



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

OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2020

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	Absent
Rusty Bailey, Mayor, City of Riverside	Absent
Jose Solorio, Councilmember, City of Santa Ana	Absent
<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, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Present
Others Present	
<u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u>	T. Milford Harrison
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Karen Williams, Rick Whetsel, Ian Achimore, Dean Unger, Kelly Berry, Marie Jauregui, Sara Villa
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof LLP

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Kati Parker, Convener, at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503 and via telephone conference at 601 N. Ross Street, Room 327, Santa Ana, CA 92701 (Committee Member Bilodeau).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were duly noted and recorded.



2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – November 21, 2019**

MOVED, approve the November 21, 2019 meeting minutes.

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

Approval of the November 21, 2019 meeting minutes failed due to lack of a quorum and will be brought back for approval at a future meeting.

4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Support in Future 2020 Resource Bonds (SC#2020.4)**

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *IRWM Support in Future 2020 Resources Bonds*; contained in the agenda packet on pages 10-22. Norton provided a brief overview of the OWOW Plan Update 2018 Goals and noted that in July 2019, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) developed and adopted new policy principles for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM). In April 2019, the Governor issued an executive order directing State agencies to develop a Water Resilience Portfolio with the effort being led by the National Resource Agency. The Draft 2020 Water Resilience Portfolio was released to the public on January 3, 2020. The draft portfolio embraces a broad, diversified approach overall. Goals and actions are organized into four (4) Categories: 1) maintain and diversify water supplies; 2) protect and enhance natural systems; 3) build connections, and 4) be prepared. It does not recommend a one-size-fits-all approach to water resilience across the state. It emphasizes that water resilience will be achieved region-by-region based on the unique challenges and opportunities in each area. Norton noted that many listed action items appear to be single purpose, siloed actions reflecting a move away from vision of IRWM and tenets of integration, collaboration, and multi-benefit solutions at a regional scale.

SAWPA staff has prepared a draft letter highlighting the value and benefits of IRWM and why it should be included in future resource bonds. The letter emphasizes that we need to address State Portfolio, Item 20.2 as well as the Governor's proposed water resilience recommendations for a new climate resilience bond. The SAWPA Member Agency General Managers felt SAWPA should advocate for funding support for individual water sectors as part of the overall water funding support. This would include such individual categories as water quality improvement, water recycling, desalting, stormwater management, etc.

Committee Member Brown noted there is lack of IRWM support in Sacramento presently since it does not provide a benefit to tribal communities, disadvantaged communities and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), unless an agency is spending money on them. Committee Member Brown was supportive of the letter but stated IRWM works for water agencies and does not address the needs of NGOs. Mark Norton noted he believes there will be flexibility in the bond to address these concerns. Convener Parker acknowledged that there are issues needing to



be addressed, but the IRWM approach overall is a good approach; we need to remind the legislators as well as continue to address these issues experienced by NGOs.

MOVED, to authorize staff to send the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) 2020 Resources Bond Support Letter to pertinent legislators to indicate funding support for IRWM and other water needs in all future 2020 resources bonds.

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

B. Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program Status (SC#2020.1)

Rick Whetsel provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program Status Report* contained in the agenda packet on pages 44-53. The Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program has four (4) Program Elements: 1) Strengths and Needs Assessment, 2) Engagement and Education, 3) Project Development, and 4) Grant Administration. Whetsel provided a verbal status update on the activities within each of the Program Elements. There was no discussion.

This item was for information purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.B.

C. Watershed Signage Update | Bri Communications (SC#2020.2)

Ian Achimore provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *Watershed Signage Update | Bri Communications* contained in the agenda packet on pages 57-66. Per SAWPA Commission approval in December 2017, the Watershed Signage project was approved for funding of \$11,200. Contracted with Bri Communications, the 64 signs can be viewed at various locations such as the Santa Ana River Trail, the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, Corona Library, Acacia Park in Fullerton, and Lake Perris Marina. The contract ensures the signs remain up for a total of four (4) years from December 2017 to November 2021. Sponsorships of \$5,200 were received by water agencies including Orange County Stormwater, Cities of Santa Ana and Riverside, Jurupa Community Services District, and Metropolitan Water District. The signs contain important information to educate residents on where their water comes from and where it goes and highlights the OWOW Program and SAWPA across the watershed. There was no discussion.

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

D. OWOW Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Update (SC#2020.3)

Ian Achimore provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, *OWOW Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Update* contained in the agenda packet on pages 70-78. The Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Round 1 Implementation grant application was submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in November 2019 which included ten (10) projects totaling \$23,091,428. The proposed projects must respond to climate change and contribute to regional water self-



reliance and must address the most critical needs to the Santa Ana River watershed. The Draft funding recommendation is anticipated to be announced by DWR in Winter/Spring 2020, and the final funding recommendation announcement by Spring 2020. After funding awards are announced, SAWPA will work with DWR to draft a grant agreement that allows DWR to reimburse SAWPA, and the ten (10) project proponents, for expenses as well as track completion of their projects. The ten (10) project leads will each execute a separate Sub-Agreement with SAWPA that incorporates the provisions of the DWR/SAWPA Grant Agreement. Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM grant guidelines is anticipated to be drafted by DWR in 2021. There was no discussion.

This item was for information purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 4.D.

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Committee Member comments.

6. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 11:44 a.m.

APPROVED: May 28, 2020

Kelly E. Rowe, Convener

Attest:

Kelly Berry, CMC, Clerk of the Board