



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 1, 2022**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Bruce Whitaker, Vice Chair, Orange County Water District  
Marco Tule, Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
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**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, Mark Norton, David Ruhl, Edina Goode, Marie Jauregui, Rick Whetsel, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, John Leete, Zyanya Ramirez, Haley Mullay, Alison Lewis

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew D. Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Michael Markus, Orange County Water District; Shavonne Turner, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Derek Kawaii, Western Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District; Brian Dickinson, City of Colton; Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors; Michael Boccadoro, West Coast Advisors; Kevin O'Toole; Nelida Mendoza; Nicole Greenwood, John Kennedy

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 items to be deleted.

## 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

### A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 18, 2022

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

### B. TREASURER'S REPORT – DECEMBER 2021

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**MOVED**, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

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

## 6. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA

### A. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Beth Olhasso and Michael Boccadoro of West Coast Advisors provided a presentation on the Sacramento Update. With regard to the drought water supply update; there were big storms in December that allocated over 150% of snowpack, and that helped saturate the ground and ease some of the drought conditions. There are concerns of the lack of precipitation in January, and it is predicted to be dry in February as well. The State Water Project planned water allocation was initially 0% and is now at 15%, though it can be adjusted in the April timeframe. Due to the Governor's drought proclamation, the State Water Resources Control Board was authorized to pass some emergency drought response measures and restrictions.

The legislature is back in session as of January 3 and is on the second year of the two-year session. Due to the current redistricting effort, as of today over 20 members have announced they are either not seeking re-election or have left mid-term. Ms. Olhasso provided the following update on the following bills:

- AB 1434 (Friedman): Indoor Water Use Standard – The bill is anticipated to be re-introduced before the February 18 bill introduction deadline.
- SB 230 (Portantino): Constituents of Emerging Concern – The bill did pass and has moved over to the Assembly. Any updates will be brought up during the weekly legislative calls.
- AB 1500 (E. Garcia): Water Bond – The bill has not moved off the Assembly floor, though it can be brought back and include IRWM funding within that bond.

Ms. Olhasso noted there are early introductions of two bills that are going to be important for SAWPA and will be brought back for consideration in the March/April timeframe:

- AB 1640 (Ward): Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plans
- SB 852 (Dodd): Climate Resilience Districts: Creation and Funding

On January 10, 2022, the governor released the proposed Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget. It is a \$286 billion proposed budget with \$20.6 billion surplus. Included in the budget is a \$750 million drought response package. Some of the highlighted measures for the drought response package include \$180 million towards conservation, \$145 million towards drought relief, \$30 million for groundwater recharge, and \$250 million for spring adjustment.

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

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### A. CHAIR AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS (CM#2022.5)

On December 8, 2021, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency governing Board appointed Marco Tule as SAWPA Commissioner. In keeping with the historical rotation, staff recommended appointment of Marco Tule as Commission Chair to complete the remainder of the two-year term until the January 2023 rotation of officers.

**MOVED**, to acknowledge the recent appointment of Marco Tule as Commissioner of Inland Empire Utilities Agency; install Marco Tule as Commission Chair for the remainder of the two-year term until the January 2023 rotation of officers.

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

Commissioner Marco Tule chaired the meeting from this point forward.

### B. SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR SAWPA'S WATER RESOURCES AND PLANNING MANAGER (CM#2022.6)

Jeff Mosher provided a presentation on the succession planning for SAWPA's Water Resources and Planning Manager, contained in the agenda packet on pages 23-30. Mark Norton is SAWPA's current Water Resources and Planning Manager and has provided advance notice of his future retirement. SAWPA's Planning Manager provides an important role in managing the Planning Department, Task Forces, Roundtables, OWOW, grant programs, planning projects, and working relationships with our member agencies, and stakeholders in the watershed. To maintain SAWPA's effectiveness in these areas, it is crucial that the transition is effectively managed.

A proposed succession plan was presented to the SAWPA General Managers in January, and they were supportive of a tailored transition to successfully manage the process. The proposed transition approach is to hire a new Water Resources and Planning Manager in the first quarter of 2022. The new hire would report to the General Manager and be responsible for managing the Water Resources and Planning Department. Mr. Norton would transition to a Special Projects/Senior Advisor role reporting to the General Manager. In collaboration with the General Manager, Mr. Norton would work closely with the General Manager and the new Planning Manager on an orderly transition of the Planning Department's current activities, including staff oversight, OWOW, Task Force meetings, current projects, and other efforts. Mr. Mosher noted that an analysis was performed and there are sufficient funds for the new position in the FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 budgets for salaries and benefits based on funds from unfilled or partially filled positions. Commissioner Gardner noted this is a critical position for the organization and it will be challenging to move on after Mr. Norton leaves, though is confident Mr. Mosher will find the right candidate, and is in full support of the proposed transition approach.

**MOVED**, to approve the Special Projects/Senior Advisor position and the recruitment for the new Water Resources and Planning Manager position.

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

**C. COMMISSIONER COMPENSATION (CM#2022.7)**

Karen Williams provided a verbal update on Commissioner Compensation. The current per day of service compensation amount is \$230. In accordance with Resolution No. 2017-01, the compensation amount will automatically increase by 5% (from \$230 to \$240) effective January 2022. Alternatively, the Commission could adopt Resolution No. 2022-2 prohibiting the automatic increase of 5% in the per day of service rate effective January 2022 and maintain the current rate of \$230.

No action was taken, allowing the per day of service rate to increase automatically from \$230 to \$240 effective January 2022.

**8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

**A. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

There were no Chair comments.

**B. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioners congratulated Marco Tule on his election as SAWPA Commission Chair for the remainder of the two-year term.

**C. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no Commissioners' request for future Agenda items.

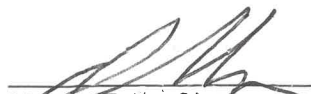
**9. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Tule adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.**

  
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Marco Tule, Chair

Attest:

  
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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board