



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

OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2021

Committee Members	
<u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u>	
Bruce Whitaker, Convener, Orange County Water District	Present
Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District	Present
<u>County Supervisor Representatives</u>	
Doug Chaffee, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Present
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Board of Supervisors	Present
Curt Hagman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Present
<u>County Municipal Representatives</u>	
Deborah Robertson, Mayor, City of Rialto	Present
Ted Hoffman, Councilmember, City of Norco	Present
Nicholas Dunlap, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Fullerton	Present
<u>Business Community Representative</u>	
James Hessler, Director of West Coast Operations, Altman Plants	Absent
<u>Environmental Community Representative</u>	
Garry W. Brown, President, Orange County Coastkeeper	Absent
<u>Regional Water Quality Control Board Representative</u>	
Joseph Kerr, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Absent
Others Present	
<u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u>	Jasmin Hall, Kelly Rowe, T. Milford Harrison
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, Ian Achimore, Rick Whetsel, Pete Vitt, Sara Villa, Haley Mullay
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	James D. Ciampa, 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.

Convener Whitaker welcomed a new OWOW Steering Committee Member, Nicholas Dunlap of City of Fullerton.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – March 25, 2021

MOVED, approve the March 25, 2021, meeting minutes.

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

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Competition Process (SC#2021.4)

Ian Achimore provided the PowerPoint presentation on pages 11 – 31 of the agenda packets, *Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Competition Process*. The presentation covered an overview of the scoring criteria from Proposition 1 Round 1, an update on latest information from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding Proposition 1 Round 2, and to review a potential Communication Plan requested by the OWOW Steering Committee at the last meeting. Mr. Achimore reminded the Committee of 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.

In the next few meetings of the OWOW Steering Committee, the scoring criteria for projects that are chosen under the Proposition 1 Round 2 Grant funding will be a major topic of conversation. There is potential to update the criteria that was used for the Proposition 1 Round 1 grant process and the Steering Committee will need to approve it prior to releasing a call for projects for Round 2. To ensure fairness and even distribution of funds, smaller projects (defined as projects requesting less than \$500,000 in grant funds) will have a dedicated 10% (or approximately \$1.9 Million) of funding for awarding. Another prioritization tool for the Committee is how the scores were weighted for



Proposition 1 Round 1 projects. There was a list of classes described and categorized to assist in assessing the projects proposed to receive grant funding; some examples of these classes were “Water Supply Reliability, Efficiency” and “Multipurpose Flood and Stormwater”, as well as “Drinking Water Treatment, Distribution”. This list of classes was made and then given a level of weight to ensure that projects that were most beneficial were selected for funding. The benefit classes and weighting factor are potential areas for the Steering Committee to make changes and revisions that apply to current needs of the Watershed. Convener Whitaker encouraged feedback on the benefit classes from the group and noted that it may need to be reviewed again at the next meeting. Committee Member Deborah Robertson noted that she looks forward to reviewing the projects from the City of Colton and would need to review again prior to giving feedback on the weighted classes. Committee Member Brenda Dennstedt reminded the group that determining the weighted classes for Round 1 was a collaborative and compromising process that took into consideration various geographic perspectives. The result was more well-rounded and valuable for the watershed. Mr. Achimore assured the Committee that this will be an ongoing process that does not need to be finalized until approximately the September timeline.

Mr. Achimore shared some updates from DWR about the process for Proposition 1 Round 2. These updates include simplifying the application process, promoting climate resilience, updating the process to include 2 deadlines as requested by stakeholders and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) areas throughout the state, and the potential for the Governor and State Legislature to add additional grant requirements based on major policy issues (drought emergencies).

