



PROJECT AGREEMENT 24 COMMITTEE
Inland Empire Brine Line
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

T. Milford Harrison, Chair, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Governing Board [via - zoom]
Mike Gardner, Vice Chair, Western Municipal Water District Governing Board
David Slawson, Alternate, Eastern Municipal Water District Governing Board
Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency Governing Board

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

None.

ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT [Non-Voting]

Gil Botello, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Governing Board [via - zoom]
Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District General Manager [via - zoom]

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, David Ruhl, Dean Unger, John Leete, Rick Whetsel, Sara Villa,
Shavonne Turner, Marie Jauregui

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Michael Barber, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Julio Im,
Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Derek Kawaii, Western Municipal Water District; Bruce
Whitaker, Orange County Water District; Jeremy Jungreis, Orange Water County District; Leo
Ferrando, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

1. CALL TO ORDER | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Regular Meeting of the PA 24 Committee was called to order at 10:49 a.m. by Chair T. Milford Harrison on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments; there were no public comments received via email.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

SAWPA staff requested that Agenda Item 6.B be presented first, followed with Agenda Item 6.A.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

The Commission next considered Agenda Item No. 6.B.

6. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. BRINE LINE SOLIDS IMBALANCE AND BILLING FORMULA UPDATE (PA24#2024.20)

Lucas Gilbert provided a presentation titled Brine Line Solids Imbalance and Billing Formula Update, contained in the agenda packet on pages 27-36. A brief overview of the Brine Line Solids imbalance and Formula was provided.

SAWPA recovers costs paid to OC San from monitoring conducted at SARI Metering Stations (SMS) using a billing formula to allocate the costs related to solids formation from each discharger. The solids formation creates an imbalance in the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) measured at the SMS versus the dischargers input.

To account for the imbalance, in 2016, SAWPA contracted with Trussell Technologies, Inc. and developed a scientifically based revision of the previous billing formula based on known formation mechanisms of the observed solids composition. SAWPA continues to implement the Billing Formula following subsequent annual reviews of the monitoring data and billing formula parameters in 2017, 2018, and 2019, and no changes to the billing formula were recommended.

Mr. Gilbert noted that since the last review of the billing formula there have been changes in the flow characteristics of the Brine Line due to new discharges and increased flow resulting in an increase to the solids imbalance since 2019 when the billing formula was last reviewed. Due to these changes in the solids imbalance, SAWPA staff requested Trussell Technologies, Inc. to submit a scope of work and fee to conduct a study of the solids imbalance and review the Billing Formula and make recommendations for changes necessary.

Chair Harrison asked if the imbalances and calculations differ for each discharger? Mr. Gilbert noted that it is the sum of all the dischargers, though the billing formula is assessed for each discharger. Mr. Mosher emphasized that SAWPA staff don't know the contribution to the imbalances by each discharger. Ms. Williams referenced the 5 Year Enterprise Performance slide, contained on page 74 of the agenda packet, and noted that it shows the BOD and TSS imbalances that are captured. Mr. Ruhl noted that the billing formula is the best scientific review of the parameters on how to distribute the costs to each discharger.

Mr. Gilbert noted that Trussell Technologies, Inc.'s scope of work is to perform a study that will assess five (5) years of suspended solids formation in the Brine Line and develop an updated scientifically based formula or methodology for allocating associated formation costs. The scope of work has been shared with the member agencies staff for review and no comments were received. It is recommended that the Committee authorize the General Manager to issue a General Services Agreement and Task Order TRU240-27 to Trussell Technologies, Inc. to provide professional services to investigate the Brine

Line solids imbalance and update or revise as necessary the Brine Line Formula in an amount not to exceed \$154,390.

Committee Member Hall noted that she appreciates the list of the dischargers provided and asked if there are meetings where the member agencies can review the information. Ms. Williams noted that all the member agencies see the data because they input it into our database, and Julio Im of IEUA has specifically requested this study. It was questioned why didn't SAWPA go out to bid? Mr. Gilbert noted that SAWPA has worked with Trussell Technologies for a number of years particularly on this topic, they are the ones that created the current billing formula and helped drive it in the first place. Mr. Mosher noted that back in 2007/2008 there was another consulting firm that was grappling with the suspended solids formation in the Brine Line, and Rich Haller, SAWPA's previous General Manager brought in an expert panel of academics to review the water quality data; Mark Benjamin of University of Washington, John Tobiasin of University of Massachusetts, and Des Lawler of UT Austin. These experts weighed in on discussions and were unanimous in their discussions that this is a chemistry problem not an infrastructure problem and looked at different constituents and the mechanisms for formation and Trussell Technologies were brought on to implement the recommendation of the expert panel. Trussell excels in this area, and they are uniquely set up to look at these problems and have a great track record. Their knowledge and expertise are at the top of the list.

Commissioner Slawson left the meeting at 11:10 a.m., during Agenda Item No. 6.A.

