



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 19, 2019**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Ronald W. Sullivan, Chair, Eastern Municipal Water District  
Kati Parker, Vice Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
Bruce Whitaker, Secretary-Treasurer, Orange County Water District  
Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District [9:46 a.m.]  
June D. Hayes, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Rich Haller, Larry McKenney, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, Dean Unger,  
David Ruhl, Carlos Quintero, Ian Achimore, Kelly Berry

The Regular Commission Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Sullivan at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**B. TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY 2019**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**C. DISPOSAL OF SAWPA SURPLUS PROPERTY (CM#2019.18)**

Recommendation: Receive and file.

**MOVED**, approve the Consent Calendar.

Result: **Adopted (Unanimously)**

Motion/Second: Whitaker/Hayes

Ayes: Hayes, Parker, Sullivan, Whitaker

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Dennstedt

**5. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**A. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERMASTER PRESENTATION (CM#2019.19)**

Craig Miller, General Manager, Western Municipal Water District provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 23-28. Miller explained how the court-appointed Watermaster was part of the resolution of major water rights litigation over the river in the 1960s. The four original member agencies of SAWPA were represented. The resolution of the litigation also included the creation of SAWPA. The Watermaster has tracked base flows in the rivers that must reach Orange County, per the judgment. Base flows have declined in recent years, and the Watermaster examines causes and possible courses of action. A discussion ensued regarding water environmental and habitat needs and flow percentages in the river – on an average, what is natural water flow and what is reclaimed water. Miller noted the numerous variables in arriving at those percentages; there are differing wastewater inputs along the river which dissipate and groundwater rising in other areas. Chair Sullivan asked, should we experience a long, extended drought, how much could be re-utilized in our domestic water system and then what amount would be obligated to flow downriver. Miller responded that under the referenced judgment, it would be a minimum of 34,000 acre-feet annually; however, there are environmental and habitat concerns within the river preventing a minimum flow that low. They continue to study what amount can be re-used and consequential limitations when it comes to biological impacts of reduced flow. Doug Headrick, General Manager, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, emphasized the compliance point moving forward will be based more on habitat needs and less on what is stated in the judgment. Headrick also emphasized the importance of SARCCUP in addressing flow within the river during drought periods. Kelly Rowe, OCWD Board Member, encouraged staff to invite a presentation by the County of Santa Barbara on their cloud-seeding program.

Commission Dennstedt arrived at 9:46 a.m. during discussion of Agenda Item No. 5.A.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.A.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. ADOPTION OF THE ONE WATER ONE WATERSHED (OWOW) PLAN UPDATE 2018 (CM#2019.22)**

Ian Achimore provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 33-44. At the conclusion of Achimore's presentation, Chair Sullivan opened the public hearing and invited comments.

Garry Brown, founder and President of Orange County Coastkeeper and Inland Empire Waterkeeper commented in favor of adoption of the OWOW Plan Update 2018. Brown stated he continues to serve as one of the original members of the OWOW Steering Committee and was heavily involved in the original vision and concept discussions foundationally based in considering the watershed holistically and allocation of finances in line with what is best for the entire watershed. Brown expressed his belief that allocating a guaranteed percentage of funding would undermine the foundation of the OWOW program.

There were no additional public comments. Chair Sullivan closed the public hearing and called for a motion on staff's recommendations.

**MOVED**, adopt Resolution No. 2019-4, adopting the OWOW Plan Update 2018; and, direct staff to file a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption for the OWOW Plan Update 2018.

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|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Result:        | <b>Adopted (Passed)</b>            |
| Motion/Second: | Parker/Dennstedt                   |
| Ayes           | Dennstedt, Hayes, Parker, Sullivan |
| Nays:          | Whitaker                           |
| Abstentions:   | None                               |
| Absent:        | None                               |

**B. WEATHER IMPACTS – INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE (CM#2019.20)**

Carlos Quintero provided a PowerPoint presentation reporting on weather impacts to the Inland Empire Brine Line, noting staff will continue to assess potential weak areas of exposure and research possible FEMA funding for future projects.

This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.B.

**C. FYE 2020 AND 2021 BRINE LINE AND GENERAL FUND DRAFT BUDGETS (CM#2019.21)**

Karen Williams provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 85-113. There was no discussion. This item was for informational purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.C.

