



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2025**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT;
NON-VOTING**

Fred Jung, Orange County Water District [via – zoom]
David Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District
T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Karen Williams, David Ruhl, Shavonne Turner, Dean Unger, John Leete, Ian Achimore, Alison Lewis, Marie Jauregui, Emily Fuentes, Zyanya Ramirez, Daniel Vasquez, Haley Gohari, Rick Whetsel

OTHERS PRESENT

Thomas S. Bunn, Lagerlof, LLP; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Eddie Lin, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Lisa Haney, Orange County Water District; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Carly Pierce, Western Municipal Water District; Mallory O'Connor, Western Municipal Water District; Ryan Shaw, Western Municipal Water District; Michael Boccadoro, West Coast Advisors; Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors; Robert Williams, Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District; Oscar Serrato, Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District; Charlie Smith, Southwestern Water Conservation District; Tom Jones; James Facer; Samantha Collins; Andrew Friggers; Herbert Rodgers

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Gardner on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California, and Denis Bilodeau at 601 N. Ross Street, Room 327, Santa Ana, CA 92701.

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: SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

6. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Karen Williams introduced Michael Boccadoro and Beth Olhasso of West Coast Advisors, and Mr. Boccadoro provided a report on the 2025-26 Legislation Session.

The California Legislature adjourned on Saturday; a major focus was placing Proposition 50 in the November ballot. It would eliminate the independent congressional redistricting commission, allowing for Democratic gerrymandering of congressional districts (not state/legislative races). The campaign is expected to cost over \$200 million.

In a significant shift, the governor reversed course on targeting oil company profits. New legislation will streamline oil production and try to keep refineries open, especially the Valero facility in Northern California, to avoid losing 18% of the state's refining capacity. This move aims to combat high gas prices, which are a political liability for the governor ahead of a potential 2028 presidential run.

New measures will enhance transmission project funding, but short-term rate increases will outweigh savings. Southern California Edison is expected to receive approval for a 10% immediate rate hike, totaling a 25% increase by 2029, adding about \$2.5 billion annually in costs for consumers.

Mr. Boccadoro noted that the legislature also worked to replenish the 2019 wildfire insurance fund, which is expected to be fully depleted soon. The \$21 billion wildfire insurance fund created in 2019 was entirely depleted by Eaton Fire alone. The legislature approved an \$18 billion replenishment, half of which will be paid by ratepayers. Payments are deferred until 2035–2045, after the current surcharge ends, allowing politicians to claim no immediate rate increase, though it effectively extends the existing charge.

Mr. Boccadoro continued his report on the Water Supply and Drought Update; the Most of the reservoirs are at or above historic averages, including Folsom, though it's beginning seasonal drawdown. Compared to September 2024, drought has worsened, especially in Southern California. This raises concerns for a potentially severe wildfire season, which also prompted the legislature to act on the wildfire fund replenishment.

Commissioner Hall asked if the 25% increase for Edison is that cumulative or is that total? Mr. Boccadoro stated that it's cumulative, so there's 10% roughly rate increase slated for October 1 of this year that will go into effect January 1, 2025. They're actually going to have to catch up on the 10% rate increase and then there's roughly an additional 5% on top of the 10% next year, and an additional 5% the following year, and an additional roughly 5% in 2029.

Beth Olhasso continued the presentation and provided a brief update on the 2025 California Budget and Proposition 4 funding. The two-phase Budget was passed before the June constitutional deadline. In September, lawmakers returned to make specific allocations within those categories. \$50 million in new spending was added, mostly in response to federal funding cuts (e.g., healthcare).

The Proposition 4 Spending Plan, \$3.3 billion was allocated as part of a 3-year plan (from the full \$10 billion Prop 4 bond). \$1.2 billion went to water-related categories. \$150 million for water recycling projects, and \$2 million for the California Water Plan implementation, possibly tied to SB 72.

