



**PROJECT AGREEMENT 24 COMMITTEE**  
Inland Empire Brine Line  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
February 4, 2025

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mike Gardner, Vice Chair, Western Municipal Water District Governing Board  
Phil Paule, 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]**

T. Milford Harrison, Chair, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Governing Board [via - zoom]

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, David Ruhl, Dean Unger, John Leete, Lucas Gilbert, Sara Villa,  
Marie Jauregui, Daniel Vasquez

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Thomas S. Bunn, Lagerlof, LLP; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Kayla Arias,  
Orange County Sanitation 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 10:45 a.m. by Vice Chair Mike Gardner 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**

There were no items to be added or deleted.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: DECEMBER 3, 2024**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

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

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote</b>
Motion/Second:	Hall/Paule
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Paule
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

**6. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**A. OC SAN / SAWPA JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE (PA24#2025.1)**

Jeff Mosher provided a report on the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) and SAWPA’s Joint Policy Committee. The OC San/SAWPA Joint Policy Committee meets annually with designated OC San Board members to discuss and consider present and future policy matters. Discussions have included strategic planning, collaboration on legislative issues impacting brine discharge, emerging constituents, and funding opportunities. Staff request the appointment of two Commissioners to serve on this Committee, the current members are T. Milford Harrison and David Slawson. It was recommended that Commissioner T. Milford Harrison continue to represent SAWPA as well as Commissioner Philip E. Paule. There was no discussion.

**MOVED**, to appoint two Commissioners to the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) / Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) Joint Policy Committee.

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote</b>
Motion/Second:	Hall/Paule
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Paule
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

**B. AMENDMENT TO THE PA 24 AGREEMENT – APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES (PA24#2025.2)**

Jeff Mosher provided a report on the Amendment to the PA 24 Agreement, allowing the appointment of two (2) alternate representatives.

Currently, each committee member must be either a commissioner or a general manager, but it is suggested that there’s an option to add two (2) alternates. The primary member would still be a commissioner or general manager, and the alternates could be another commissioner, general manager, or a senior-level manager from the respected member agency. Mr. Mosher noted that the goal is to provide more flexibility in terms of representation. The inclusion of a senior staff member as a third alternate addresses the flexibility requested by the member agencies, allowing for better participation in meetings, overseeing potential conflicts, and avoiding meeting cancellations due to lack of quorum.

Mr. Mosher noted that on January 21, 2025, the SAWPA Commission approved the recommendation of amending the PA 24 Agreement. There was no discussion.

**MOVED**, to approve the amendment to the Project Agreement 24 (PA 24 Agreement) dated July 17, 2019, allowing for the appointment of two (2) alternate representatives.

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote</b>
Motion/Second:	Paule/Hall
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Paule
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

**C. INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) (PA24#2025.3)**

Lucas Gilbert provided a presentation on the Inland Empire Brine Line Data Management System Request for Proposal, contained in the agenda packet on pages 63-74. A brief overview of the Inland Empire Brine Line Pretreatment Program was provided. SAWPA has been designated by OC San as the overseeing authority for the pretreatment program within

the brine line service area. The approval authority lies with the Regional Board, while OC San owns the treatment plant. OC San has delegated the control authority to SAWPA, which then oversees the program alongside our member agencies: EMWD, IEUA, Valley District, and Western Water, as well as the contracted agencies: JCSD, City of San Bernardino Water Department, City of Beaumont, and YVWD.

Mr. Gilbert noted that the Brine Line serves 49 industrial facilities that are discharged, along with eight (8) Liquid Waste Haulers that are also permitted. Of these, 33 facilities directly discharge into the brine line, while 16 others are involved in other activities. Our regulatory responsibilities include sampling the discharge, permitting the facilities, and inspecting the discharges. These tasks generate a substantial number of records that need to be securely stored and readily accessible to all staff involved. Since July 1, 2024, the pretreatment program has created approximately 1,200 documents, all of which are stored in a Database Management System (DMS). Currently, SAWPA staff and member agency staff use IPACS to create tasks, manage pretreatment activities, and upload records for each task to ensure easy access.

