



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 17, 2022**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Marco Tule, 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**

Kelly Rowe, Orange County Water District  
T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Elsa Sham, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water  
District; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Shivaji  
Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Michael Camacho, Inland  
Empire Utilities Agency; Ken Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency;  
Michael Markus, Orange County Water District; Kevin O'Toole,  
Orange County Water District; Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water  
District; Mallory Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Ryan  
Shaw, Western Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda  
Water District; Brian Dickinson, City of Colton;

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Marco Tule 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 added or deleted.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 19, 2022**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**B. TREASURER'S REPORT: MARCH 2022**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**C. RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF REMOTE COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS (CM#2022.28)**

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2022-7 Proclaiming A State of Emergency Persists, Re-Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Gavin Newsom, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of all Commission and Committee meetings of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority for the period of May 20, 2022 to June 21, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act Provisions.

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

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. **MIDDLE SANTA ANA RIVER TMDL TASK FORCE AGREEMENT, AMENDMENT NO. 2 (CM#2022.29)**

Rick Whetsel provided a presentation on the Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force (Task Force) Amendment No. 2 to the Task Force Agreement, contained in the agenda packet on pages 25-36.

Amendment No. 2 would extend the existing Task Force Agreement for a four and one-half year term through June 2027. The amended agreement reflects the same functions and responsibilities.

Formed in August 2005, the Task Force coordinates water quality improvement activities related to bacteria in the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed. SAWPA administers the Task Force, which includes:

- County of San Bernardino
- County of Riverside
- Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Claremont, Corona, Eastvale, Fontana, Jurupa Valley, Montclair, Norco, Ontario, Pomona, Rancho Cucamonga, Rialto, Riverside, and Upland
- Agricultural Operators within the Chino Basin represented by Chino Basin Watermaster Agricultural Pool
- UC Riverside

An upcoming project is the 2022-23 Pig Marker Monitoring Program which will track feral pig bacteria markers. The Task Force is also supporting the implementation of Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plans for Riverside and San Bernardino County.

Commissioner Gardner expressed his support for this Task Force and offered a motion to approve staff's recommendation, and Commissioner Slawson second. Chair Tule asked if the Task Force would make a recommendation on the feral pigs' situation. Mr. Whetsel stated that at this point it is just discovery information and that work will commence in May, finalized in October/November, and have final reports by next spring.

**MOVED**, to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force Agreement effectively extending the existing Task Force for an additional four and one-half years through June 2027.

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

**B. U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANT RESOLUTION – CLOUD SEEDING TECHNOLOGY VALIDATION PROTOCOL (CM#2022.30)**

Mark Norton provided a presentation on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Grant – Resolution supporting Cloud Seeding Validation Protocol, contained in the agenda packet on pages 77-96.

SAWPA staff is preparing for the implementation of a Cloud Seeding Pilot Program (Pilot Program) based on the 2020 Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Feasibility Study in the Santa Ana River Watershed. The Pilot Program validation of its benefits through an independent organization. SAWPA reviewed multiple research firms who have expertise in cloud seeding validation and based on preliminary analysis, a proposal by the Desert Research Institute (DRI) was preferred as it closely matched the Pilot Program. SAWPA staff discussed the development of a standard protocol for cloud seeding validation and solicited DRI's interest in conducting this work that could serve as a guidance document for other watershed agencies who may be seeking improved methods to quantify the benefits of their existing or future cloud seeding programs.

SAWPA staff, in coordination with DRI and local reclamation staff from the Southern California Regional Office U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Jack Simes, determined there was federal interest in the cloud seeding technology. The Reclamation referred SAWPA to the 2022 WaterSMART Applied Science Grant Program to implement this work.

To be eligible, SAWPA, with the assistance of DRI, submitted the grant application on April 13, 2022, which included letters of support from all five SAWPA member agencies, for the development of the Cloud Seeding Technology Validation Protocol Project. The Reclamation grant requires a 50-50% cost share to obtain a grant of \$100,000. The cost share will come from funds already set aside to perform the validation of the Pilot Program, eliminating the need to obtain additional funds from participating agencies.

Commissioner Hayes wanted clarification as to why there was a need for a validation protocol if there is one available through DRI. Jeff Mosher explained that although there are validation protocols available, SAWPA had to determine which validation approach would best support SAWPA's Pilot Program. SAWPA, with DRI's assistance, would like to address the need for standardized protocol and develop a formal document that would be published by Reclamation where other agencies could use it to validate their cloud seeding projects. Commissioner Hayes requested that the protocol cost be separate from the pilot program. Mr. Norton confirmed that distinct and separate contracts and line items will be created to ensure that there is no crossover in funds from the validation protocol cost.

Commissioner Rowe stated that he is in favor of this effort and praised DRI as a well-known research facility. He indicated that this is a great opportunity to be involved with the federal government. Commissioner Gardner highlighted that this process does not cost SAWPA or its participating agencies anything extra and voiced his support.

**MOVED**, to approve Resolution No. 2022-8 authorizing the General Manager to submit a WaterSMART Applied Science Grant Application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the Cloud Seeding Technology Validation Protocol.

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

**C. SAWPA ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING AUTOMATED GATE (CM#2022.31)**

Jeff Mosher provided a presentation on the SAWPA Administrative Building Automated Gate, contained in the agenda packet on pages 97-121.

SAWPA seeks to replace its 6' tall swinging iron gate with an 8' tall, automated iron gate to improve the security, access, and aesthetics of the property. The cost of the automatic gate is \$41,340 and will be funded by the SAWPA's Building Reserve funds.

Commissioner Hayes was in support of the automatic gate since it will provide more security to SAWPA and WMWD's staff. Commissioner Gardner asked if approved, what is the remaining amount in the SAWPA's Building Reserves; Karen Williams stated approximately \$700,000 will remain in the reserves. Chair Marco asked if the gate would remain open during business hours and what is the maintenance cost. Mr. Mosher stated that a plan will be developed to set opening and closing hours, with the intention of it being open only during business hours. Staff will notify commission of the maintenance cost once that information is available.

**MOVED**, to approve the use of \$41,340 from the Building Reserve to replace the manual gate on the SAWPA entrance with an automated gate.

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

**7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

**A. CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – MARCH 2022**

**B. INTER-FUND BORROWING – MARCH 2022 (CM#2022.32)**

**C. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – MARCH 2022 (CM#2022.33)**

**D. PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, MARCH 2022**

**E. PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT MARCH 2022**

**F. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Jeff Mosher indicated that due to a delay from the Department of Water Resources releasing the final guidelines, the OWOW Call for Projects was extended to Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. He added that the In-N-Out Chino Distribution Center was issued a Brine Line Wastewater Discharge Permit in March through the Inland Empire Utilities Agencies. He stated that he attended the 2022 LESJWA Water Summit. Commissioner Gardner agreed that the Summit was well attended and delivered useful information.

**G. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

**I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**J. 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, Chair Marco Tule adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.**

  
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Marco Tule, Chair

Attest:

  
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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board