



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 2, 2025**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Mike Gardner, Chair, Western Municipal Water District  
Gil Botello, Vice Chair, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
David Slawson, Alternate, Eastern Municipal Water District  
Denis Bilodeau, Orange County Water District [via – zoom]

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
Philip E. Paule, Eastern Municipal Water District

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT;  
NON-VOTING**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

Karen Williams, David Ruhl, Shavonne Turner, Ian Achimore, Dean Unger, John Leete, Rick Whetsel, Alison Lewis, Natalia Gonzalez, Sara Villa, Emily Fuentes, Lucas Gilbert, Olivia Burgess, Linda Kim, Zyanya Ramirez, Marie Jauregui, Daniel Vasquez

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Thomas S. Bunn, Lagerlof, LLP; Christiana Daisy, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Carly Pierce, Western Municipal Water District; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Derek Kawaii, Western Municipal Water District; Tom Lindsey, Yorba Linda Water District; Valerie Amezcua, City of Santa Ana

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 1960 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92101.

**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: NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

**B. TREASURER'S REPORT: OCTOBER 2025**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

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

|                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Result:        | Adopted by Roll Call Vote           |
| Motion/Second: | Botello/Slawson                     |
| Ayes:          | Bilodeau, Botello, Gardner, Slawson |
| Nays:          | None                                |
| Abstentions:   | None                                |
| Absent:        | None                                |

## 6. **NEW BUSINESS**

### A. **PHASE 1 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER PROJECT AWARD (CM#2025.87)**

Daniel Vasquez provided a presentation titled Phase 1 Electric Vehicle Charger Project Award, contained in the agenda packet on pages 23-33.

Mr. Vasquez provided a brief overview of Executive Order N-79-20, which drives CARB's Advanced Clean Fleet Regulation. The order directed that by 2026, 35% of new passenger cars and light trucks sold in California be zero-emission. Although private enforcement has been temporarily stayed, local governments are still required to comply, and SAWPA will be required to ensure that all new fleet purchases are zero-emission electric vehicles.

For Phase 1 of the electric vehicle charger project, the Commission directed staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) in September. The RFP requested the purchase and installation of two dual-port chargers, allowing up to four (4) vehicles to charge simultaneously. Proposals were due November 6, 2025. All proposals received were evaluated based on qualifications, staffing and project organization, work plan, cost, and completeness. InCharge Energy received the highest overall score and is recommended for award at \$101,731.48.

Mr. Vasquez noted that the project tasks include a pre-construction phase with permitting, design approval, and site preparation; installation of pedestal-mounted chargers, trenching, system integration, and control setup; and testing and commissioning.

The schedule is to file the Notice of Exemption and approve the contract today. Permitting and procurement would begin immediately this month but acquire the equipment and obtain approvals from Riverside Public Utilities and the City of Riverside will take some time. As a result, it is anticipated that construction will begin in March 2026.

The recommendation is to direct the General Manager to file a Notice of Exemption for the Phase 1 EV Charger Project with the Riverside County Clerk's Office; and to execute a General Service Agreement and Task Order with InCharge Energy for an amount not to exceed \$101,731.48 for Phase 1 of the EV Charger Project. There was no discussion.

**MOVED**, to approve the following:

1. Direct the General Manager to file a Notice of Exemption for the Phase 1 Electric Vehicle Charger Project with the Riverside County Clerk's Office, and
2. Authorize the General Manager to approve the General Services Agreement and Task Order No. INC100-01 with InCharge Energy Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$101,731.48 for the Phase 1 Electric Vehicle Charger Project.

|                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Result:        | Adopted by Roll Call Vote           |
| Motion/Second: | Slawson/Botello                     |
| Ayes:          | Bilodeau, Botello, Gardner, Slawson |
| Nays:          | None                                |
| Abstentions:   | None                                |
| Absent:        | None                                |

**B. PROPOSITION 4 OVERVIEW (CM#2025.88)**

Ian Achimore provided a presentation titled Proposition 4 Overview, contained in the agenda packet on pages 171-180.

