



PROJECT AGREEMENT 22 COMMITTEE
Interregional Landscape Water Demand Reduction Program
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Heather Dyer, General Manager, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Paul D. Jones, General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District [Chair]
Michael Markus, General Manager, Orange County Water District [Vice Chair]
Craig Miller, General Manager, Western Municipal Water District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

STAFF PRESENT

Ian Achimore, Kelly Berry, Richard Haller, Marie Jauregui, Mark Norton, Zyanya Ramirez,
Dean Unger, Karen Williams

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the PA 22 Committee was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Paul Jones on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. The record will reflect this meeting was conducted virtually.

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 Committee member may call into the Committee meeting without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements. 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 Committee 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 Committee's consideration. All votes taken during this meeting were conducted via oral roll call.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments; there were no public comments received via email.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JULY 14, 2020

MOVED, approve the July 14, 2020 meeting minutes.

Result: **Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Passed)**
Motion/Second: Miller/Markus
Ayes: Dyer, Jones, Markus, Miller
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Deshmukh

4. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. SANTA ANA RIVER CONSERVATION AND CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM (SARCCUP) SMARTSCAPE RETENTION AND LESSONS LEARNED (PA22#2020.12)

Ian Achimore provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 16-28. Under the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program's (SARCCUP) Water Use Efficiency Task, SAWPA manages the Smartscape Program and the Water Budget Assistance subtasks.

Through the Smartscape Program, SAWPA member agencies (not including Orange County Water District) in partnership with the Inland Empire Waterkeeper and Orange County Coastkeeper, supported water customers that transitioned from turf grass to drought tolerant landscaping. This Program was completed within budget on July 30, 2020. Mr. Achimore then provided a summary of the Program's Lessons Learned:

- Although pairing landscape designs with rebates worked well, the Conservation Advisory Group hoped to attract more customers.
- Due to the popularity of education-focused water conservation programs, it was difficult to retain customer attention for one program like Smartscape.
- Limiting Smartscape task choices to just the popular ones would have possibly streamlined choices by partners.
- Smartscape's focus on tune-ups were very successful in the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's service area.

Mr. Achimore stated that Orange County Coastkeeper (OCCK) has requested payment of \$18,112 which is currently being retained by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and is set to be released to all project partners when the overall SARCCUP project is complete (projected to end December 31, 2023). Mr. Achimore recommended that SAWPA pay OCCK using SARCCUP participant fees and reimburse future consultants using the retention released by DWR that would have gone to OCCK; this would be detailed into the consultant's Request for Proposal and contract.

Vice Chair Markus asked how many residents benefited from this project. The OCCK estimated 150,000 residents benefited, but it is unknown how accurate this number is. Vice Chair Markus cautioned staff in using the estimated number in future advertisements. Chair Jones added that the workshops were well attended and was surprised with the amount of interest. He stated that his Conservation staff at Eastern Municipal Water District were very pleased with the turnout.

Committee member Dyer stated that she was uncomfortable with staff's proposition of passing the retainment of payment onto future consultants and asked if SAWPA would be able pay OCCK using funds from another SAWPA account. Karen Williams, SAWPA Deputy General Manager and Chief Financial Officer, stated that SAWPA would be able to pay OCCK as requested by using SARCCUP participant fees and if at a future time, within this program, SAWPA is short by the \$18,112, then funds from the Retention Reserve will be used to make payment. The Committee agreed with Ms. Williams proposition and requested a revised motion.

MOVED, approve payment of the \$18,112 retention to Orange County Coastkeeper from SARCCUP participant fees, with any shortage in the future to be taken out of SAWPA's retention reserve; receive and file this summary of lessons learned from implementing the SARCCUP Smartscape sub-task.

Result: **Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Passed)**
 Motion/Second: Dyer/Miller
 Ayes: Dyer, Jones, Markus, Miller
 Nays: None
 Abstentions: None
 Absent: Deshmukh

B. UPDATE ON THE ENHANCEMENTS TO WATERSHED-WIDE WATER BUDGET DECISION SUPPORT TOOL (PA22#2020.13)

Ian Achimore provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 31-37.

