



**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 16, 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, Sara Villa, Haley Mullay, Jessica  
McDermott, Dean Unger, John Leete, Neftali Guerrero Navarrete

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal  
Water District; Nick Kanetis, Eastern Municipal Water District; Cathy  
Pieroni, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Michael Markus, Orange  
County Water District; Greg Woodside, Orange County Water  
District; Shawn Nevill, Orange County Water District; Craig Miller,  
Western Municipal Water District; Mallory Gandara, Western  
Municipal Water District; Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District;  
Wayne Miller, Yorba Linda Water District; Brian Dickinson, City of  
Colton; Ryan Kearns, CWE; Frank McDonough, Desert Research  
Institute; Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:32 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: JULY 19, 2022

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

### B. TREASURER'S REPORT: JUNE 2022

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

### C. RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF REMOTE COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (CM#2022.54)

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2022-14 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 August 23, 2022 to September 22, 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. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION PILOT PROJECT - VALIDATION SUPPORT (CM#2022.55)

Mark Norton briefed the SAWPA Commission on the effort to validate the results of the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Project (Pilot Project). The Pilot Project is scheduled to start in mid-November timeframe, and preparations are underway with North American Weather Consultants (NAWC) to conduct the work. SAWPA Staff will be preparing a contract with Desert Research Institute (DRI) to work in parallel with NAWC to ensure that their results of the Pilot Project can be verified and validated. It is anticipated that the contract with DRI will be brought forward for SAWPA Commission approval in September.

Mr. Norton introduced Frank McDonough of DRI and he provided a presentation on the Validation Plan for the SAWPA Cloud Seeding Program, contained in the agenda packet on pages 31-46. Mr. McDonough provided a brief background of DRI, which is located in Reno, Nevada and is a research institution part of the Nevada System for Higher Education, founded in 1959. DRI's research topics include global climate change, water quality and availability, air quality, the sustainability of desert lands, and education. DRI's Cloud Seeding Program started in 1960 and it was led by several well-funded Bureau of Reclamation programs (Sierra Cooperative Pilot Program and Sky water Research Program).

Mr. McDonough noted that the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Feasibility Study was done by NAWC, and their results showed that most of the snowfall occurs above 5,000 to 7,000 feet and observes about 100 to 150 inches of snow annually. NAWC's results of an assessment of fifty-eight storms show that 51% had the cloud seeding conditions (sub freezing liquid water drops). Four (4) target areas were identified; the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast for additional snowfall that would generate stream flow in the Santa Ana River.

Mr. McDonough provided a detailed description of each of the validation tasks for SAWPA's Cloud Seeding Program:

Task 1 – Score the seeding program. Review all of the storms crossing the area during operational winter and assess the cloud seeding operations.

Task 2 – Target assessment using snow chemistry.

Task 3 – Calculate the seeding snow water equivalent (SWE) or rainfall increases for each of the seeded storms.

Task 4 – Precipitation, Full Seasonal Target-Control Evaluations.

Task 5 – Streamflow Analysis Target-Control Evaluation.

Commissioner Gardner noted that the focus is primarily on snowfall, and cloud seeding can end up with an increase in rain; are we able to do water chemistry testing instead of snow chemistry testing to see if there is an increase of rainfall? Mr. McDonough noted that the snow chemistry testing only works with snow, the snow has to be captured in bags to maintain it frozen at all times. Commission Rowe and Commissioner Whitaker thanked Mr. McDonough for his presentation and noted that they are looking forward to seeing the future analysis for this project. Jeff Mosher noted that the first year of seeding will start in November and the scope of work has been reviewed by the SAWPA member agency staff. It is anticipated to bring back the contract with DRI in September for Commission approval.

