



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 1, 2020**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

David J. Slawson, Chair, Eastern Municipal Water District
Kati Parker, Vice Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Kelly E. Rowe, Secretary-Treasurer, Orange County Water District
Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District
T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

June D. Hayes, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Rich Haller, Karen Williams, Carlos Quintero, David Ruhl, Mark Norton,
Dean Unger, Rick Whetsel, Kelly Berry

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joshua Calhoun, Teaman, Ramirez &
Smith; Garrett Cammans, North American Weather Consultants

The Regular Commission meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Chair Slawson on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. The record will reflect this meeting was conducted virtually.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, this meeting was conducted virtually. Members of the public who were unable to participate by teleconference or virtually were invited to submit comments and questions in writing via email for the Commission's consideration. All votes taken during this meeting were conducted via oral roll call.

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; there were no public comments received via email.

4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

There were no added or deleted items.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2020

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, approve the Consent Calendar.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Rowe/Dennstedt
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF TASK ORDER WITH PROJECT PARTNERS, INC. FOR HEADWATERS ACCESS (CM#2020.77)

Ian Achimore provided a PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 22 – 38. Achimore confirmed for Commissioner Dennstedt that the mitigation funds are audited every five years and this proposed work falls within the governance policy requirements of those funds.

MOVED, approve Task Order PRO387-01 in the amount of \$23,800 for Project Partners, Inc. to attain right of entry to parcels for future Arundo donax removal, consistent with Resolution No. 427.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Dennstedt/Rowe
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

B. FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 REPORT ON AUDIT (CM#2020.73)

Joshua Calhoun, Teaman, Ramirez & Smith (TRS), provided an oral report on the 2019-2020 audit. Calhoun confirmed for Commissioner Dennstedt that TRS has given the highest ranking for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and audit. Karen Williams confirmed for Commissioner Dennstedt that excerpts from the CAFR have been provided to member agency Chief Financial Officers. In the past, SAWPA has provided full draft copies when requested; moving forward they will be provided directly.

MOVED, receive and review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020 and 2019, which includes the Report on Audit prepared by Teaman, Ramirez & Smith, Inc., then: (1) Accept the CAFR, including the Report on Audit as prepared by Teaman, Ramirez & Smith, Inc.; (2) Direct staff to file the Report with the respective government agencies as required by law; and, (3) Direct staff to submit the CAFR, with any necessary changes, for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Rowe/Harrison
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

C. FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AND FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET SCHEDULE (CM#2020.74)

Karen Williams provided an oral report, noting there is room in the schedule to for adjustments pending onboarding of new General Manager.

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

D. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION FOR WATER SUPPLY FEASIBILITY STUDY | FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS (CM#2020.76)

[This item is subject to the provisions of Project Agreement 25]

Mark Norton and Garrett Cammans, President of North American Weather Consultants provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 221 – 248. Mark Norton advised the report had been provided to member agency staff. Specifics for consideration by the contractor were discussed such as program suspensions in specific areas due to forecast, forest fire burn areas, potential debris flow, and flood risk. Cammans highlighted the cost per acre-foot of water a seeding program would bring to the watershed, which is extremely when compared to the cost for purchasing water. Based on his experience with similar programs in California, Cammans noted a mitigated negative declaration would be sufficient under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Mark Norton highlighted the value to SAWPA member agencies and noted the project's eligibility for Proposition 1 – Round 2 funding. Proposition 1 - Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) and Guidelines (Guidelines) are anticipated in July 2021.

Commissioner Dennstedt recommended continuing the item for a couple months pending onboarding of the new SAWPA General Manager, likely changes in the next few weeks to the SAWPA Commission, and budget priorities in light of COVID challenges. Further, Commissioner Dennstedt suggested additional public outreach and discussion, including making a presentation to the Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) governing board and partnering with LESJWA member agencies. Commissioner Harrison noted Valley District is fully supportive of the program but concurred with continuing the item for a couple months. Commissioner Dennstedt noted that a presentation was given to WMWD's board, but a presentation may need to be made to the Engineering Committee for further evaluation. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that they would support a placeholder in the budget pending further consideration at the March 2, 2021 meeting. In the meantime, this information would be presented to the LESJWA board at the February 2021 meeting for consideration and feedback.

MOVED, (1) Receive this final report presentation on the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification for Water Supply Feasibility Study by North American Weather Consultants Inc.; and, (2) Support including a placeholder budget for the ground seeding site selection analysis and CEQA development in the FY 21-22 SAWPA Budget, pending further Commission discussion at the March 2, 2021 regular meeting.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Harrison/Rowe
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Harrison, Parker, Rowe, Slawson
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

E. DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT (DCI) PROGRAM STATUS (CM#2020.75)

[This item is subject to the provisions of Project Agreement 25]

Rick Whetsel provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 252 – 264. There was no discussion.

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

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS-

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

A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2020

B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – SEPTEMBER 2020 (CM#2020.71)

C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – SEPTEMBER 2020 (CM#2020.72)

D. PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2020

E. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2020

F. BUDGET VS ACTUAL VARIANCE REPORT – FYE 2021 FIRST QUARTER – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 (CM#2020.78)

G. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

H. FIRST QUARTER FYE 2021 EXPENSE REPORT

I. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT – NOVEMBER 2020

Rich Haller reviewed the General Manager report contained in the agenda packet and provided an update on the General Manager recruitment. Direction was provided to staff regarding process and interviews.

J. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

K. CHAIR’S COMMENTS/REPORT

There were no comments/reports from the Chair.

L. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

There were no comments Commissioner comments.

M. COMMISSIONERS’ REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Harrison requested an update on pending claims at the next regular meeting.

8. CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Slawson adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m. Noting this would be the last meeting attended by Vice Chair Parker, Commissioners offered well wishes.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.



David J. Slawson, Chair

Attest:



Kelly Berry, CMC
Clerk of the Board