



**SAWPA COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2023**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Bruce Whitaker, Chair, Orange County Water District
Mike Gardner, Vice Chair, Western Municipal Water District
T. Milford Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer, San Bernardino Valley
Municipal Water District [via-zoom]
David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District
Michael Camacho, Alternate, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT; NON-VOTING**

Kelly Rowe, Orange County Water District
Gil Botello, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, David Ruhl, Marie Jauregui, Dean
Unger, Sara Villa, Zyanya Ramirez, Alison Lewis, John Leete

OTHERS PRESENT

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof, LLP; Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal
Water District; Cathy Pieroni, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Ken
Tam, Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland
Empire Utilities Agency; Greg Woodside, Orange County Water
District; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water
District; Joshua Aguilar, Western Municipal Water District; Mallory
Gandara, Western Municipal Water District; Brian Dickinson, City of
Colton; Robert Ennis, County of Riverside; Christy Suppes, County
of Orange; Beth Olhasso, West Coast Advisors; Michael Boccadoro,
West Coast Advisors; Wayne Miller, Yorba Linda Water District;
Brooke Jones, Yorba Linda Water District; Tom Lindsey, Yorba Linda
Water District

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Bruce Whitaker on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California and Commissioner T. Milford Harrison's location, Hyatt Place, 2121 M Street NW, Room #919, Washington, DC 20037.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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: MARCH 7, 2023

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Gardner/Harrison
Ayes:	Botello, Camacho, Gardner, Slawson, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

6. **WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA**

A. **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Michael Boccadoro of West Coast Advisors provided a presentation on the Sacramento Update. With regard to the drought water supply update, there is no shortage of water in California. An overview of the current conditions was provided of the major water supply reservoirs, for instance, Shasta, the State's largest reservoir, added 500,000-acre feet of water supply in a one-week period and is sitting at 98% of the historical average.

Beth Olhasso of West Coast Advisors continued the presentation and noted that the legislature is now operating at full capacity and 2,600 bills were introduced in the first year of the two-year session. About 40% of those bills were either a spot bill or an intent only bill, which means it had very little operative language contained in them. Ms. Olhasso provided a brief overview of the following bills:

- SB 366 (Caballero) CA Water Plan: Long term Supply Targets
- AB 246 (Papan) PFAS in Menstrual Products
- AB 1423 (Shiavo) Product Safety PFAS
- AB 727 (Weber) CASA Bill – Product Safety Cleaning Products
- AB 1572 (Friendman) Non-Functional Turf; Potable Water
- AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan) Water Rights

Ms. Olhasso highlighted several Resource Bonds that have been introduced for the November 2024 Ballot. The following bonds will need to go to the Secretary of State and Attorney General by June/July of 2024 with a title and summary.

- AB 305 (Villapudua) California Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024
- AB 1567 (Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2023 (\$15.1B)
- SB 638 (Eggman) Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024 (\$4.5B)
- SB 867 (Allen) Drought and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate.

The FYE 2023-24 Budget, there is at least a \$22.5 billion shortfall, and it is proposed to have some watershed and climate resilience funding largely maintained. Ms. Olhasso noted that there is a qualified 2024 ballot measure on Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act, this measure is supported by the California business roundtable, but strongly opposed by associations like the California Special Districts Association.

Commissioner Gardner asked how the qualified ballot measure is different from Proposition 218. Ms. Olhasso noted that the actual cost is defined as the minimum amount necessary to provide the service, other sources of revenue included but not limited to taxes, other exempt charges, grants, and State or Federal funds. The big change is the clear convincing evidence standard that will allow for fees and charges to be challenged in court, and it puts greater

burden on the local government to defend the rate increase. Chair Bruce Whitaker thanked Michael Boccadoro and Beth Olhasso for all their efforts. There was no discussion.

This item is to receive and file; no action was taken on agenda item no. 6.A.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. INCORPORATION OF RESOURCE PLANS INTO THE OWOW PLAN UPDATE 2018 (CM#2023.17)

Ian Achimore provided a presentation titled Incorporation of Stormwater Resource Plans (SWRPs) into OWOW Plan Update 2018, contained in the agenda packet on pages 13-25. A brief overview on the OWOW Plan Update 2018 was provided on how it serves many roles in the Santa Ana River Watershed, and it is a State approved Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan for the Santa Ana funding area and region.