Ms. Olhasso noted that the state did not exempt Prop 4 funding from the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), despite earlier plans. This means funding will be delayed, even though emergency rulemaking is allowed. Additional Prop 4 funding is available for safe drinking water projects via the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Delta Conveyance Project trailer bill efforts is supported from the Governor, but not from legislative leadership (Pro Tem, Assembly Speaker). Many lawmakers were hesitant to back it without clear leadership support. It may be returned to the next session for further discussion.

SB 72 (California Water Plan Implementation) passed. Funding is unclear due to bond restrictions, and the Governor has until October 13 to sign or veto bill.

The SAFER (Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund) \$130 million allocated from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. SB 31 (Water Recycling) is on Governor's desk. SB 454 (PFAS Mitigation Fund) is on Governor's desk. The Water Rate Assistance Bills did not advance this year.

Ms. Olhasso noted there is an ongoing concern about the specialty vehicles for the Clean Fleet Transition (Advanced Clean Fleets Rule). The rule provides some exemptions for mutual aid, but language is vague and problematic. Multiple agencies submitted comments ahead of the September 25 public hearing at the Air Resources Board.

The SRF Programs (State Revolving Funds), both Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF plans have passed. Future federal cuts may reduce annual disbursements from \$650M to ~\$200M, impacting key projects like recycled water and infrastructure upgrades.

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

During the meeting, the Commission experienced a disruption when unidentified individuals joined the zoom session and engaged in inappropriate behavior, including the use of racial slurs and lewd conduct. In response to the disruption, Chair Gardner recessed the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:07 a.m.

B. SANTA ANA RIVER HOMELESS SOLUTIONS COLLABORATIVE (CM#2025.65)

Ian Achimore introduced Robert Williams of Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District, and Mr. Williams provided a presentation titled Santa Ana River Homeless Solutions Collaborative, contained in the agenda packet on pages 15-35.

Mr. Williams noted that the organization has been recognized nationally and statewide for its impactful efforts in the Santa Ana River. These efforts are focused not on accolades but on meaningful action that benefits both the river and the individuals living in its riverbottom. Since initiating the collaborative in 2021 under Supervisor Karen Spiegel's leadership, the organization has brought together multiple partners including local government, law

enforcement, CAL FIRE, and nonprofits to address the needs of both the natural environment and the people living in the area.

The efforts are organized into three primary units: public safety, environmental water quality, and maintenance, with a focus on encampment cleanups, habitat restoration, and providing resources to individuals in need. The organization uses innovative data collection tools, like field maps and partnerships with ESRI, to identify and address encampments, ensuring a targeted and efficient approach.

Over the past few years, the number of encampments has decreased from 800 to about 80, with ongoing efforts to assist individuals who are homeless or unsheltered. The organization has also created a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) to offer comprehensive services and prevent recidivism, helping people find housing, employment, and access to resources. Additionally, a key part of their strategy involves the safe storage of personal belongings to address the fear of losing essential items during cleanups.

The group also works on combating criminal activities, such as vehicle theft and arson, that sometimes occur in the riverbottom. Their efforts are further supported by advanced technologies like drones to monitor hazardous conditions, including floods and wildfires, ensuring the safety of both individuals and the environment.

Mr. Williams introduced Natural Resources Manager, Oscar Serrato, and he provided a report on public safety and collaborative outcomes.

Over the past few years, significant improvements have been made in public safety efforts, particularly regarding fire prevention and law enforcement collaboration. As part of the collaborative, fire incidents have declined, especially since 2022, due to increased outreach and education about fire safety, particularly for those living in the riverbottom. The team also works closely with local and regional law enforcement agencies, such as the Riverside and San Bernardino Sheriff's Departments, to reduce illegal activity and off-highway vehicle damage in the river.

