



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2021**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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
Marco Tule, Alternate, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Jasmin A. Hall, Chair, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**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, Marie Jauregui, Ian Achimore, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Haley Mullay

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Kevin O'Toole, Orange County Water District; Greg Woodside, Orange County Water District; Michael Markus, Orange County Water District;; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Ryan Shaw, Western Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District; Brian Dickinson, City of Colton; Nelida Mendoza, City of Santa Ana; Wayne Miller

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of AB 361, 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: OCTOBER 5, 2021

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar.

Result: Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second: Hayes/Gardner

Ayes: Gardner, Hayes, Slawson, Tule, Whitaker
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 361 (CM#2021.74)

Jeff Mosher provided a verbal update on the Implementation of AB 361. A Resolution must be executed every 30 days under AB 361 for the initial and subsequent findings under AB 361 in order to continue to utilize the relaxed teleconferencing requirements for board meetings (including committee meetings) subject to the Brown Act. AB 361 applies only to a state-declared state of emergency and not to a locally declared emergency. There was no discussion.

MOVED, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-8 Proclaiming A State of Emergency Persists, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Gavin Newsom, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of all Commission and Committee meetings of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority for the period of October 19, 2021, to November 18, 2021 pursuant to Brown Act Provisions.

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

B. PROPOSITION 1 ROUND 2 INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT COMPETITION PROCESS APPROVAL (CM#2021.75)

Ian Achimore provided the presentation on the *Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Competition Process Approval* contained in the agenda packet on pages 25-42. The OWOW Steering Committee meeting adopted the following changes to the rating and ranking criteria on September 23, 2021. These changes were then presented to the SAWPA Commission for feedback on October 5, 2021:

- Benefit area clarification for inland water bodies to include a ten-mile buffer area,
- A replacement of Round 1's two competition pools of large and small projects, to two new pools for general implementation and disadvantaged community (DAC) projects,
 - The DAC competition pool will also allow for single benefit and single jurisdictional projects to request grant funding. This update will require modifications to OWOW Steering Committee's Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant – OWOW Program Policy.
- Ranking formula updates including:
 - Combining of benefit categories and rounding of weighting factors,
 - Adding extra percentage point categories including if the project involves a 501©(3) non-profit partner.

SAWPA staff has made one clarification under the detailed description of the regional benefit category which applies to general implementation projects. Through the addition of the text "(or equivalent impact)", it will allow SAWPA governance the flexibility to decide if the project reflects the regional goals of the IRWM region's adopted IRWM Plan, the OWOW Plan

Update 2018. The draft Project Solicitation Package (PSP) is anticipated to be released October 2021 and the OWOW Call for Projects is scheduled from November 2021 to February 2022. After the Call for Projects closes, staff will review submissions and take a recommendation of the successful projects who have competed in the process to the OWOW Steering Committee and SAWPA Commission for final approval. At that stage both bodies will approve the final list of successful projects and the amount of grant funding they are to receive.

Commissioner Hayes asked about North Orange County's role in SAWPA's OWOW process. Mr. Achimore noted that Orange County's categories were created by an Agreement executed with SAWPA and North Orange County IRWM Group in 2019, and the Orange County Public Works Department runs their OWOW process for their region. It was suggested that a future presentation be provided to the SAWPA Commission on North Orange County's scoring criteria and process.

MOVED, to adopt the updated OWOW rating and ranking criteria and modifications to the Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant – OWOW Program Policy subject to major revisions as a result of the scheduled October 2021, Department of Water Resources draft Proposition 1 Round 2 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) release.

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

C. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM CEQA CONSULTANT (CM#2021.76)

Mark Norton provided the presentation on the *Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification CEQA Consultant Support* contained in the agenda packet on pages 47-53. On April 6, 2021, the SAWPA Commission authorized staff to proceed with the ground seeding site selection analysis, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) development, preparations for a watershed-wide SAWPA project application for Proposition 1 Round 2, seeking 50% grant funding for a multi-year pilot weather modification program and to seek outside funding to support the program. The Request for Proposal to conduct the CEQA mitigated negative declaration for the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot program was released on July 15, 2021. Four (4) proposals were received and rated/ranked by a review committee composed of SAWPA staff and two (2) member agency CEQA experts. Based on the interviews, the consultant review committee was unanimous in recommending Catalyst Environmental Solutions to serve as the CEQA consultant for the SAR Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program primarily based on their experience and understanding of weather modifications and CEQA needs. Thereafter negotiations occurred between the consultant and SAWPA staff to ensure the proposed scope of work and costs were within SAWPA's budget. Commissioner Hayes asked about moving forward without having outside funding partners in place. Jeff Mosher noted that on April 6, 2021, the SAWPA Commission approved to proceed with the ground seeding site selection analysis and CEQA development; seeking funding partners was to support the pilot program process. It was noted that the commitments of funding partners are not needed until next fiscal year after the project completes the CEQA review. The CEQA review will help generate more interest from funding partners and research about the project to help answer any questions.

MOVED, to authorize the General Manager to execute a General Services Agreement and Task Order CES370-01 for an amount not-to-exceed \$63,271.58 with Catalyst Environmental Solutions to conduct the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program CEQA.

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

D. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM OUTREACH (CM#2021.77)

Mark Norton provided the presentation on the *Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program Outreach* contained in the agenda packet on pages 89-103. As part of the process to conduct the four-year pilot program of weather modification, SAWPA plans to conduct outreach through providing brochures, reference materials and informative workshops. A task order was issued with North American Weather Consultants (NAWC) to conduct the ground seeding site analysis for 13 potential ground seeding sites in the watershed. SAWPA staff continue to conduct outreach and prepare outreach material associated with the pilot weather modification program for the watershed. A Brochure and Frequently Asked Questions document have been prepared by staff and are incorporated in the agenda packet and are posted to the SAWPA website. On October 14th an Informational Workshop was held about cloud seeding and the pilot program with Garrett Cammans of North American Weather Consultants, Inc. as the speaker along with SAWPA staff. SAWPA staff has also reached out to the General Managers of most water agencies of the watershed who may benefit from the program and have offered our services to provide informational presentations. There was no discussion.

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

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

- A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – AUGUST 2021**
- B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – AUGUST 2021 (CM#2021.78)**
- C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – AUGUST 2021 (CM#2021.79)**
- D. PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JULY 2021**
- E. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JULY 2021**
- F. OWOW QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT – JULY 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**
- G. ROUNDTABLES QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT: JULY 1, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**
- H. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**
- I. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

J. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

Vice Chair Whitaker noted that the Orange County Water Summit was a success and commended Jeff Mosher on doing a great job moderating the panel for discussion.

K. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner comments.

L. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Commissioners' request for future Agenda items.

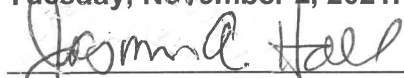
8. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Vice Chair Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.



Jasmin A. Hall, Chair

Attest:



Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board