

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

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REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Background

The Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (“JPA”) under which the Regional Water Authority (“RWA”) was formed and operates provides for the selection of (1) the members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, and (2) the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors. (See Articles 10 and 18, respectively, of the JPA.) The Board of Directors will follow the procedures set forth in this document for the selection of the members of the Executive Committee and the Chair and Vice-Chair. This document may be amended at any time by the Board of Directors.

In accordance with Article 8 of the JPA, each Member and Contracting Entity (as defined in Article 3 of the JPA) will have two representatives on the Board of Directors, either of whom may cast a single vote on behalf of his or her Member or Contracting Entity. It will be the responsibility of a Member and Contracting Entity to notify RWA in writing from time to time of (1) its designated representatives to the Board of Directors, including alternates who may act in the absence of a representative, and (2) the priority for voting of its representatives to the Board of Directors of RWA. In the absence of such written notification, the Secretary of RWA will determine that an elected representative of a Member will have voting priority over the Member’s non-elected representative to the Board of Directors, and a Member or Contracting Entity’s senior management staff will have priority over the Member or Contracting Entity’s junior management staff, in the event that the Member or Contracting Entity’s two representatives disagree as to who should cast a vote on behalf of the Member or Contracting Entity concerning a particular matter.

Reference in this document to a majority vote of the Board of Directors will refer to the affirmative vote of a majority of the representatives (one for each Member and Contracting Entity) on the Board of Directors who are entitled to vote on a matter and

who are present at the Board meeting during the vote. A seat on the Board of Directors of RWA will become vacant when a representative of a Member or Contracting Entity no longer meets the qualifications set forth in Article 8 of the JPA, or upon the happening of any of the events set forth in Government Code section 1770.

I. Procedures for Election of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

1. The Executive Committee will be a standing committee of the Board of Directors of RWA, and will be selected as individuals from the membership of the Board of Directors, except that, no Member or Contracting Entity of RWA will have more than one representative on the Executive Committee.
2. In accordance with the Brown Act (Government Code section 54952), the Executive Committee will comprise less than a quorum of the number of members of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee of RWA will consist of nine members, subject to the Board of Directors approving a smaller odd-number of members of the Executive Committee to avoid a violation of the Brown Act. These procedures assume that the Executive Committee will comprise nine members.
3. The nine members of the Executive Committee will be selected by the Board of Directors according to the following procedures:
 - a. At least two seats on the Executive Committee will be held by members of the Board of Directors who are members of a governing board of a Member of RWA (as defined in Articles 2 and 3(i) of the JPA).
 - b. At least two seats on the Executive Committee will be held by members of the Board of Directors who are members of management staff of a Member of RWA.
 - c. At least one seat on the Executive Committee will be held by a member of the Board of Directors who represents a City or County Member of RWA.
 - d. At least one seat on the Executive Committee will be held by a member of the Board of Directors who represents a Contracting Entity of RWA (as defined in Article 3(d) of the JPA).
 - e. A majority of the seats on the Executive Committee (i.e., five seats on a nine-member Executive Committee) will be held by members

of the Board of Directors who represent a Member of RWA.

- f. The Chair of the Board of Directors will conduct the election of the Executive Committee. The Chair may appoint an elections committee to assist the Chair and the RWA Secretary in preparing and counting ballots. No secret ballot will be used for the election. (See Government Code section 54953(c) of the Brown Act: “No legislative body will take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.”)
- g. For each ballot, the Chair will ask which members of the Board want to be included on that ballot for election for membership on the Executive Committee. A Board member who is not present at the time of the election will not be included as a candidate unless the Board member or the RWA entity that he or she represents has notified the Executive Director that the Board member wishes to be included as a candidate.
- h. Candidates for election to the Executive Committee may prepare and distribute to the members of the Board of Directors a statement of their qualifications. Prior to the vote on a ballot on which a candidate’s name appears, a candidate for election to the Executive Committee will have an opportunity to make an oral presentation of not more than two minutes concerning his or her qualifications to serve on the Executive Committee.
- i. The first election will be to fill two seats on the Executive Committee to be held by members of a governing board of a Member of RWA. The RWA Secretary will prepare a ballot comprising the names of the members of the RWA Board of Directors who are eligible to fill these seats, excluding from the ballot any member of the Board of Directors who has indicated that he or she does not wish to serve on the Executive Committee. The ballot will state: “Vote for two seats,” and it will have on it the name of the Member or Contracting Entity that is casting the ballot. The representatives on the Board of Directors will cast votes on the ballot on behalf of the Member or Contracting Entity that they represent, i.e., each Member and Contracting Entity can return one ballot. In order to be counted as a valid ballot, a ballot must have a vote cast for each seat that is to be voted on, e.g., if there are two seats to be voted on, a ballot will not be counted if it is returned with a vote for one or none of the candidates. No cumulative voting will be allowed, i.e., a Member or Contracting Entity cannot cast two votes on the same ballot for the same candidate. In order to be elected on the first ballot, a candidate must receive no less than a

majority of the votes of the Board of Directors who are present at the time of the vote. The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes will be elected to the Executive Committee. One or more runoff elections will be held among the three remaining candidates (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes if the election does not fill both seats on the ballot. For a runoff election, the candidate who receives the highest number of votes will be elected, even if it represents less than a majority vote of the Board of Directors. If an election on a ballot with only three candidates does not result in the election of a member of the Executive Committee, then the next runoff ballot will include the two candidates who received the highest number of votes on the previous ballot, and (1) the candidate who receives the higher number of votes (even if less than a majority) will be elected; and (2) in case of a tie, a coin flip will determine the winner.

