



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 1, 2025**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Mike Gardner, Chair, Western Municipal Water District
Gil Botello, Vice Chair, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Philip Paule, Eastern Municipal Water District
Jasmin Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency [via – zoom]
Denis Bilodeau, Orange County Water District [via – zoom]

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT;
NON-VOTING**

T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District
Fred Jung, Orange County Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Karen Williams, Shavonne Turner, Dean Unger, John Leete, Ian Achimore, Sara Villa, Alison Lewis, Emily Fuentes, Zyanya Ramirez, Natalia Gonzalez

OTHERS PRESENT

Thomas S. Bunn, Lagerlof, LLP; James D. Ciampa, Lagerlof, LLP; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; John Kennedy, Orange County Water District; Kevin Nugent, Orange County Sanitation District; Carly Pierce, Western Municipal Water District; Gene Hernandez, Yorba Linda Water District; Ben Orosco, City of Chino; Nicolle Falcis, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo; Jeff Hoskinson, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Mike Gardner on behalf of Western Municipal Water District, Board Room, 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, CA 92518 and Commissioner Denis Bilodeau at 601 N. Ross Street, Room 327 Santa Ana, CA 92701, and Commissioner Jasmin Hall at 10360 Sun City Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89134.

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.

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 17, 2025

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT: MAY 2025

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Paule/Botello
Ayes:	Bilodeau, Botello, Gardner, Hall, Paule
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER COMPENSATION (CM#2025.50)**

Thomas S. Bunn, General Counsel, reported that at the June 17th meeting, the Commission appointed Karen Williams as Interim General Manager but chose to defer any decision regarding her compensation to a future open session. The Commission also requested that the Chair develop a compensation proposal, which is now being presented for consideration.

The proposal recommends setting Ms. Williams' salary at \$309,750 per year. This figure represents approximately a 5% increase from her previous compensation. In addition, it includes an adjustment to her car allowance, increasing it from \$750 to \$1,000 per month.

Chair Gardner noted that the Commission previously designated himself and Commissioner Hall to serve as an Ad Hoc Committee to address matters of this nature during this transition period. Accordingly, this recommendation is being brought forward by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Commission's consideration and approval.

Commissioner Botello emphasized that Ms. Williams accepted the responsibility of serving as Interim General Manager without hesitation and has since demonstrated that she was a strong wise choice. He expressed full support for the proposal and proceeded to make a motion to approve the recommendation.

MOVED, to authorize salary for the Interim General Manager in the amount of \$309,750 per annum and car allowance in the amount of \$1,000 per month, effective June 17, 2025.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Botello/Paule
Ayes:	Bilodeau, Botello, Gardner, Hall, Paule
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

7. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

A. **COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Karen Williams referenced the Communications Report on page 21 of the agenda packet and highlighted the events staff attended over the month.

B. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

There were no General Manager comments/reports.

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

There were no Chair comments/reports.

D. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no Commissioners' comments.

E. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

Chair Gardner recessed the meeting at 9:37 a.m. for Closed Session.

8. CLOSED SESSION

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Title: General Counsel

9. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Chair Gardner resumed the Open Session at 11:58 a.m. and announced that under California Government Code Section 54957, the Commission voted unanimously to continue employment with Lagerlof, LLP as SAWPA's General Counsel.

The Commission extended its appreciation to all firms that responded to the Request for Proposals and participated in the process. All candidates were highly qualified. However, given the current state of transition, the Commission determined that maintaining continuity and stability was in the organization's best interest, leading to its decision to retain Lagerlof, LLP.

MOVED, to continue employment with Lagerlof, LLP as SAWPA's General Counsel.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Hall/Botello
Ayes:	Bilodeau, Botello, Gardner, Hall, Paule
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Gardner adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, July 15, 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