The IPACS version was built on the Microsoft .NET framework, which Microsoft plans to retire by December 2025. As a result, this version of IPACS will no longer be supported, and staff will need to select a new DMS for the Brine Line Pretreatment Program before December 2025. A release of a Request for Proposal is requested to include several technical specifications and a system that improves data entry and streamline certification processes, with a view to implementing electronic reporting for both our industrial dischargers.

The RFP will outline not only the software provision but also its development, configuration, installation, testing, training, and documentation for employees, along with ongoing support for the system. With Committee approval, the proposed timeline is as follows; release the RFP on February 4, collect proposals by March 13, award the contract in April 2025, and implement the new software by October 1, 2025, ensuring a smooth transition before the December 2025 deadline to phase out the current IPACS system. There was no discussion.

**MOVED**, to direct staff to release an RFP for Data Management System Software for the Inland Empire Brine Line Pretreatment Program.

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote</b>
Motion/Second:	Paule/Hall
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Paule
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

**D. INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE MASTER PLAN FINAL (PA24#2025.4)**

David Ruhl provided a presentation on the Inland Empire Brine Line Master Plan, contained in the agenda packet on pages 81-120. A comprehensive overview of the Brine Line Master Plan was provided.

The purpose of the Brine Line Master Plan is to determine how best to manage and implement the growth and expansion of the Brine Line in a manner that best serves the Santa Ana River Watershed, Member Agencies, and Brine Line dischargers. The Master Plan also has the purpose of addressing infrastructure needs to convey and manage increasingly higher salinity discharges, as well as increasing regulatory requirements.

The objectives of the master plan are to identify the potential regional market for future dischargers, evaluate the capacity of the Brine Line system under a variety of anticipated flow conditions, and develop system improvements to address identified deficiencies. In addition, the master plan identifies potential projects and studies to include in the Brine Line Capital

Improvement Program (CIP) and the next 2-year Budget to address deficiencies and maximize regional use of the Brine Line.

In November 2022, the PA 24 Committee approved a contract with Dudek to prepare the Brine Line Master Plan. In August 2024, staff provided an update on the draft Master Plan activities to the PA 24 Committee. A workshop with Member Agency staff was conducted in September 2024 and comments received were included in the Final Master Plan. Mr. Ruhl highlighted in depth the master plan report organization that includes key findings and recommendations of the following:

- Market Assessment & Future Flow Projections
- Hydraulic Model Update & Calibration
- Brine Line System Capacity Analysis
- Capacity Management & Long-Term Planning Efforts
- Brine Line Multi-Use Benefits
- Future Facilities, Improvements & Expansion

Mr. Ruhl noted that as brine discharges increase, SAWPA faces the challenge of maintaining and/or expanding the Brine Line system. To address this a variety of policy measures may be necessary to improve brine management and efficiency. These policies would address environmental, economic, and regulatory considerations to ensure sustainable and equitable brine management. Key policy areas for consideration include:

- Environmental Policies. Enhancing monitoring and reporting capabilities for continuous monitoring of brine discharges. Limits on brine discharge concentrations and constituents may be needed, particularly with emerging concerns (i.e., PFAS). Policies are intended to promote projects that restore and protect natural habitats, mandate advanced brine treatment technologies, and support stricter permitting processes for industries discharging brine.
- Economic Policies. Current practices require dischargers to bear the cost of facilities necessary for brine disposal, which can be cost-prohibitive. SAWPA may consider cost-sharing mechanisms, financial assistance programs, and infrastructure investments to upgrade brine treatment facilities. Incentives for sustainable brine management practices and revised fee structures to encourage reduction in brine discharge volumes may also be explored.
- Regulatory Policies. Updating permitting processes to include more requirements for brine management can help control Brine Line flows. Enhancing interagency collaboration and establishing a regional task force to coordinate efforts and share best practices can improve compliance and enforcement. Policies are intended to support innovative salinity control measures and advanced desalination or demineralization technologies.