Enforcement events, such as those around major holidays, help deter illegal gatherings, with recent efforts preventing over 140 vehicles from entering the riverbottom. Additionally, the collaborative has made progress in environmental restoration projects, such as the tributary restoration efforts by the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, which focus on creek and habitat improvements in key areas like Hidden Valley and Adject Creek. In terms of outcomes, the collaborative has:

- Restored 307 encampments
- Removed 795 tons of trash
- Escorted 462 vehicles off the property
- Removed over 1,400 tires
- Offered services to 2,012 individuals
- Connected 190 individuals to services, with 188 transitioning into permanent housing
- Moved 246 people out of the riverbottom
- Engaged 712 individuals, with 33 individuals currently in shelter or motel placements and 41 housed in rapid rehousing programs.

Commissioner Botello commended the efforts of the collaborative, highlighting the impactful work being done under Supervisor Spiegel's leadership. He acknowledged the importance of wraparound services for individuals who are unsheltered, emphasizing that while similar conversations are happening in larger cities like Los Angeles, the collaborative is actually implementing proven methods with measurable success. He noted discussions about expanding these efforts to the upper watershed, which is planned for the future.

Commissioner Botello posed the question regarding the safety measures in place, particularly how park rangers ensure the safety of staff and volunteers involved in habitat restoration and other fieldwork, allowing them to effectively carry out their responsibilities.

Mr. Serrato emphasized the importance of safety in conducting field surveys and working in the riverbottom. Communication with local law enforcement, particularly the Riverside Sheriff's Office, is key in identifying potential hazards and ensuring that staff are aware of risks in specific areas, such as hostile individuals or hazardous materials (e.g., machetes).

The team takes a proactive approach to documenting these risks, allowing them to prepare for future surveys and ensure the safety of all involved. The approach to working with individuals in the riverbottom is grounded in kindness and respect, prioritizing resource provision and relationship-building. By interacting on a first-name basis, staff have been able to build trust and reduce conflicts. While there are occasional issues with aggressive dogs, the overall approach has helped mitigate major safety concerns.

This compassionate, non-confrontational strategy, along with clear identification as park rangers, has been highly effective in maintaining safety and fostering cooperation with those living in the area.

Commissioner Hall expressed gratitude and appreciation for the team's outstanding work from 2022 to the present, noting the challenges and dangers of working in such an environment under risky conditions. She then inquired about the safety and well-being of the staff, asking if there have been any injuries or incidents involving team members during their operations in the riverbottom.

Mr. Serrato noted that, fortunately, there have been no significant injuries to staff members. The only minor issues encountered have been related to environmental factors, such as stinging nettles and poison oak. The team's compassionate approach to working with individuals in the riverbottom has been key to preventing conflicts and maintaining safety. By engaging with the community daily and fostering trust, the team has been able to reduce barriers and mitigate potential risks. Additionally, prior to any surveys or events, the team makes sure to visit the area to inform the residents and ensure they are aware of the upcoming activities, which helps alleviate concerns and maintain a smooth operation.

Commissioner Paule expressed familiarity with Supervisor Spiegel's initiative and recognized the importance of this effort. He commended the Riverside County Parks Department for their leadership and willingness to take on this critical issue, despite it not traditionally falling within their jurisdiction. He emphasized the department's dedication to addressing challenges in the riverbottom, despite the focus typically being on hiking and biking trails and expressed appreciation of the presentation.

Chair Gardner inquired about the strategies used to prevent cleaned up encampments from being re-inhabited immediately after the cleanup. Mr. Serrato noted that Rangers are assigned to specific areas of the river and patrol those areas every day to ensure that no individuals return to previously cleaned locations. This daily presence helps to discourage encampments from being re-established and ensures that any potential issues are addressed immediately.

Chair Gardner raised concerns regarding the challenges posed by the numerous jurisdictions and private ownership within the river bottom. He noted that each area, such as Riverside, Jurupa Valley, and Corona, has different ordinances and enforcement mechanisms, making it difficult to maintain consistent rules. Chair Gardner suggested a unified set of rules for the river bottom, along with shared enforcement authority among the various jurisdictions, would be beneficial.

