



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

OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2019

Committee Members	
<u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u>	
Kati Parker, Convener, Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Present
Denis A. Bilodeau, Orange County Water District	Present [via teleconference]
<u>County Supervisor Representatives</u>	
Doug Chaffee, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Absent
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Board of Supervisors	Present
Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Absent
<u>County Municipal Representatives</u>	
Deborah Robertson, Mayor, City of Rialto	Present [11:19 a.m.]
Rusty Bailey, Mayor, City of Riverside	Present
Jose Solorio, Councilmember, City of Santa Ana	Present [via teleconference]
<u>Business Community Representative</u>	
James Hessler, Director of West Coast Operations, Altman Plants	Absent
<u>Environmental Community Representative</u>	
Garry W. Brown, President, Orange County Coastkeeper	Present
<u>Regional Water Quality Control Board Representative</u>	
Linda Ackerman, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Absent
Others Present	
<u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u>	None
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Rich Haller, Matthew Howard, Rick Whetsel, Ian Achimore, Kelly Berry
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	Cristy Suppes, Senior Environmental Resources Specialist, North OC Watershed Management

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:14 a.m. by Kati Parker, Convener, at the Western Municipal Water District, 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, CA 92518 and via telephone conference at 300 N. Flower Street, Room 788, Santa Ana, CA 92703 (Committee Member Bilodeau) and 20 Civic Center Plaza, Conference Room 815, Santa Ana, CA 92701 (Committee Member Solorio).



1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were duly noted and recorded. Supervisor Karen Spiegel, County of Riverside, was welcomed as a new member of the OWOW Steering Committee.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Committee Member Robertson arrived at 11:19 a.m., during public comments.

Gil Navarro, Division II Director, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, noted concerning impacts to water quality within disadvantaged communities and spoke in support of funding within those communities.

There were no public comments from either telephone conference location.

3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – May 23, 2019**

MOVED, approve the May 23, 2019 meeting minutes.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Passed)
Motion/Second:	Bailey/Robertson
Ayes:	Bailey, Bilodeau, Parker, Robertson, Solorio
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	Brown, Spiegel
Absent:	Ackerman, Chaffee, Hagman, Hessler

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DCI) Program Technical Assistance Criteria (SC#2019.9)**

Matthew Howard provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DCI) Program Technical Assistance Criteria, a slighted revised version from that contained in the agenda packet on pages 15-17. The DCI Program Technical Advisory Committee, in collaboration with SAWPA and DWR staff, have finalized the Technical Assistance Project Criteria included in the agenda packet on pages 10-14.

Committee Member Brown voiced frustration that large amounts of available grant funding (\$500,000 previously; \$2.9 million presently) continue to be allocated to entities conducting studies but grant funding is not actually being invested to help anyone is disadvantaged communities. Howard noted the projects set forth will be in disadvantaged communities, economically distressed communities, or underrepresented areas; there is an additional \$6.3 million in grant funding available for implementation. The goal in Proposition 1 Round 2 is to allocate more funding for implementation within those communities; the outcome of conducting studies and providing technical assistance is to further community involvement and leverage implementation grant funding in those communities. There was a brief discussion regarding the wide variety of projects spanning all three counties, the state's definition of disadvantaged communities (based on median household income) within the context of this grant funding, and how communities could submit existing projects. SAWPA staff is available to review/address project specific comments or questions.

Committee Member Bailey requested a copy of the referenced Community Water Ethnography Report. Howard noted a draft report was submitted to DWR in May; Rich Haller advised a copy



would be provided to the Committee members as well as the revised PowerPoint presentation for this Agenda Item No. 4.A.

Committee Member Solorio voiced ongoing concern that large sums have been expended for the benefit of water agencies and institutions, and he encouraged utilizing the information obtained as a result of the studies, etc., to determine which entities are actually working directly with disadvantaged communities and perhaps they could be pre-qualified. A great deal of funding has already been spent to identify needs, yet we still haven't identified priorities or invested in communities.

Committee Member Bilodeau stated he had no questions regarding Agenda Item No. 4.A.

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

B. Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Residential Asbestos Cement Pipe Abandonment and Replacement Project – Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program Technical Assistance Project (SC#2019.8)

Matthew Howard provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DCI) Program Technical Assistance Project, a slighted revised version from that contained in the agenda packet on pages 21-22. The DCI Program Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has reviewed and approved this project for recommendation of technical assistance funding to the OWOW Steering Committee. The Project requests \$350,000 to complete outlined work from the DCI Program Technical Assistance Funding, which most likely will be bid utilizing an RFP process. Committee Member Brown asked for the actual replacement cost; Howard responded the cost would be determined by the pre-engineering report.

MOVED, recommend the proposed Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Residential Asbestos Cement Pipe Abandonment and Replacement Project to the SAWPA Commission for funding under the Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Bailey/Brown
Ayes:	Bailey, Bilodeau, Brown, Parker, Robertson, Solorio, Spiegel
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Ackerman, Chaffee, Hagman, Hessler

C. Final Report from Departing CivicSpark Water Fellows (SC#2019.11)

Marisa Perez-Reyes and Brian Keener, departing CivicSpark Fellows, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, Supporting the Implementation of the DCI Program, contained in the agenda packet on pages 28-37. The DCI Program supports two CivicSpark Water Fellows each year, beginning in September and ending in August. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Marisa Perez-Reyes and Brian Keener.

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



D. North Orange County Stakeholder Group Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Portfolio and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Review of the OWOW Plan Update 2018 (SC#2019.10)

Ian Achimore, joined by Christy Suppes, Orange County Public Works, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, North OC Stakeholder Group IRWM Portfolio and the DWR Review of the OWOW Plan Update 2018, contained in the agenda packet on pages 43-54.

Committee Member Solorio moved the item, which was seconded by Committee Member Bilodeau. Committee Member Solorio left the meeting at 12:23 p.m. and did not return.

Committee Member Bilodeau noted that as Director of Division 2, he is an officer with the Orange County Water District and he falls under the remote interest provision of Government Code Section 1091.

MOVED, recommend the North Orange County Stakeholder Group Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) projects to be added to the previous portfolio of projects submitted to SAWPA Commission for funding under the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Proposition 1 IRWM Round 1 grant program.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Passed)
Motion/Second:	Solorio/Bilodeau
Ayes:	Bailey, Bilodeau, Parker, Robertson, Solorio, Spiegel
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	Brown
Absent:	Ackerman, Chaffee, Hagman, Hessler

Rich Haller noted the importance of this item in solidifying the working relationship with the Orange County Stakeholders moving forward and thanked Amanda Carr for her vision and efforts during this process.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting came to a close at 12:41 p.m.

APPROVED: September 26, 2019

Kati Parker, Convener

Attest:

Kelly Berry, CMC, Clerk of the Board