In July 2024, the legislature approved a \$10 billion bond (SB 867). The bond's focus includes safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparedness, and clean air, all aimed at improving the state's climate resilience. The bond passed with 60% of the vote, surpassing the 50% requirement.

A significant portion of the funding is earmarked for grants to water agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations. Like previous climate and water-related bonds, Proposition 4 allocates funding for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), a priority for SAWPA and the OWOW Steering Committee. While earlier bonds allocated around \$500 million for IRWM, Proposition 4 only includes \$100 million, with a stronger focus on climate resilience. The decline in IRWM funding reflects the state's evolving approach to water and climate projects.

Mr. Achimore noted that the bond stipulates that at least 40% of the funds must benefit vulnerable populations, including disadvantaged communities. Funds must prioritize projects that leverage additional outside funding, and while there is no overall cost-share requirement, certain categories, like water recycling, may include one.

IRWM funding, a key focus for our region, will target climate resilience, and while the focus on disadvantaged communities remains, "vulnerable populations" is a new term that will require data-driven descriptions from applicants.

The bond allocates funding to several areas, with Chapter 2 focusing on water-related projects, including:

- \$15 million for stream gauges
- \$62 million for brackish desalination
- \$100 million for IRWM (with a climate resilience focus)
- \$385 million for water reuse and recycling
- \$585 million for water quality and safe drinking water

Other areas include funding for wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, nature-based solutions, climate-smart agriculture, and clean air and energy.

Mr. Achimore noted that the Department of Water Resources is leading this effort, and state agencies are in the process of developing guidelines for the funds. SAWPA is tracking the bond and will provide periodic updates to the OWOW Steering Committee and SAWPA Commission, especially as it relates to the \$100 Million in IRWM funding.

Commissioner Botello inquired about the "vulnerable populations" clause and the focus on climate resilience for the IRWM funds, our service area, and every agency in this JPA has vulnerable populations in at-risk environments. It would be beneficial, especially OWOW, to really unpack the definition of "vulnerable populations" and develop some guidelines for how to address this focus.

Additionally, Commissioner Botello suggests when preparing the CARP report, it should incorporate this "vulnerable populations" definition. We will need to understand what this really means in practice to align with the criteria. It was also interesting to note that during the OWOW presentation, the members were very perceptive and some of the questions raised were about the timeline, specifically, concerns that we might not have access to the grant funding until 2027. Is that timeline realistic?

Mr. Achimore noted that the guidelines for the Proposition 4 funding need to be drafted, followed by a draft release, a comment period, and finalization. As a result, applications will not be available until 2027. However, the CARP is currently being developed, which aligns well with the timeline for the funding. As work on the CARP progresses, projects will emerge in conceptual form and later become more shovel-ready, which should fit the funding process once the guidelines are finalized.

Chair Gardner noted that SAWPA and the member agencies will want to be involved in the development of the regulations. There may be an opportunity to share feedback with staff before the draft regulations are released. The goal is to provide input on the draft regulations, with the hope of shaping them in a way that makes the funding more beneficial to our region.

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

## **7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

### **A. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

**Presenter:** Karen Williams

### **B. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Karen Williams reported that the Crestmore Manor has been reserved for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd. Planning for the event is underway, and the anticipated guest list will include up to 160 people. Commissioners are encouraged to begin thinking about potential invitees and to share their suggestions with staff. Save-the-date notices will be sent out before formal invitations to ensure guests keep the date open. An update on the event's budget and funding will be provided at the next meeting. The consultant is coordinating the interviews and mentioned that we set a record for the most interviews conducted in a single day. Since then, several additional interviews have taken place, including more last Monday.

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

There were no Chair comments received.

### **D. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioners' comments received.

### **E. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

Chair Gardner recessed the meeting at 9:52 a.m. for Closed Session.

## **8. CLOSED SESSION**

### **A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case | PFAS Regional Analysis Phase II Update

## **9. CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

Chair Gardner resumed the Open Session at 10:10 a.m. and Legal Counsel, Thomas S. Bunn announced that the Commission received a report from Counsel; no reportable action was taken on Agenda Items No. 8.A.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Gardner adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m. in memory of those who died in the Inland Empire Regional Center terrorist attack 10 years ago.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, December 16, 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