Commissioner Harrison expressed strong support for the ongoing efforts in the riverbottom, noting that SBVMWD recently doubled its investment in park rangers, contributing over a million dollars in the past month alone. This reflects their continued commitment to the initiative. He also highlighted a significant investment in habitat restoration projects, which far exceed the ranger investment.

Additionally, Commissioner Harrison referenced a SAWPA study, which found that the water quality impact from the homeless population in the river bottom was minimal. However, they pointed out that the greatest environmental impact comes from fires, both accidental and intentional, which are often started by individuals in the area. These fires significantly affect water quality by altering runoff patterns and introducing unwanted debris into the river.

Commissioner Botello acknowledged the consistent and vital efforts of the park rangers maintaining a daily presence that ensures the areas stay clear. He praised the rangers for their proactive and compassionate approach, noting their strong relationships with individuals in the river bottom, including knowing many by name. This unique approach, which blends law enforcement with support, has led to positive results in the area.

He also highlighted the importance of data in shaping policy, and expressed a commitment to ensuring collaboration across jurisdictions, including San Bernardino. He voiced support for expanding the successful approach to other areas and reiterated their goal to foster greater coordination in the region.

Commissioner Hall inquired whether SAWPA contributes to any of the costs associated with the riverbottom efforts, and if not, whether this is something that could be considered for the future. Ms. Williams responded that SAWPA does not currently contribute, though an agenda item will be brought back for further discussion at a future meeting.

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. PHASE 1 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER PROJECT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (CM#2025.66)

Daniel Vasquez provided a presentation titled Request for Proposals for Phase 1 Electric Vehicle Charger Project, contained in the agenda packet on pages 65-75.

Mr. Vasquez provided an overview of state mandates related to zero-emission vehicles, particularly Governor's Executive Order N7920. This order requires state and local governments to comply with zero-emission vehicle mandates by 2027 for new vehicle purchases. Although there have been challenges to this mandate, it is still enforced for state and local governments, while enforcement for private purchases has been stayed.

The project in discussion involves the installation of two dual-port electric vehicle (EV) chargers (Phase 1). These chargers would be capable of charging up to four vehicles simultaneously, and the cost estimate for installation is between \$95,000 to \$120,000. The project would require design and permitting, electrical room upgrades, new panels, trenching, and asphalt restoration.

Mr. Vasquez noted that currently, the SAWPA building has a slower 30-amp charger capable of servicing two vehicles. The proposed chargers would be much faster, with smart technology to balance the load between the chargers, reducing charging times significantly.

The cost for the chargers, pedestals, and controllers is relatively low, but the construction (design, permitting, and electrical upgrades) represents the bulk of the cost. Additionally, the new system will allow for user-rate customization based on different user types.

Future expansion may require more substantial upgrades, including a possible new electric drop, which could take years and become significantly more expensive. There is a delay in acquiring switchgears, which is currently expected to take over 36 months. This could extend the overall project timeline, especially for future upgrades. The process to secure a new electric drop (for additional capacity) will involve permitting and potentially applying for assistance programs from Southern California Edison (SCE) or Riverside Public Utilities (RPU). These programs can help fund the installation of a new electric drop, but the application process can take 2-3 years for approval, depending on availability and funding.

Mr. Vasquez highlighted the projected timeline; if approved the RFP will be posted to PlanetBids today. A Pre-Proposal meeting with potential contractors is scheduled for September 30. The deadline to submit proposals is October 24, and a decision is expected to be brought before the Commission in December for approval.

Commissioner Hall asked if the current chargers always in use? Is there a waitlist or do vehicles just line up while waiting to use them? Mr. Vasquez noted that operationally, we aim to support visitors and individuals with zero-emission vehicles by providing charging access. The existing charger was originally funded through a grant that required it to be publicly accessible. However, the new chargers wouldn't fall under the same category.