On July 14, 2020, the Committee approved funding allocation to acquire three-inch aerial imagery for the upper watershed SAWPA member agencies as part of the Enhancements to Watershed-Wide Water Budget Decision Support Tool Project (Project). The Project is a cooperative funding agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the SAWPA member agencies, and the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). The Project consists of three tasks: 1) Imagery, 2) Landscape Analysis, and 3) Decision Support Tool. The imagery area for the Project would be the same as the 2015 flight area, with the addition of south Orange County. The budget for this Project is as follows:

Prop 1 IRWM Grant	Reclamation Support	Cost Share (Upper Watershed and OC)	Total Cost
\$500,000	\$597,500*	\$631,207	\$1,728,707
<i>* through in-kind Reclamation staff time and resources</i>			
<i>Page 36 of the Agenda Packet</i>			

Since the approval of this Project, SAWPA has met with the Reclamation and shared with them the landscape definitions that the State of California is using for their regulatory-required water budgets. Pictometry International, hired by the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) to fly south Orange County, began a series of flights on July 6, 2020 and has completed since then.

SAWPA staff will work with the member agency staff on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for aerial imagery services of the upper watershed. The RFP is expected to be released within the next three months. The upper watershed flight is expected to commence June 2021.

An overview of the Project Schedule was presented. Task three (Decision Support Tool) of the Project was shown to be active for two years. Mr. Achimore explained that the tool will be developed by a consultant. Agencies that want to use the tool past the two initial years, will need to pay subscription fees to the developers. SAWPA staff indicated that this tool can be done in-house to avoid subscription fees, however, a consultant will still be needed for coding purposes. The current budget for this task is \$280,000. The tool will be accessible to any agency, but access will be managed by SAWPA.

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

C. SANTA ANA RIVER CONSERVATION AND CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM (SARCCUP) WATER BUDGET ASSISTANCE OVERVIEW (PA22#2020.14)

Ian Achimore provided the PowerPoint presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 41-52.

Under the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program's (SARCCUP) Water Use Efficiency Task, SAWPA manages the Smartscape Program and the Water Budget Assistance subtasks.

Originally, SARCCUP scope of work included the Conservation-Based Water Rates subtask to further assist more retail agencies within the Santa Ana River Watershed. Due to a decrease in interest, the subtask was replaced with a new subtask titled Water Budget Assistance. This new subtask was submitted to the Department of Water Resources through the SARCCUP Amendment No. 2, which was approved on May 29, 2020. The originally approved grant and cost share amounts remained the same.

Water Budget Assistance Subtask Budget		
Grant	Cost Share Total	Grant + Cost Share
\$286,077	\$937,381	\$1,223,458

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The Water Budget Assistance subtask will assist five to 10 retail agencies to comply with State regulations that require them to adhere to agency-wide water budgets; prepare them to eventually study and adopt conservation-based water rates; and provide information to target other water use efficiency programs to inefficient water users. This will most likely require the services of a GIS/Data base consultant and a Field Work consultant. The final product provided to the agencies will present their meter service area data and landscape area data in table and GIS format. The two datasets will be joined by their meter addresses and not their customer IDs.

Vice Chair Markus asked if the final product would only be available to agencies that have adopted conservation-based water rates and raised concerns regarding actual interest of the subtask from retailers. Mr. Achimore specified that agencies do not have to adopt conservation-based water rates to participate, but they will need to have some sort of Customer ID or meter address.

Committee Member Markus left the meeting at 9:27 a.m., during the discussion of Agenda Item No. 4.C. and did not return.

Chair Jones also expressed concerns over actual interest from retailers for this assistance and requested that SAWPA staff follow up with the member agencies and develop a rough survey to quantify interest.

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

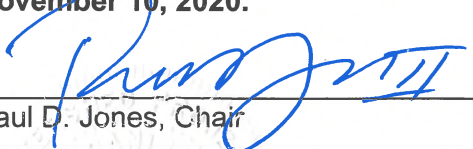
5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

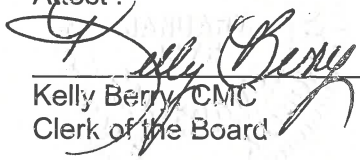
There being no further business for review, the meeting ended at 9:33 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Project Agreement 22 Committee on Tuesday,
November 10, 2020.**



Paul D. Jones, Chair

Attest :



Kelly Berry, CMC
Clerk of the Board