MOVED, to authorize the General Manager to issue a General Services Agreement and Task Order No. TRU240-27 to Trussell Technologies, Inc. to provide Professional Services to investigate the Brine Line solids imbalance and update or revise as necessary, the Brine Line Billing Formula in an amount not to exceed \$154,390.

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

B. INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE REQUEST FROM YVWD TO PURCHASE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL CAPACITY RIGHTS (PA24#2024.21)

David Ruhl provided a presentation titled Request from YVWD to Purchase Treatment and Disposal Capacity Rights, contained in the agenda packet on pages 39-49. Mr. Ruhl provided an overview of Treatment and Disposal Capacity Right (Capacity). SAWPA and Orange County Sanitation District's (OC San) 1996 Agreement provides the terms and conditions for SAWPA to acquire Capacity in OC San's treatment facilities up to 30 MGD, including language that Capacity shall be purchased when the flow exceeds the existing owned Capacity and shall be sold in 1 MGD increments.

The process for purchasing capacity involves several steps. First, the sub-agency submits a request to its member agency. The member agency then forwards this request to SAWPA, which notifies OC San of the need to purchase capacity. Several agreements must be established to facilitate the purchase, all of which will be presented to the PA 24 Committee. The first agreement is between SAWPA and OC San for the capacity purchase. The second agreement is between SAWPA and the member agency for the sale of that capacity. If the member agency is providing capacity for its sub-agency, a third agreement will be necessary.

Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) dischargers RO concentrate from the Wochholz Regional Water Recycling Facility (Facility) to the Brine Line. YVWD is expanding their Facility and has requested from SAWPA through San Bernardino Municipal Water District (Valley) to purchase 0.5 million gallons per day (MGD) of Treatment and Disposal Capacity Right (Capacity). Facility expansion is expected to be completed in December 2026.

In September 2024, SAWPA requested from OC San the cost to purchase 1 MGD of Capacity and the process to sell Capacity. OC San responded that based on the Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Agreement (1996 Agreement) between OC San and SAWPA, additional Capacity is not available for sale until SAWPA's brine discharge to OC San exceeds the currently owned Capacity. Currently, SAWPA owns 17 MGD of Capacity and discharges to OC San an annual daily average flow of 12.2 MGD.

YVWD has informed SAWPA that they have the funding available to purchase Capacity immediately. SAWPA staff estimates that it will be several years before the Brine Line flow to OC San exceeds 17 MGD, allowing for the purchase of additional Capacity. The recently completed draft Brine Line Master Plan shows the Brine Line may exceed the currently owned 17 MGD Capacity in the next 5 to 10 years, depending on the timing of future projects. As a result, SAWPA staff are investigating the option to sell Capacity to YVWD to meet their needs. This would require SAWPA to sell Capacity to YVWD in the next 6 months. When Capacity exceeds 17 MGD, SAWPA would use this funding to purchase additional Capacity from OC San.

An agreement between SAWPA and San Bernardino Valley and subsequent agreement between San Bernardino Valley and YVWD would require YVWD to pay the full cost SAWPA pays to OC San. YVWD would pay the current OC San cost upfront (or inflation adjusted cost to a future date) with the difference in cost paid in the future (or returned if the future cost is less). SAWPA would hold the funds in reserve until such time it is required to purchase Capacity from OC San. Member Agencies and dischargers that own Capacity would not be impacted and would maintain their right to discharge up to their allotted Capacity.

Mr. Ruhl noted that SAWPA staff will work with San Bernardino Valley and YVWD on an agreement and timing to purchase Capacity. An agreement or alternative option will be presented to the General Managers and PA 24 Committee at a future meeting. Mr. Ruhl also acknowledged Joe Zoba, the General Manager of YVWD, is present at the meeting in case the Commission needed to address any questions.

Chair Harrison noted that SBVMWD staff have discussed this within their organization, and it works for them. Commissioner Garder asked what triggers OC San saying we have exceeded the 17 MGD. Mr. Ruhl noted that it is a monthly average. Commissioner Slawson noted he has been in communication with Nick Kanetis of EMWD, and they are covered if OC San increases the price, YVWD is required to pay the difference. Joe Zoba noted he appreciates working with SAWPA staff and having the topic of discussion and looks forward to establishing the agreement and expanding their project.

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

The Commission next considered Agenda Item No. 6.A.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive and file the following oral/written reports/updates.

A. BRINE LINE FINANCIAL REPORT – JULY 2024

B. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE ENTERPRISE/CIP FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

C. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Jeff Mosher noted that staff is coordinating to schedule the next SAWPA/OC San Joint Policy Committee meeting.

D. COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

There were no Committee Member comments.

E. CHAIR’S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no comments/reports from the Chair.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTS 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, Committee Chair T. Milford Harrison adjourned the Regular meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Project Agreement 24 Committee on November 5, 2024.

Signed by:

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T. Milford Harrison, Chair

Attest:
Signed by:

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board