



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 7, 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, Dean Unger, Mark Norton,
David Ruhl, Kelly Berry

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Thomas Keegan, California Rural Water
Association

The Regular Commission meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was called to order at 9:30 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-25-30 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 12, 2020, and Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, any Commission member may call into the Commission meeting without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements.

Executive Order N-33-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 19, 2020, ordered all individuals to stay at home or at their place of residence. In concert with state and local efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and until further notice, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority will be holding all Board and Committee meetings by teleconference and virtually through the Zoom app.

As set forth on the posted meeting agenda, this Commission meeting was accessible to the public by teleconference and through Zoom. 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: JUNE 16, 2020

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT – MAY 2020

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, approve the Consent Calendar.

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. SAWPA PARKING LOT RESTORATION (CM#2020.47)

Carlos Quintero provided a PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 21-28. There was no discussion.

MOVED, approve the use of \$23,776.16 from the Building Reserve Fund for the SAWPA Parking Lot Restoration Project.

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

B. TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATUS | DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT (DCI) PROGRAM (CM#2020.46)

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

Thomas Keegan, California Rural Water Association, provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 36 – 52. Keegan was engaged to facilitate the development of a Tribal Advisory Committee. Mark Norton provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 53 - 57. Staff provided this status report about the Tribal Advisory Committee of the Santa Ana River Watershed Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program seeking feedback and direction on whether a long-term resource commitment by SAWPA for the operation of the Tribal Advisory Committee is supported.

Commissioner Rowe emphasized the importance of maintaining positive communications and encouraged staff to join efforts with other agencies to combine financial resources. Under the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant agreement, there is a budget of \$120,000 for the Tribal Consultation Task to be completed by March of 2021. Committee Member Dennstedt questioned staff/consultant outreach and engagement efforts with Tribal Government representatives since none were formally invited to or participating in the Commission meeting. Benefits to member agencies were outlined on page 55 of the agenda packet. A discussion ensued regarding current participation level and long-term purpose and value. Committee Member Dennstedt voiced concern that

Commissioners were not made aware of workshops previously held with Tribal Government representatives. Some member agencies maintain ongoing, direct communications with Tribal Government representatives within their service area; Commissioner and member agency staff participation in these workshops would have been beneficial in augmenting communication efforts

Commissioner Harrison concurred with Commissioner Dennstedt, noted his surprise that Tribal Government representations were not invited to participate in this discussion, and asked about our communication efforts and their level of involvement during the workshops. Have we sought their input? Have they requested organization of the Tribal Advisory Committee? Was California Rural Water Association chosen as a consultant by SAWPA or Tribal Government representatives? He voiced his concern that a consultant was speaking on behalf of the Tribal Governments and not the Tribal Government representatives directly.

Mark Norton outlined the experience of Thomas Keegan, California Rural Water Association, in facilitating workshops like this with Tribal Government representatives on behalf of IRWM groups. The California Rural Water Association is one of our project partners with the Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program. Norton stated this item was to serve as an initial discussion with the Commission to provide input for staff before proceeding since this could involve long-term funding commitments; next steps could include bringing back a charter and resolution of support. The funding for this task would come from member agency contributions. Based on input provided, Norton assured the Commissioners they would be invited to any future meetings or workshops.

Heather Dyer, San Bernardino Valley Mutual Water District General Manager, echoed Commissioner Harrison's earlier comments noting the importance of directly communicating with each Tribal Government representative as opposed to collectively or through an intermediary consultant. Perhaps explore a collaborative committee membership to include Tribal Government representatives and SAWPA member agency representative co-chairs to collectively harness grant funding applicable to specific needs.

Paul Jones, Eastern Municipal Water District General Manager, concurred with Dyer's comments noting EMWD engages in on-going, regular communications with Soboba and Pechanga Tribal Government representatives. Jones encouraged fulfilling our obligations under the existing grant but urged reexamination of our approach. Moving forward, Jones did not necessarily see a need for an outside consultant; instead, he encouraged member agency and SAWPA staff work in concert to augment existing efforts of member agency staff within their respective district service areas.

Commissioner Dennstedt stated she would rather we work collaboratively seeking ways to facilitate their needs as expressed directly to us by the Tribal Government representatives. Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District General Manager, concurred with the earlier comments and noted concern the Tribal Government representatives had not found value in what has been communicated to them thus far, so a different direction would therefor seem appropriate.

Commissioner Harrison concurred a different approach should be taken and stated he was not in favor of moving ahead with a \$50,000 annual financial commitment by SAWPA because it appears during this process thus far we have told the Tribal Government representatives what will be occurring but have not engaged with them to determine their needs and how SAWPA might assist in facilitating them.

Rich Haller advised staff would regroup and report back to the Commission.

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

C. **LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY AND LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE NUTRIENT TMDL TASK FORCE UPDATE AND FYE 2021 GOALS (CM#2020.45)**

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

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 60 - 86. Commissioner Harrison voiced a desire to observe the accomplishments at Canyon Lake; Norton advised a tour of Canyon Lake can be arranged for any interested Commissioners.

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

7. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

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

A. **AUDIT COMMUNICATION LETTER FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2020 – TEAMAN, RAMIREZ & SMITH, INC.**

B. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

There were no comments/reports from the Chair.

C. **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioner comments.

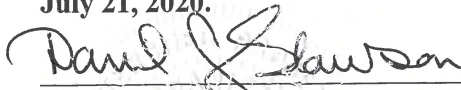
D. **COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Commissioner requests for future agenda items.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

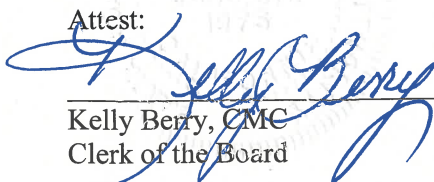
There being no further business for review, Chair Slawson adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, July 21, 2020.



David J. Slawson, Chair

Attest:



Kelly Berry, CMC
Clerk of the Board