Senate Bill 985 requires a local SWRP planning entity which wants to receive State grants for stormwater capture projects, to submit their SWRP to a IRWM Regional Water Management Group. To date, SAWPA has received the Orange County SWRP in 2021 and the Riverside County SWRP in 2023. The Orange County SWRP was led by the County of Orange Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Riverside County SWRP was led by Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFCWCD). As both counties are within the Santa Ana Funding Area and Region, this RWMG shall not just receive, but also review and consider integrating both SWRPs into the OWOW Plan Update 2018.

SAWPA staff as well as the OWOW Steering Committee have reviewed both plans. The SWRPs meet the IRWM-related requirements contained in the Stormwater Resource Plan Guidance released by the State Water Resources Control Board. Orange County's various individual projects listed in their SWRP may pursue funding on their own, and having their projects incorporated into the OWOW Plan Update 2018 also makes them more competitive. Commissioner Kelly Rowe commended County of Riverside's new community rating system to help reduce flood insurance policy rates within the communities. There was no discussion.

MOVED, to incorporate the Orange County and Riverside County Stormwater Resource Plans by reference in an Appendix to the One Water One Watershed Plan Update 2018.

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

B. FYE 2024 AND 2025 BUDGET (CM#2023.18)

Karen Williams provided a presentation titled FYE 2024 and 2025 Draft Budget, contained in the agenda packet on pages 81-159; and informed the Commissioners that all budget items have been brought forward in previous meetings as informational items for review and discussion. All member agency staff and CFOs have reviewed and provided no comments on the budget. Commissioner Michael Camacho referenced the Management Costs slide on page 108 of the agenda packet and asked why the Labor and Benefits dropped in FYE 2024 but then go back for FYE 2025. Mr. Camacho noted that the same question goes for the Brine Line Enterprise Discharge Fees slide on page 99 of the agenda packet for the BOD/TSS Fees.

Ms. Williams noted that over the years there's been an imbalance problem with the BOD/TSS and when they sample all the dischargers in the system, we get one number for BOD/TSS and when the S-O1 meter system that goes into the Orange County Sanitation District it comes out higher and we have to pass along those costs to the member agencies. The last few years the concentrations have gone down substantially. Ms. Williams noted that the labor and benefits, one of the reasons it goes down in FYE 2024 is due to the Agua Mansa Lateral project, and we will have higher labor in other funds, the Capital Project fund.

The Commission commended Ms. Williams for all her efforts in always providing thorough, clean, and concise financial reports. Commissioner T. Milford Harrison called for a motion to approve the FYE 2024 and FYE 2025 budget.

MOVED, to adopt the FYE 2024 and 2025 Budget.

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

8. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

- A. **CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – JANUARY 2023**
- B. **INTER-FUND BORROWING – JANUARY 2023 (CM#2023.19)**
- C. **PERFORMANGE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – JANUARY 2023 (CM#2023.20)**
- D. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, DECEMBER 2022**
- E. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, DECEMBER 2022**
- F. **SECOND QUARTER FYE 2023 EXPENSE REPORT**
 - General Manager
 - Staff
- G. **BUDGET VS ACTUAL VARIANCE REPORT – FYE 2023 SECOND QUARTER – DECEMBER 31, 2022 (CM#2023.21)**
- H. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SECOND QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022**
- I. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Jeff Mosher informed the Commission that David Ruhl is meeting with member agencies staff to discuss future planning activities for the Brine Line management needs. With regard to the Resource Bond, it is anticipated to come back to the Commission with a letter related to Integrated Regional Projects, there are options to consider, and staff would

like to further discuss with the member agencies prior to bringing it back for consideration. It is anticipated to provide an update on the PFAS Study under Closed Session in May timeframe. Mr. Mosher also noted that there is a regional grant that is coming out of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. It's focused on Climate Resiliency and includes drought flooding sea level rise. There has been some discussion internally amongst member agency staff and the General Managers on whether to look into submitting a grant to receive funding to look at a wide view of watershed resiliency. The grant will open in June/July timeframe.

J. STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

K. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

Chair Bruce Whitaker noted that we are nearing almost triple the annual average of precipitation especially in Southern California, and it has given us the ability to recover from the last few years of drought.

L. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Michael Camacho thanked the Commission and noted it was great to see everyone in person and represent Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

M. COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Commissioners' requests for future Agenda items.

9. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for review, Chair Bruce Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

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Bruce Whitaker

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Bruce Whitaker, Chair

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

Sara Villa

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board