Mr. Mosher commended Mr. Ruhl and noted that the Master Plan is an impressive piece, especially considering that SAWPA previously did not have a master plan for the brine line. This will be really helpful as projects are planned for decades into the future, but this document will benefit the next generation of Brine Line managers and PA 24 Committee members. They will be able to see the thought process behind the issues the brine line will face moving forward and the potential solutions.

Mr. Mosher noted that the SCADA RFP items will come back quickly, as it was discussed during the creation of the master plan. However, many of the other aspects still need to be discussed with the member agencies regarding the timing, rationale, and the driving factors behind the studies. Aside from SCADA, everything else will be open for discussion on how to implement the plans moving forward.

Kayla Arias of OC San asked if staff would update the Brine Line Master Plan when there are changes in projects? For example, if the Rubidoux Desalter accelerates its timeline, do you incorporate that into the Brine Line Master Plan, or does it remain a separate consideration? Mr. Ruhl noted that it would remain separate. It is anticipated to update the master plan every five (5) years. However, as data is gathered, we will update our projections internally, on an annual basis.

Chair Milford Harrison noted that he is looking forward to diving into the details and having further discussions before the Master Plan is adopted. It is clear that there are many new things in this plan that will be both interesting and educational to analyze and discuss further. This is a monumental task, and it has been done very well.

Committee Member Philip Paule left the meeting at 11:37 a.m. during Agenda Item No. 6.D.

**E. CITY OF CHINO EUCLID BRIDGE PROJECT (REACH IV-A AND IV-B) (PA24#2025.5)**

David Ruhl provided a presentation on the City of Chino (City) Euclid Bridge Project Brine Line Reach IV-A and IV-D, contained in the agenda packet on pages 315-318. The City is considering a bridge project on Euclid Avenue, which lies along State Highway 83, between the 71 freeway and Pine Avenue. This area is prone to flooding during heavy rainfall. The City has been contemplating this project for years, but with the upcoming summer Olympics potentially coming to Los Angeles, the urgency has increased. The City has submitted a bid to host the shooting events, similar to what they did in 1984, and the City aims to complete this work before then.

Mr. Ruhl referenced page 316 of the agenda packet and pointed out the area in question on the map, located on Reach IV-D and Reach IV-A of the Brine Line. Reach IV-D spans about a mile and contains a 42-inch pipe within the current Caltrans right-of-way. The City is proposing an elevated roadway, with the brine line running just inside of it. Some of the support columns for the elevated roadway could potentially intersect with the brine line, which would have an impact on the infrastructure. Additionally, elevated walls and filling could cover the brine line in certain locations. The City of Chino is working closely with SAWPA staff to identify the potential impacts. It is likely that some form of protection or relocation of the brine line will be required, and we are determining the responsibility for costs.

Mr. Ruhl noted that in the past, when rights-of-way were transferred to agencies, the easements remained intact, meaning the City would typically be responsible. However, we also want to consider future improvements, as the master plan has highlighted this area as a potential chokepoint for the pipeline capacity. We are evaluating the possibility of upsizing the pipe in this region to accommodate future needs. This section of the brine line also has a corrosion issue, with the concrete pipe deteriorating. A new pipeline would address this problem with the work scheduled for the next 10 years, but the timeline could be expedited to the next four (4) years if we collaborate with the City on this project.

SAWPA staff are continuing discussions with the City, and if we move forward, we will come back to PA 24 Committee to discuss a design for the project. Collaborating with the City on this effort would be more cost-effective, as they would include our project in their CEQA document and clear the entire right-of-way, handling all environmental issues, which would allow us to proceed without delay. There was no discussion.

**7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

**A. BRINE LINE FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2024**

**BRINE LINE FINANCIAL REPORT – NOVEMBER 2024**

**B. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

There were no comments/reports from the General Manager.

**C. COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

There were no comments/reports from the Committee.

**D. 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 Vice Chair Mike Gardner adjourned the Regular meeting at 11:42 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Project Agreement 24 Committee on March 4, 2025.**

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T. Milford Harrison, Chair

**Attest:**  
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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board