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

**B. UPPER SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT – PHASE 1A  
WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND TRASH ASSESSMENT – STATUS REPORT  
(CM#2022.56)**

Rick Whetsel introduced Richard Meyerhoff of GEI Consultants, who provided a presentation on the Homeless Encampment Impacts on Water Quality – Dry Weather Conditions, contained in the agenda packet on pages 51-65. GEI Consultants and CWE partnered together and completed a two-part study in 2020. The study included assessing current nature and extent of stream and waterbody adjacent homeless encampments in the upper watershed and developed a proposed program to assess potential impacts of homeless encampments on water quality and habitat. SAWPA, San Bernardino, and Riverside County MS4 agencies funded a preliminary dry weather monitoring program for FY 2021-22. The project objectives were to assess potential impacts of three areas of concentrated homeless encampment activity on water quality during dry weather conditions and quantify potential water quality and trash deposition impacts caused by homeless encampments.

Assessments conducted upstream and downstream of three areas of homeless encampments: Market Street Bridge, Mission Boulevard Bridge, and Van Buren Boulevard Bridge. Four dry weather sampling events were completed: September 2021, October 2021, November 2021, and January 2022 (following a 2-week wet weather event). The data collection included water samples analyzed for Total Suspended Solids (TSS), E. coli, and human bacteria marker. Sonde measurements for temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductivity, and turbidity. The California's State Water Resources Control Board protocols were followed for the rapid trash assessment, and the bacteria markers for dogs and pigs were added to the final two sampling events (November 2021 and January 2022).

The findings for the rapid trash assessment were that the trash was typically greater downstream of areas of concentrated homeless encampments, and the trash conditions improved at all monitoring sites following the December's wet weather event. The human marker was observed at some sites, especially Van Buren Bridge encampment area, and the pig markers was the most significant detection in November 2021 and January 2022 at the

downstream Mission Boulevard Bridge site and upstream/downstream of the Van Buren Bridge sites. The final report was submitted to SAWPA in June 2022, and the Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force added a pig marker analysis to selected watershed monitoring sites as part of ongoing regional bacteria monitoring program to determine spatial/temporal extent of presence of pig source bacteria. The study report does not recommend additional study of impacts to water quality from homeless encampments, under dry weather conditions, though SAWPA may want to consider funding additional monitoring studies to evaluate potential impacts under wet weather conditions. The proposed monitoring under a Phase 2 would address wet weather conditions is estimated about \$750,000.

Commissioner Gardner noted that he attended some of the workshops in shaping the study and he is impressed with the way it has moved forward. The pig population has been an ongoing issue in terms of total impact of water quality for decades. Commissioner Harrison noted that the deposit of the pigs' feces in the river which has over time embedded itself into the base of the river is a continuous source of E. coli contamination. Commissioner Whitaker asked what examples of toxic trash that were found. Ryan Kearns of CWE noted batteries, containers of motor oil, spray paint cans, lighters, cigarette butts, and syringes.

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

## 7. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

- A. **CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – JUNE 2022**
- B. **INTER-FUND BORROWING – JUNE 2022 (CM#2022.57)**
- C. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – JUNE 2022 (CM#2022.58)**
- D. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JUNE 2022**
- E. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT  
JUNE 2022**
- F. **BUDGET VS ACTUAL VARIANCE REPORT – FYE 2022 FOURTH QUARTER – JUNE  
30, 2022 (CM#2022.59)**
- G. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2022**
- H. **OWOW QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2022**
- I. **ROUNDTABLES QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2022**
- J. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Jeff Mosher introduced SAWPA's new hire, Daniel Vasquez as SAWPA's Operations Manager. Mr. Vasquez worked at South Orange Coast Wastewater Authority and is now reporting to David Ruhl in our Engineering and Operations Department. Mr. Vasquez noted that his education is in mechanical and nuclear engineering, and he has a few years of wastewater experience. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity and looks forward to working with SAWPA staff.

**K. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

There were no Chair comments. Thanked the presenters.

**M. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioners' comments.

**N. 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 10:46 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, September 20, 2022.**

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Marco Tule, Chair

Attest:

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board