



...A United Voice for the Santa Ana River Watershed

OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2019

Committee Members	
<u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u>	
Jasmin A. Hall, Convener, Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Present
Bruce Whitaker, Orange County Water District	Present
<u>County Supervisor Representatives</u>	
Riverside County Board of Supervisors [Vacant]	Vacant
Orange County Board of Supervisors [Vacant]	Vacant
Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Present
<u>County Municipal Representatives</u>	
Deborah Robertson, Mayor, City of Rialto	Absent
Laura Roughton, Riverside County Municipal Representative	Present
Jose Solorio, Councilmember, City of Santa Ana	Present [11:07 a.m.]
<u>Business Community Representative</u>	
James Hessler, Director of West Coast Operations, Altman Plants	Present
<u>Environmental Community Representative</u>	
Garry W. Brown, President, Orange County Coastkeeper	Present
<u>Regional Water Quality Control Board Representative</u>	
Linda Ackerman, Vice Chair, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Absent
Others Present	
<u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u>	Kati Parker, T. Milford Harrison
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Rich Haller, Larry McKenney, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, Mike Antos, Ian Achimore, Dean Unger, Kelly Berry, Sara Villa
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	Nick Kanetis, Deputy General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District; Amanda Carr, Deputy Director, OC Environmental Resources, Patricia Lock Dawson, California Coastal Conservancy; Marsha Westropp, Orange County Water District

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Jasmin A. Hall, serving as Convener, at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.



1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call was duly noted and recorded.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – September 27, 2018 and November 15, 2018

MOVED, approve the September 27, 2018 and November 15, 2018 meeting minutes.

Result:	Adopted (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Hessler/ Brown
Ayes:	Brown, Hagman, Hall, Hessler, Roughton, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Ackerman, Robertson, Solorio

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Incorporating the Santa Ana River Parkway & Open Space Plan into the OWOW Plan Update 2018 (SC#2019.1)

Mark Norton introduced Patricia Lock Dawson, California Coastal Conservancy who provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway*. Copies were provided to Committee members, staff and the public. A brief background of the recent history of the Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway progress was provided. The Santa Ana River Trail and Parkway Partnership was established by a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006, which includes SAWPA, a Policy Advisory Group (Elected Officials), and Technical Advisory Group (Managers) within the watershed. The Santa Ana River Conservancy Program developed the Santa Ana River Parkway and Open Space Plan to establish a list of projects that will bring funding into the watershed and to define a shared vision for the Santa Ana River Parkway as a state, regional, and local asset. To provide tools for prioritizing, developing, and implementing projects through proactive collaboration.

Committee Member Solorio joined the meeting at 11:07 a.m., during the discussion of Agenda Item No. 4.A.

MOVED, receive presentations by SAWPA staff and the California Coastal Conservancy about the Santa Ana River Parkway and Open Space Plan (2018); and, incorporate the Santa Ana River Parkway and Open Space Plan by reference in an appendix to the OWOW Plan Update 2018.

Result:	Adopted (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Hagman/Brown
Ayes:	Brown, Hagman, Hall, Hessler, Roughton, Solorio, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Ackerman, Robertson

B. Incorporate the November 2018 San Bernardino County Santa Ana River Watershed Stormwater Resource Plan into the OWOW Plan Update 2018 (SC#2019.2)

Mark Norton introduced Arlene B. Chun, San Bernardino County Stormwater Program Manager, San Bernardino County; Katie Harrel, Special Projects Manager, CWE; and Steven Bell, Civil Engineer, CWE who provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *San Bernardino County Santa*



Ana River Watershed Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP). Copies were provided to Committee members, staff and the public. The SWRP involves stakeholder and public input and looks for project opportunities within the area. It uses a regional planning approach assessing the multiple benefits that are provided by a project and prioritizing potential project implementation. Grant funding was received to develop the SWRP through Round 1 under Proposition 1. The type of projects included within the SWRP are groundwater recharge, habitat restoration, channel improvements, water quality enhancement, passive recreation, and recycled water. The goals are for the SWRP to enhance water quality, maximize water supply, improve flood management, protect the environment, and provide community benefits. It was noted that half of the SWRP projects are included within the OWOW Plan Update 2018; SWRP has 54 projects and the OWOW Plan Update 2018 has a total of 142 projects.

Committee Member Brown questioned how much public input went into the SWRP and if there was any negative feedback. It was noted that invitations were sent out through mailers, social media, flyers, and emails, though the participants were mainly agency/city representatives, and there was no push-back; the State board provided minor comments that are currently being addressed.

MOVED, receive a presentation by representatives of San Bernardino County about the November 2018 San Bernardino County Santa Ana River Watershed Stormwater Resource Plan; and, incorporate the 2018 San Bernardino County Santa Ana River Watershed Stormwater Resource Plan by reference in an appendix to the OWOW Plan Update 2018.

