



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

## OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2021

<b>Committee Members</b>	
<b><u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u></b>	
Bruce Whitaker, Convener, Orange County Water District	Present
Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District	Present
<b><u>County Supervisor Representatives</u></b>	
Doug Chaffee, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Present
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Board of Supervisors	Present
Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Absent
<b><u>County Municipal Representatives</u></b>	
Deborah Robertson, Mayor, City of Rialto	Present [11:34 a.m.]
Ted Hoffman, Councilmember, City of Norco	Present
Orange County Municipal Representative	Vacant
<b><u>Business Community Representative</u></b>	
James Hessler, Director of West Coast Operations, Altman Plants	Present
<b><u>Environmental Community Representative</u></b>	
Garry W. Brown, President, Orange County Coastkeeper	Absent
<b><u>Regional Water Quality Control Board Representative</u></b>	
Joseph Kerr, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Present [11:34 a.m.]
<b>Others Present</b>	
<b><u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u></b>	None.
<b><u>SAWPA STAFF:</u></b>	Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, Ian Achimore, Rick Whetsel, Pete Vitt, Kelly Berry, Sara Villa
<b><u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u></b>	Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof LLP

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Bruce Whitaker, Convener, at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503. 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 Newsom, this meeting was conducted virtually. 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 – November 19, 2020**

**MOVED**, approve the November 19, 2020 meeting minutes.

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote</b>
Motion/Second:	Hessler/Chaffee
Ayes:	Chaffee, Hessler, Spiegel, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	Dennstedt, Hoffman
Absent:	Brown, Hagman, Kerr, Robertson

**4. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Final Funding Award Update (SC#2021.1)**

Ian Achimore provided the PowerPoint presentation on pages 11 – 17 of the agenda packet, *Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Final Funding Award Update*. In the presentation, he reviewed the overall requirements, budget, timeline, and final projects list. The total amount of grant money that was funded to the Committee through the Round 1 process is \$23,091,428, to support both general and Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Implementation projects. The grant agreement between SAWPA and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is anticipated to be executed by June 2021. As part of the agreement, DWR has required that project leads adopt the OWOW Plan Update 2018 before finalization, which all have now adopted. SAWPA is working with individual project leads on the sub-agreements; and plans to have those completed by June of 2021. There was no further discussion.

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

**B. Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Competition Process (SC#2021.2)**

Ian Achimore provided the PowerPoint presentation on pages 21 – 38 of the agenda packet, *Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Competition Process*. In this presentation, he gives an overview of the tentative schedule, available funding, the past rating, and ranking system adopted by the OWOW Steering Committee for Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM funding and next steps. Proposition 1 Round 2 grant funding totals to \$27, 058,572, to support both general and Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Implementation projects in the Santa Ana River Watershed. All projects chosen will need to fit within the OWOW Plan Update 2018, which highlights the critical impacts of climate change and how the watershed can utilize collaboration and coordination to implement programs that solve those challenges. The OWOW Plan Update 2018 includes a basic rating and ranking system that can be revised to include any additional conditions the Committee thinks would be necessary to benefit the current state of the watershed.



SAWPA and North Orange County have a current agreement that specifies a percentage of funding be dedicated by geographic location to ensure a well-distributed collection of final projects. This agreement calls for 30% of funding to be allocated to North Orange County, which is evaluated based on the OC Plan, while 60% is allocated to the Upper Watershed and 10% is designated for any project watershed-wide, which are both evaluated under the OWOW Plan Update 2018. The Round 2 grant funding amounts for each category are estimated as follows:

- North Orange County: \$7,175,543
- Upper Watershed: \$12,372,943
- Watershed Wide: \$2,062,157
- DAC Implementation: \$4,095,000
- Grant Administration: \$1,352,929

It was noted that the North OC funding for Round 2 exceeds the designated 30% due to carry over funding from Proposition 1 Round 1.

Committee Member Kerr and Committee Member Robertson joined the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

It is anticipated that the Department of Water Resources will release draft eligibility guidelines for Round 2 projects in August 2021. Once released, SAWPA staff will recommend a final set of rating and ranking criteria for the OWOW Steering Committee to use to approve projects. SAWPA staff will need the OWOW Steering Committee approval of the final rating and ranking system before opening the Round 2 Call for Projects. Mr. Achimore reviewed an approximate timeline for the entire Round 2 process, based on the recent experience and timeline of the Round 1 Process. He also reviewed the eligibility criteria that was used for the Round 1 projects and the results from implementation of the ranking process.

Committee Member Dennstedt requested that SAWPA staff complete community outreach to spread awareness of the opportunities for agencies to apply for this funding, especially for the smaller agencies that may not be in that circle of communication. Mr. Achimore noted that presentations have been made at Council of Government (COG) meetings and that those would be pursued again to promote outreach. Committee member Hoffman also recommended making a connection with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for assistance with distributing the grant information.

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

**C. Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program Status (SC#2021.3)**

Rick Whetsel provided the PowerPoint presentation on pages 42 – 56 of the agenda packet, *Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program Status Report*. He reviewed the goals, requirements, timeline, and project list under the DCI program. Of the three key components, the Ethnographic Strengths and Needs Assessment is in the final stages of completion, that is expected to conclude within the next couple of months. Under the Education and Outreach components, the Santa Ana River Watershed Ambassador Program for Local Policymakers was converted into a virtual mini-series that is maintained and can be accessed through the SAWPA website. This was made possible by collaborating with the Local Government Commission (LGC) in compiling content and transitioning the workshops online. Anyone can complete the program online, and will receive a certificate, varying based on the number of workshops completed. There are only four projects under the DCI program that are still in progress, which are Community Water Education, Water Agency Engagement training, Local Elected Leader Training and the Technical Assistance, and Project Implementation. These are anticipated to be



completed end of March 2021. The hope is that once the projects are finalized, that the final grant report be submitted to the Department of Water Resources by July 2021. There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

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

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 12:05 p.m.

**APPROVED:** May 27, 2021

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Bruce Whitaker, Convener

Attest:

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Sara Villa, Acting Clerk of the Board