**D. UPDATE ON DISCUSSIONS WITH ORANGE COUNTY STAKEHOLDERS | ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2019-3 (CM#2019.24)**

Rich Haller provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 128-132, updated slightly to reflect information contained in a letter received after the posting of the agenda from the OC Stakeholders, dated February 15, 2019, which was provided to the Commission, staff and members of the public. Haller recommended direction from the Commission for staff to continue negotiations with the OC Stakeholders. Discussion ensued regarding the OWOW process, historical funding allocation, potential competition for regional funding and the purpose and future of IRWM. Commissioner Whitaker expressed appreciation for continuing negotiations; he has been engaged throughout this process and understands what brought the parties to this point. He is in favor of supporting the final plan, but that is not possible at this stage given the differing positions. Commissioner Parker supported continued negotiations and expressed the importance of defining how we consider watershed-wide projects and conflict resolution.

Chair Sullivan suggested forming an ad hoc committee as a catalyst in the negotiations and directing staff to approach DWR for an extension of their deadline. Commissioner Dennstedt made a motion to form an ad hoc committee to continue negotiations with the OC Stakeholders, appoint Commissioners Whitaker and Dennstedt to serve on the committee, and direct staff to approach DWR for an extension of their deadline. Ad Hoc Committee Members would work with Orange County representatives, Western, OCWD and SAWPA General Managers and necessary staff to further negotiations. Commissioner Whitaker noted he may not be reappointed to the OCWD Board by his City Council but would welcome serving on the committee in either case. It was the consensus of the Commission that he continue to serve on the ad hoc committee should that occur. The ad hoc committee will bring their recommendation to the Commission for a final decision at a future meeting.

Mike Markus, OCWD General Manager noted it was not the intent of the OC Stakeholders to end the OWOW program; they are fully committed to the OWOW program and SAWPA. However, they have expressed their concerns over the years about the way projects are approved. The OC Plan is reflective

of a greater emphasis on water quality than the OWOW Plan; areas not tributary to the Santa Ana River are difficult to show as having a watershed-wide benefit and those projects have not rated well in the past. The OCWD Board has taken the 33% funding allocation position; a compromise would have to include what was set forth in the February 15<sup>th</sup> letter. Cathy Green, OCWD Board Member stated they felt they have compromised already; Orange County just wants the funding to move forward with their projects.

**MOVED**, form an ad hoc committee to continue negotiations with the OC Stakeholders, appoint Commissioners Whitaker and Dennstedt to serve on the committee and provide a recommendation to the Commission for consideration at a future meeting, and direct staff to approach DWR for an extension of their deadline.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Result:        | <b>Adopted (Unanimously)</b>                 |
| Motion/Second: | Dennstedt/Hayes                              |
| Ayes:          | Dennstedt, Hayes, Parker, Sullivan, Whitaker |
| Nays:          | None   |
| Abstentions:   | None   |
| Absent:        | None   |

## 7. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

The following oral/written reports/updates were received and filed.

- A. **CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – DECEMBER 2018**
- B. **INTER-FUND BORROWING – DECEMBER 2018 (CM#2019.16)**
- C. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – DECEMBER 2018 (CM#2019.17)**
- D. **BUDGET VS ACTUAL VARIANCE REPORT – FYE 2019 SECOND QUARTER – ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018 (CM#2019.23)**
- E. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018**
  - Inland Empire Brine Line
  - SAWPA
- F. **SECOND QUARTER FYE 2019 EXPENSE REPORTS**
  - General Manager
  - Staff
- G. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager Haller reviewed his report.
- H. **SAWPA GENERAL MANAGERS MEETING NOTES**
  - February 12, 2019
- I. **CHAIR’S COMMENTS/REPORT**

Relating to SAWPA’s reserve accounts, Chair Sullivan requested a year-by-year recap from 2015 to the current year provided to the Commission at a future meeting.
- J. **COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioners comments.
- K. **COMMISSIONERS’ REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

8. **CLOSED SESSION**

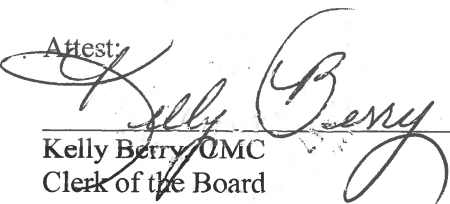
There was no Closed Session.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday,  
March 5, 2019.

  
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Ronald W. Sullivan, Chair

Attest:  
  
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Kelly Berry, OMC  
Clerk of the Board