The main reason staff started looking into the costs is due to the upcoming *Advanced Clean Fleet Regulations*, which require us to transition to zero-emission vehicles by 2027. For the fleet to remain operational and be able to respond to emergencies like spills, we need to ensure quick charging capabilities. Right now, our existing chargers take over 6 hours to charge one of our vehicles, which is impractical for our needs.

Looking ahead, we are already planning for fleet purchases beyond 2027, and the goal is to integrate zero-emission vehicles. However, without the necessary infrastructure to charge them efficiently, we could face logistical challenges. If we need additional switchgear or electric line drops from the utility, that process could take years, so we're starting the planning process now, well before 2031–2032, when our fleet will need replacing.

As for public access, the new chargers could be made available to the public, but that would depend on policy decisions, such as pricing and how we integrate with any public charging systems. In any case, they would likely only be accessible during operational hours.

Commissioner Botello inquired about the current chargers being funded through a grant, which means we must allow the public to use them during business hours. As the infrastructure needs to increase, costs will likely go up as well. Looking ahead, based on estimates, will we likely meet our needs for 2032. Do you foresee a situation where we may need double the capacity? Could we potentially need to add more chargers, or would it make sense to upgrade everything now, rather than waiting.

Mr. Vasquez noted that SAWPA currently has five operational vehicles in our fleet, including those used for pre-treatment. These are larger, heavy-duty trucks like F350s, capable of towing and handling tough terrain like Prado Dam, mud, and streams. They're built for rugged conditions and four-wheel drive.

For charging at the rate we need, his initial suggestion would be to keep the chargers dedicated to supporting our operational fleet. This ensures we remain compliant with regulations without having to worry about additional access issues. If the policy direction from executive leadership or the Commission shifts, and there's a desire to make them available to the public, we could adjust and add chargers as needed.

As for why we wouldn't go all-in now and install a large switchgear and expand immediately, the reason is that our fleet is relatively small. Based on our current operations, four chargers should be sufficient unless we decide to open up more slots for public use, which would then require additional planning and resources.

Mr. Vasquez continued by stating that they're planning to upsize the conduit because the existing one leading to the current charger is already too small for modern safety standards. Simply upgrading the charger won't work because the conduit can't handle additional capacity. We won't be able to add more chargers without digging up and re-trenching. But when we do re-trench, we'll make sure to upsize the conduit to accommodate future needs. This will help us avoid having to dig up the asphalt again down the road, saving money. That way, if we need to add more chargers in the adjacent parking lot later, we won't need to do another round of trenching, we'll just run the additional lines through the already-upgraded conduit.

Chair Gardner inquired if there's been any discussions with Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) about our expected increased demand for power? Mr. Vasquez noted that he's spoke directly with RPU about our current capacity. If we were to add 10 to 15 more electric vehicle chargers, it would likely require either upgrading our existing switchgear or adding a new external one. RPU does have cost-sharing programs, but they typically cover a percentage of the switchgear cost, not the construction. So, while they may provide the switchgear itself, we would still be responsible for the costs associated with connecting it to the existing utility infrastructure. They've indicated they're open to reviewing an application once we're ready to move forward.

Chair Gardner emphasized that Western is also facing the same Zero-Emission Vehicle requirements and suggested exploring a partnership between Western and SAWPA. We could potentially place a shared charging facility behind the building, which would benefit both of us. I'm not sure about Western's specific demand for charging stations, but there's a large facility just across the street and some space behind it that could be ideal.

It would be worth having a conversation with Western to understand their plans and needs. There may be an opportunity for collaboration. Additionally, I think it would be beneficial to consider installing solar panels above the parking spaces to help power the chargers. Not only would it generate energy, but it would also keep the vehicles cooler, potentially saving on utility costs. While I'm not sure what solar rebates will be like at that time, it's certainly something worth considering, and recommends exploring the two options.

MOVED, to authorize the release of the Request for Proposals for the Phase 1 Electric Vehicle Charger Project.