At the March 2021 OWOW Steering Committee meeting, it was requested that SAWPA staff create an outreach plan to promote applications for grant funding when the Call for Projects time comes. Committee member Brenda Dennstedt inquired about the timeline for the outreach and communication plan. She also mentioned that Western Municipal Water District will be hosting a Roundtables event soon and it would be a good time to share this information. Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson, of City of Riverside, also inquired about obtaining information from SAWPA that the City of Riverside could share and send out in their areas. Mr. Achimore responded that SAWPA will be preparing materials and flyers to distribute and promote awareness of the grant opportunities. Committee Member Ted Hoffman inquired about the drought situation and if that is influencing the Proposition 1 Round 2 funding distributions. He also suggested various types of agencies that would benefit in receiving information about this process, such as JPAs, smaller water retailers, and other county agencies that work with large groups of organizations and can assist in proliferating that information.

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.

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



B. Incorporate the 2021 Orange County Stormwater Resource Plan into the OWOW Plan (SC#2021.5)

Mark Norton introduced Christy Suppes of Orange County. Christy Suppes, of Orange County Public Works, who provided the PowerPoint presentation, on pages 37 – 45 of the agenda packet, titled *Orange County Stormwater Resource Plan Update*. At this time, the Orange County Stormwater Resource Plan (OC SWRP) is being updated. The plan comprises several existing planning efforts for Orange County and is used for prioritization of stormwater capture projects seeking funding through Proposition 1. It was originally submitted for inclusion to the North/South Orange County IRWM Plans and SAWPA OWOW Plan in 2017.

The four main documents that comprise the OC SWRP are the Report of Waste Discharge, the Water Quality Improvement Plan, the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plans, and the Watershed Infiltration and Hydromodification Management Plan. The update of these documents triggered the update of the OC SWRP. A website has been prepared by Orange County that lists the various proposed projects and their statuses, which provides access for all who wish to review the projects at any time. There was no discussion.

MOVED, to incorporate the 2021 Orange County Stormwater Resource Plan by reference in an appendix to the OWOW Plan Update 2018.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Chaffee/Spiegel
Ayes:	Chaffee, Dennstedt, Hagman, Hoffman, Spiegel, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	Dunlap, Robertson
Absent:	Brown, Hessler, Kerr

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

Rick Whetsel provided the PowerPoint presentation on pages 63 – 151 of the agenda packet, *Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program Technical Assistance Project Presentations*. Fourteen of the technical assistance projects were present by representatives from the proponent that oversaw the project. Each presentation provided a brief overview of the issue of concern, project accomplishments and their next steps.

The proponents and their projects were as follows:

- Eastern Municipal Water District: Quail Valley Sub-Area 4 Septic to Sewer, Phase 1 Planning Analysis
- Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency: Replenish Big Bear
- City of Rialto & California State University San Bernardino: Bohnert/Banyon Septic to Sewer Project
- City of Fullerton: Fullerton's Water Future - Ensuring Delivery of Clean, Safe Drinking Water
- City of Santa Ana: Washington Avenue Well Project
- Box Springs Mutual Water Company: Rehabilitation, Removal or Replacement of Water Storage Reservoirs with SCADA



- City of Colton: Two New Potable Wells with Generators
- Devore WC: New Reservoir, Distribution System Upgrades and New Well
- Idyllwild WD: Water Treatment Plant Upgrade with SCADA
- Marygold Mutual Water Company: New Well and Generator Project
- Terrace Mutual Water Company: New Potable Well
- Orange County Water District: Watershed Education and Field Trip Program for Disadvantaged Community Elementary School Students
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians: Residential Asbestos Cement Pipe Abandonment and Replacement Project
- Huerta del Valle: Reconnecting and Enhancing Water Resources for greater community and environmental benefit.

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**

Committee member Ted Hoffman made a request to address issues of wildfires and quality of the Santa Ana River riverbed. He also mentioned that the Riverside County portions of the Santa Ana River Trails projects have not been completed and he would like to request any information that SAWPA could give him.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 1:05 p.m.

APPROVED: July 22, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Whitaker".

Bruce Whitaker, Convener

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Villa".

Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board