



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 7, 2021**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Bruce Whitaker, Vice Chair, Orange County Water District
Mike Gardner, Secretary-Treasurer, Western Municipal Water District
David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District
June D. Hayes, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

None

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

T. Milford Harrison, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Kelly E. Rowe, Alternate, Orange County Water District
Brenda Dennstedt, Alternate, Western Municipal Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, David Ruhl, Carlos Quintero, Marie Jauregui, Rick Whetsel, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Haley Mullay, Zyanya Ramirez

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Cathy Pieroni, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Michael Markus, Orange County Water District; Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District; Gil Botello, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Tim Barr, Western Municipal Water District; Brian Dickinson, City of Colton; Wayne Miller, Dustin Hardwick, CRWA

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Hall on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 and N-08-21, this meeting was conducted virtually, and all votes were taken by 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: AUGUST 17, 2021

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT – JULY 2021

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, approve the Consent Calendar.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)
Motion/Second:	Gardner/Hayes
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Hayes, Slawson, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. CALIFORNIA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT – GRANT APPLICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SMALL COMMUNITY WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEMS SERVING DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN THE SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED (CM#2021.63)

Mark Norton provided the presentation contained in the agenda packet on pages 21-32 and gave a brief background report on the grant application assistance program for small community water/wastewater systems serving disadvantaged communities in the Santa Ana River Watershed. The assistance program consists of providing technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) support resources needed for the preparation of the Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant applications. This work would be performed by Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) program partner to SAWPA, the California Rural Water Association (CRWA). CRWA, a statewide non-profit organization has extensive experience working with small water/wastewater communities in the watershed. Phase 1 of the program, consisting of an initial assessment, will be funded at \$25,000, or by equal shares of \$5,000 per SAWPA member agency. Funding for Phase 2 may total up to \$125,000, with member agency contributions determined proportionately based on the needs of small community systems within the member agency's respective service areas, identified in Phase 1. Mr. Norton referenced the agreement between SAWPA and CRWA contained on page 33 of the agenda packet which includes a scope of work, deliverables, schedule, and cost. Staff recommends approval of the agreement between CRWA and SAWPA to proceed with the grant application assistance program. The agreement has been reviewed and reflects edits from SAWPA's Legal Counsel, CRWA, and SAWPA staff.

Commissioner Hayes asked what the expectations are for the small systems being able to continue having the TMF capacity on a long-term basis after receiving the grant. Dustin Hardwick, of CRWA, noted that a (TMF) capacity assessment will be done to ensure that the systems have proper rate settings and to also help them maintain a long-term sustainability of projects. Jeff Mosher noted that the TMF assessment is to identify any gaps to improve the projects and to enable them to be successful. Commissioner Gardner questioned if there's been any communication with the potential partner agencies. Mark Norton noted that to some degree, yes, as part of the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant Program funding was provided to get them ready for this subsequent grant application, knowing that this round was coming. CRWA worked with about 6 out of 15 entities and have an in-depth knowledge of the projects and the proponents. Chair Hall noted that there is a concern on the small systems that aren't going to meet the requirements to be selected; what would the next step be for them? How can they receive guidance to connect to resources at the state level for funding? Commissioner Whitaker is in support though suggests that following with Phase 1 that this item be agendaized to update the Commission, prior to the start of Phase II.

Commissioner Slawson agreed with Commissioner Whitaker on bringing this item back to Commission prior to the start of Phase II.

MOVED, authorized the execution of an agreement between the California Rural Water Association and SAWPA to conduct the implementation of the grant application assistance program for small community water/wastewater systems serving disadvantaged communities in the Santa Ana River Watershed for an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000; with Phase I work estimated cost of \$25,000, and agenda and update the Commission prior to the start of Phase II of up-to \$125,000 depending on number of project grant applications prepared.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Whitaker/Gardner
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Hayes, Slawson, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

A. AUDIT COMMUNICATION LETTER FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2021 – 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

Commissioner Hayes requested a closed session on updates on any current legal litigation that SAWPA is involved in.

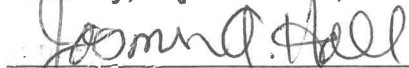
8. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Hall adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, September 21, 2021.



Jasmin A. Hall, Chair

Attest:



Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board