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

B. ROUNDTABLE OF INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT REGIONS – PROPOSITION 4 CLIMATE BOND COMMENT LETTER (CM#2025.67)

Ian Achimore provided a presentation titled Roundtable of IRWM Regions – Proposition 4 Climate Bond Comment Letter, contained in the agenda packet on pages 83-92.

Staff recommend that the Commission authorize the General Manager to sign a coalition letter from the Roundtable of IRWM Regions to the California Department of Water Resources

(DWR), regarding a specific \$100 million portion of Proposition 4 (a \$10 billion climate resilience bond approved by voters in November 2024). This funding is designated for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and watershed climate resilience.

The letter offers key recommendations, including:

- Allowing use of current IRWM plans without requiring updates.
- Encouraging DWR to work with other state agencies to allocate Proposition 4 funds through competitive block grants to IRWM regions.
- Requesting a unified, agency-wide implementation roadmap for Proposition 4.

Signing the letter supports regional flexibility, leverages existing IRWM structures, and avoids unnecessary plan updates.

Commissioner Botello thanked staff for their efforts. The OWOW Steering Committee Onboarding meetings for the new members process is making great progress, and these grant funds will be funneled through OWOW, and he is really excited about the opportunities ahead.

MOVED, to authorize the General Manager to sign the Roundtable of Integrated Regional Water Management Regions letter on recommendations for Proposition 4 \$100 Million funding.

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

8. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

A. **CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – JULY 2025**

Presenter: Karen Williams

B. **INTER-FUND BORROWING – JULY 2025 (CM#2025.68)**

Presenter: Karen Williams

C. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – JULY 2025 (CM#2025.69)**

Presenter: Karen Williams

D. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JUNE 2025**

Presenter: Karen Williams

E. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JUNE 2025**

Presenter: Karen Williams

F. **FOURTH QUARTER FYE 2025 EXPENSE REPORT**

- General Manager
- Staff

Presenter: Karen Williams

G. BUDGET VS ACTUAL VARIANCE REPORT FYE 2025 FOURTH QUARTER – JUNE 30, 2025 (CM#2025.70)

Presenter: Karen Williams

H. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Presenter: Karen Williams

I. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Presenter: Karen Williams

J. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Karen Williams reported that the audit is complete, and everything went smoothly. The auditors didn't have any questions or concerns. One highlight is that we have a \$638,000 asset on the books for our retiree medical benefits, which is great news.

K. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

Chair Gardner noted that SAWPA's renovations look great overall. However, he observed that the step-up area lacks proper marking or striping, which poses a potential safety hazard. There is a risk of someone tripping or mis-stepping. He understands this may still be part of the project that is pending, but he recommends following up with the contractors to ensure it is addressed promptly, now that the building is in use again.

L. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Hall expressed concerns regarding the disturbing incident. Having been on the SAWPA Board over the years, and being involved in the implementation of Zoom, she's never encountered something like this before and raised concerns about security. She strongly believes that we need to put measures in place to prevent something like this from happening again. Her priority, as I'm sure it is for all of us, is to ensure a safe environment for our board and commission members and she hopes we can take steps to ensure our safety is a top consideration moving forward.

Chair Gardner noted that it's completely understandable and apologized for not taking quicker action. He also expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Botello for speaking up and bringing the issue to light.

M. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Gardner proposed that SAWPA consider sending a letter to the Governor urging his signature on SB 72, and that we add this item to the agenda for our next meeting.

Chair Gardner recessed the meeting at 11:06 a.m. for Closed Session.

9. CLOSED SESSION

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE

10. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Chair Gardner resumed the Open Session at 11:26 a.m. and Legal Counsel, Thomas S. Bunn announced that the Commission received a report from Counsel; no reportable action was taken on Agenda Item No. 9.A.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Gardner adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, October 7, 2025.

Signed by:

Mike Gardner

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Mike Gardner, Chair

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Sara Villa

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board