CAP is expected to have around eight members, representing various sectors, including transportation, to promote collaboration.

A question was raised about the involvement of "energy stakeholders," specifically whether this referred to organizations like Southern California Edison (SCE) or consultants. It was clarified that SCE is part of ISC3 and already has representation.

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

### B. REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING TASK FORCE – SANTA ANA REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM AND DATA VIEWER DASHBOARD (CM#2024.50)

Rick Whetsel provided a presentation on the Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force – Santa Ana Regional Monitoring Program and Data Viewer Dashboard, contained in the agenda packet on pages 35-48.

The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) on June 15, 2012, revising recreation standards for inland freshwaters in the Santa Ana Region. Approved by the U.S. EPA in 2015, the BPA made key modifications, including aligning recreation standards with EPA guidelines, revising water quality objectives, and introducing criteria for temporary suspension of recreation use. These changes allow certain channels to be delisted for recreation, saving stakeholders an estimated \$1-2 billion per

county. The BPA required the establishment of a pathogen indicator monitoring program, and in 2016, the Santa Ana Watershed Bacteria Monitoring Program was approved.

The Santa Ana Regional Monitoring Program Data Viewer is being developed to provide stakeholders with an interactive interface for assessing water quality data. As part of this initiative, Mr. Whetsel provided a brief demo of the dashboard, showcasing how bacterial monitoring data is displayed. Mr. Mosher praised the collaboration and asked about funding for the dashboard. Mr. Whetsel explained that stakeholders, including the Regional Board and the flood control districts, fund the system. The transition to the dashboard replaced the need for quarterly reports without incurring additional costs. SAWPA maintains the server, while consultants monitor and review the data.

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**

There were no General Manager comments.

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

Chair Whitaker mentioned his attendance at the Urban Water Institute Annual Conference, held from August 21-23. He also noted that this year's O.C. Water Summit is scheduled for Friday, September 27, 2024, at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa.

**C. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Hall requested that the Commission be informed in advance about SAWPA's upcoming engagements. Mr. Mosher responded that SAWPA is currently recruiting a new Communications staff member, and once hired, they will ensure these engagements are included in the Communications Highlights report.

**D. 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 10:09 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.**

DocuSigned by:

*Bruce Whitaker*

Bruce Whitaker, Chair

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

*Sara Villa*

Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board