Result:	Adopted (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Hagman/Hessler
Ayes:	Brown, Hagman, Hall, Hessler, Roughton, Solorio, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Ackerman, Robertson

C. OWOW Plan Update 2018 Sustainability Assessment (SC#2019.3)

Mike Antos introduced Betty Andrews, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), who provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Sustainability Assessment for the Santa Ana River Watershed OWOW Plan Update 2018*. Copies were provided to Committee members, staff and the public. SAWPA was selected to partner with Department of Water Resources (DWR) during the development of the California Water Plan Update 2018 and the OWOW Plan Update 2018 to support a pilot assessment tool and provide feedback to decision-makers and stakeholders regarding how well the goals are being achieved to focus on improving watershed sustainability. A brief description of the goal indicators and scoring approach were identified; three-part rating of quantitative and qualitative assessment of positive, neutral, and negative scoring. Andrews referenced the OWOW Plan Update 2018 Watershed Sustainability Assessment contained on pages 33-113 of the agenda packet and provided a breakdown of the Summary Tables containing the OWOW Goal, Indicator and Metric, Rating, and Scoring Approach.

Committee Member Hessler expressed appreciation for the work that has been put into the assessment and how accurately the input has been captured. Committee Member Whitaker noted that the efforts to quickly determine the areas of concern is a helpful aid for all who are involved, and he applauds the efforts to revisit the assessment more frequently. Committee Member Hagman suggested adding an asterisk to the rating, if there is a circumstance out of our control, such as heavy rain. Staff clarified that the dashboard is intended to reflect management



responses, not watershed conditions. Committee Member Brown questioned if the Assessment will be kept current and will a consultant be needed or if it could be done internally. Andrews noted that SAWPA staff can do it. It was recommended that there be an Assessment Committee approach versus solely SAWPA when the re-assessment gets revisited.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.C.

D. Completion of the One Water One Watershed Plan Update 2018 (SC#2019.4)

Mike Antos provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Plan Update 2018*. Copies were provided to Committee members, staff and the public digitally. Three (3) hard copies of the OWOW Plan Update 2018 with the Appendices were available to the public. The completed plan update is the result of a 28-month effort, with over 100 authors and many collaboration meetings, resulting in six (6) goals for achieving a sustainable watershed in developing the OWOW Plan Update 2018. A brief description of each of the chapters within the OWOW Plan Update 2018 were defined. The OWOW Plan Update is ready to be approved as the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the Santa Ana River watershed. The OWOW Plan Update is compliant with the 2016 IRWM Plan standards released by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and stands ready, once approved by the SAWPA Commission and DWR, to make all included projects eligible for state grant funding. The next steps with today's recommendation are to process a newspaper Notice of Public Hearing for SAWPA Commission approval February 19, 2019.

Rich Haller informed the Committee members that Agenda Item No. 4.F. will be about the on-going discussions with Orange County on Proposition 1 and allocation of funds. It's been suggested that perhaps the outcome will impact the OWOW Plan Update 2018, though SAWPA needs to stick to the timeline and move forward with the OWOW Plan Update 2018. Committee Member Whitaker questioned if the approval of this Agenda Item No. 4.D. may be provisional until we are settled on Agenda Item No. 4.F. Haller noted that we need to move forward, there is still additional work to be done to come to a consensus and document the agreement with Orange County. Amanda Carr questioned if there is a summary of how the comments submitted were addressed on the OWOW Plan Update 2018. Antos noted there was a public comment period wherein only six (6) comments were received, and there is a summary of the responses to those comments.

MOVED, recommend the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Plan Update 2018 be adopted by the SAWPA Commission.

Result:	Adopted (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Hagman/Brown
Ayes:	Brown, Hagman, Hall, Hessler, Roughton, Solorio, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Ackerman, Robertson

E. Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program – Update on Technical Assistance for Community Needs (SC#2019.6)

Mike Antos provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Technical Assistance for Community Needs*. Copies were provided to Committee members, staff and the public. Within the Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program is an activity called Technical Assistance



for Community Needs (TAC). The DCI TAC has a grant budget of about \$2.9 M and it is made up of one person from each of the program partners, as well as three (3) agency representatives and the Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Communities Pillar Chair. Four (4) efforts were approved by the DCI TAC for early-action, and SAWPA staff are beginning work to develop how these efforts will be carried out; Income Surveys, Big Bear Sustainability Project, Tribal Working Group, and monitoring the water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat impact of homelessness above Prado Dam. The next steps for each of these efforts is for SAWPA staff to engage the groups who will conduct the work, develop the timeline, scope and budget, and seek SAWPA Commission actions to initiate the work. DWR must also sign-off that these activities are compliant with the Proposition 1 DCI Program. Committee Member Solorio expressed concerns on how money is constantly being spent on consultants and institutions and not really focused on spending the resources in actual disadvantaged communities and homeless encampments. This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.E.

