



PROJECT AGREEMENT 23 COMMITTEE
Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Gardner, Chair, Western Municipal Water District Governing Board
Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency Governing Board
David Slawson, Alternate, Eastern Municipal Water District Governing Board

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Susan Lien Longville, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Governing Board

ALTERNATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT [Non-Voting]

John Kennedy, Orange County Water District General Manager [via-zoom]

MEMBER AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Eastern Municipal Water District
Gordon Ng

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Aimee Zhao
John Russ

Orange County Water District
Adam Hutchinson
Lisa Haney
Fred Jung

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Adekunle Ojo
Joanna Gibson

Western Municipal Water District
Craig Miller
Ryan Shaw
Joshua Aguilar

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Jeff Mosher
Zyanya Ramirez
John Leete
Rachel Gray
Karen Williams
Sara Villa
Shavonne Turner
Dean Unger

OTHERS PRESENT

Thomas S. Bunn, Lagerlof, LLP; Rachel Waite-Harvey, MWDOC

1. CALL TO ORDER | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular meeting of the Project Agreement (PA) 23 Committee was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Committee Chair, Mike Gardner.

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: AUGUST 1, 2023

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROJECT AGREEMENT 23 COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2026

Karen Williams provided a presentation titled Project Agreement (PA) Committee Budget for Fiscal Year Ending 2026, contained in the agenda packet on pages 9-20.

An overview of the PA 23 Committee Budget was provided, and it was noted that the budget only covers Fiscal Year 2026. This budget aligns with the amendment schedule for the DWR Grants Agreement under Proposition 84. PA 23 Committee was part of the final round of funding under Prop 84.

Per Section 10 of the Project Agreement, a budget is required as part of the grant process. Additionally, the PA 23 budget has been incorporated into the SAWPA two-year budget, which will be presented to the Commission later today. Historically, the PA 23 committee budget has included member agency participant fees. However, for fiscal year 2026, no new participant fees are proposed.

Ms. Williams noted that the total cost of the project is approximately \$149 million, with major components including conjunctive use, habitat restoration for *Arundo donax* and the Santa Ana sucker, as well as project management.

Woodard & Curran manages water use efficiency and project administration. SAWPA staff supports both PA 22 and PA 23 Committees by preparing agendas, coordinating with SARCCUP project sponsors, and facilitating communication.

Woodard & Curran also manage invoices with DWR, facilitates bi-monthly planning manager meetings, and oversees scheduling and deliverables tracking. This will be fully funded using approximately \$100,000 from unused participant fees, and the remaining portion covered by Prop 84 grant funds. Sufficient participant fee carryover remains even after this allocation.

Mr. Mosher noted that staff is proposing to allocate an additional \$290,000 in remaining participant fees toward the development of the CARP (Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan) grant. This plan will be brought back to the general managers for review and approval. The proposed funding will help support the local cost-share match and ensure the successful implementation of CARP. Staff is considering repurposing leftover SARCCUP funds particularly from the Water Use Efficiency Project Management budget to support them. This approach has been discussed with the general managers and will be finalized pending their review of the scope and budget proposals. Next steps are to finalize scope and budget with Woodard & Curran, present scope and budget to general managers and seek approval, and present to Commission in May/June timeframe.

MOVED, to adopt the FYE 2026 PA 23 Committee Budget.

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

B. ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT NO. 6 TO SBVMWD SARCCUP COMPONENT

Rachel Gray provided a presentation titled Adoption of Amendment No. 6 to San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) SARCCUP Component, contained in the agenda packet on pages 21-32.

Ms. Gray reported that the current deadline for construction projects under the agreement is July 31, 2025, with project closeout scheduled for November 2025. However, staff are seeking a time extension to allow SBVMWD to complete their Habitat Restoration Project for the Santa Ana Sucker.

After multiple discussions with DWR, the staff’s key recommendation is for the PA 23 Committee to approve Amendment No. 6, which would formally request a construction deadline extension specifically for SBVMWD’s habitat restoration efforts. They are currently developing the necessary documentation and project details to support this request.

Ms. Gray noted that if the time extension is granted, the other two (2) recommendations outlined on the agenda are no longer necessary. Therefore, the primary focus is securing approval from the PA 23 Committee to move forward with adoption of Amendment No. 6 for a time extension for construction (mid-January 2026). Chair Mike Gardner emphasized that staff’s recommendation is a modified motion to only seek approval of a time extension for construction.

Joanna Gibson continued the presentation and noted that the project focuses on creating and enhancing 2.8 miles of stream habitat and sixty acres of riparian habitat for native fish, specifically the Santa Ana Sucker, along four tributaries of the Santa Ana River in Riverside.

Construction is active at two key sites, with non-native plant removal underway at four tributary sites. Staff are using heavy equipment in wet floodplain areas, which adds complexity. They have faced delays due to bid rejections and have since moved forward with in-house construction. Progress includes 50% rough grading at Hidden Valley Creek and active work at Anza Creek. Ms. Gibson noted that some of the key challenges have been strict environmental permitting, weather-related delays, and least bell’s vireo nesting. Due to constraints and the current July 31, 2025, construction deadline, approval of Amendment No. 6 to extend the deadline is requested. This will allow the project to be completed successfully without compromising environmental compliance.

MOVED, that the PA 23 Committee authorized the modified recommendation of Adoption of Amendment 6 for a time extension for construction (mid-January 2026).

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

C. SANTA ANA RIVER CONSERVATION AND CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM UPDATE

Rachel Gray provided a presentation titled Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP) Update, contained in the agenda packet on pages 33-71.

Ms. Gray reported that SARCCUP has been ongoing for over a decade and aligns well with the innovative and dynamic program. The goals include fostering multi-agency collaboration on a regional effort to develop a dry-year water supply through water banking, similar to air banking. The program also features components related to water conservation and habitat restoration. These efforts stem from SAWPA's OWOW 2.0 Plan, which was funded by Proposition 84, and key components include: Conjunctive Use, CEQA Compliance, and Habitat Restoration. On the management side, the program also includes both project and program management elements. We are working in coordination with OCWD (Orange County Water District) and have an agreement in place with the Municipal Water District of Orange County. Additionally, staff are implementing a water use efficient component. As of Amendment No. 5, the current construction completion date was July 31. However, it is anticipated to submit Amendment No. 6 soon to extend the deadline.

Representatives from the member agencies Western Municipal Water District (Ryan Shaw), Eastern Municipal Water District (Gordon Ng), Orange County Water District (Adam Hutchinson), San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Joanna Gibson), and Municipal Water District of Orange County (Rachel Waite-Harvey) provided brief updates on their respective projects.

Ms. Gray noted that the next steps are to move forward with developing a task order for project management. Additionally, staff will continue collaborating with the member agencies on various grant-related reporting efforts as several projects are currently underway and nearing completion. Staff will finalize and submit Amendment No. 6. There was no discussion.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.C.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

There were no additional items to discuss.

B. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Committee Member comments received.

C. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no Chair comments received.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Committee Chair Mike Gardner adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Project Agreement 23 Committee on Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Signed by:

Mike Gardner

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Mike Gardner, Chair

Attest:

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Sara Villa

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board