F. Orange County Stakeholders Letter (SC#2019.5)

Rich Haller provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Ongoing discussions with North and Central Orange County Regional Water Management Group*. Copies were provided to Committee members, staff and the public. The continued issues under discussion between SAWPA and Orange County Public Works, on behalf of other agencies and stakeholders is to have the OC Plan (2018) “meaningfully included” in the OWOW Plan Updated 2018 as a chapter, rather than by reference in an appendix. Orange County stakeholders have requested the OWOW Steering Committee to divide and pre-allocate 38% of available Proposition 1 IRWM grant funds to projects in Orange County as selected by the OC Plan. In the interim, Orange County Public Works on behalf of the signatories of the Orange County Stakeholder Letter, has since filed a Regional Acceptance Process application with Department of Water Resources (DWR), seeking to be a separate Regional Water Management Group. DWR may reach a preliminary decision by the end of January. If approved, Orange County would be eligible to apply for IRWM grants within the Santa Ana Funding area.

A response proposal to Orange County suggested creating a 25% minimum allocation that would be assured for projects located in each Orange County, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County. The remaining 25% of funding would be awarded to project proponents based on merit, emphasizing regional projects. The Orange County Plan rating and ranking would be used to create a suite of projects that would be submitted by Orange County as a single program to the OWOW Program call-for-projects seeking grants. The Orange County stakeholders suggested that one-third of available implementation grants be pre-allocated to Orange County, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County. Each County could choose to assign funds from their allocation for larger scale cross county regional projects. Orange County suggested that, if there is a formal allocation to County areas, the concern about harm from upstream projects on downstream areas is potentially mitigated. If one-third pre-allocation by County is agreed to, Orange County Public Works will withdraw its Regional Acceptance Process application with DWR.

Committee Member Hagman noted that he understands the interest in putting dollars on geographical areas, though this is a separate designation by legislature that is not intended to be distributed based on population. The whole point is not to have boundaries, and to focus on what is best as a regional approach. It should be based off the best project submitted that will benefit the whole region and all projects should be evaluated the same way across the board.



Committee Member Brown noted that OWOW was first built as a foundation focused on what benefits the watershed. If three (3) counties are guaranteed so much funding, then certainly we will not be deciding on a holistic approach on what's best for the watershed. Once we start guaranteeing percentages, it's the beginning of the end for OWOW. Committee Member Solorio noted that the splitting up has already begun with Orange County's submittal of a Regional Acceptance Process Application to DWR.

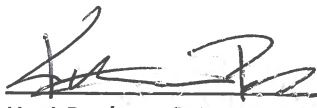
Amanda Carr informed the Steering Committee that the meeting with SAWPA was very helpful since it was the first meeting in person regarding Orange County's concerns that were brought up in July 2018. Orange County did not pursue its Regional Acceptance Process application until late November when it became clear based on SAWPA's staff report that the requests were not going to be acted upon. What was being asked is that the OC Plan be integrated in a more meaningful way than an appendix into the OWOW Plan and that there be land area and population funding split. Carr noted that Orange County moved forward with the Regional Acceptance Process application because it did not want to be shut out from the Proposition 1 process. Conceptual progress is being made on addressing regional projects, and it is a tight timeframe, but workable. DWR is currently reviewing the Regional Acceptance Process application and IRWM Plan to meet all their requirements and will issue preliminary findings with a 30-day public review comment period. It is anticipated that a determination on their application will be completed in March. Carr noted that there is hope that SAWPA staff could work in the concepts of the OC Plan into the OWOW Plan and come back with a mutually agreeable solution, then perhaps it would be unnecessary to move forward with the Regional Acceptance Process application. Committee Member Roughton questioned if the criteria are integrated into the OWOW Plan to Orange County's satisfaction, will the money division go away? Carr stated; no, Orange County wants SAWPA to both address the planning needs and agree to a funding division. Convener Hall noted that staff will continue to provide updates and continue to move forward while staying on schedule and is hopeful to come up with a resolution.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.F.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

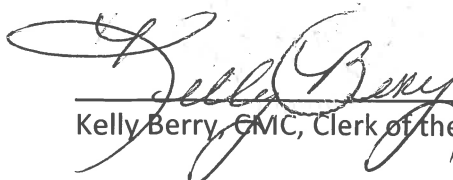
The meeting came to a close at 12:54 p.m.

APPROVED: May 23, 2019



Kati Parker, Convener

Attest:



Kelly Berry, GMC, Clerk of the Board