- j. Upon the filling of the first two seats on the Executive Committee, the Chair will call for the election to fill two seats on the Executive Committee to be held by members of management staff of a Member of RWA. The Chair will follow the voting procedures set forth above to fill these seats on the Executive Committee.
- k. The Chair will next call for the election to fill one seat on the Executive Committee to be held by a member of the Board of Directors who represents a City or County Member of RWA, to the extent that this seat has not already been filled. The Chair will follow the voting procedures set forth above to fill this seat on the Executive Committee.
- l. The Chair will next call for the election to fill one seat on the Executive Committee to be held by a member of the Board of Directors who represents a Contracting Entity of RWA. The Chair will follow the voting procedures set forth above to fill this seat on the Executive Committee.
- m. The Chair will next determine whether a majority of the seats on the Executive Committee are held by members of the Board of Directors who represent Members of RWA. (Under the above-referenced procedures, a minimum of four seats on the Executive Committee would have already been filled by representatives of Members of RWA.) If they have not, then the Chair will call for the election for the seat on the Executive Committee needed to result in a majority of the seats being held by members of the Board of Directors who represent Members of RWA. In that case, the Chair will follow the voting procedures set forth above to fill this seat on

the Executive committee.

- n. The Chair will next call for the election to fill the remaining seats on the Executive Committee. The Chair will follow the voting procedures set forth above to fill these seats on the Executive Committee.
 - o. In the event that vacancies arise from time to time on the Executive Committee, such vacancies will be filled following these procedures concerning the composition and selection of the Executive Committee.
 - p. There will be no alternate members of the Executive Committee.
- 4. Prior to January 31 each year, the Board of Directors will elect the members of the Executive Committee for the following year. The members of the Executive Committee will serve a term that commences at the conclusion of the Board meeting during which they were selected, and runs until their successors take office.
 - 5. The RWA Board of Directors will select from the Executive Committee membership a Chair and Vice-Chair, who will also serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the RWA Board of Directors. The procedures for selecting the Chair and the Vice-Chair are set forth below.
 - 6. Executive Committee meetings will be open to the public (except for authorized closed sessions), noticed and conducted in accordance with applicable law. A majority of all of the members of the Executive Committee (i.e., five members on a nine-member Executive Committee) will (a) constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business, and (b) be required for an affirmative vote to take action.
 - 7. Members of the RWA Board of Directors who are not members of the Executive Committee may attend an Executive Committee meeting only as observers, and they will not participate in the committee meeting, ask questions or sit with the committee members at the Board table. (See subsection (c)(6) of Government Code section 54952.2 and 81 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 156 (1998).)

II. Procedures for Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors

- 1. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected by the Board of Directors from the membership of the Executive Committee.

2. The current Chair of the Board of Directors will conduct the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee as separate elections. The Chair may appoint an elections committee to assist the Chair and the RWA Secretary in preparing and counting ballots. No secret ballot will be used for the election. (See Government Code section 54953(c) of the Brown Act.)
3. The Chair will ask which members of the Executive Committee want to be considered at the election for Chair of the Executive Committee. A Board member who is not present at the time of the election will not be included as a candidate unless the Board member or the RWA entity that he or she represents has notified the Executive Director that the Board member wishes to be included as a candidate.
4. Candidates for election as Chair of the Executive Committee may prepare and distribute to the members of the Board of Directors a statement of their qualifications. Prior to the vote, a candidate will have an opportunity to make an oral presentation of not more than two minutes concerning his or her qualifications to serve as Chair.
5. The RWA Secretary will prepare a ballot for Chair comprising the names of the members of the Executive Committee, excluding from the ballot any member of the Executive Committee who has indicated that he or she does not wish to serve as Chair. To the extent applicable, the procedures set forth above for the election of members of the Executive Committee will be followed for the election of the Chair of the Executive Committee, until the Chair has been elected. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes on the first ballot, and at least a majority of the vote of the Board of Directors who are present at the time of the vote, will be elected Chair. One or more runoff elections will be held, if necessary, among the three candidates (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the previous ballot. For a runoff election, the candidate who receives the highest number of votes will be elected, even if it represents less than a majority vote of the Board of Directors. If an election on a ballot with only three candidates does not result in the election of the Chair, then the next runoff ballot will include the two candidates who received the highest number of votes on the previous ballot, and (a) the candidate who receives the higher number of votes (even if less than a majority) will be elected; and (2) in case of a tie, a coin flip will determine the winner.
6. The Chair will follow the same procedures for the election of Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee.
7. Prior to January 31 of each year, the Board of Directors will elect the Chair

and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee for the following year. The Chair and Vice-Chair will serve a term that commences at the conclusion of the Board meeting during which they were selected, and runs until their successors take office.

8. In the event that the Chair does not serve his or her full term, the Vice-Chair will succeed the Chair, and the Board of Directors will elect a Vice-Chair following these procedures.

III. Procedures for Filling a Post-Election Vacancy on the Executive Committee

1. In the event that a vacancy occurs on the Executive Committee the Member or Contracting Entity whose representative held the Executive Committee seat that was vacated may recommend a replacement by sending the Chair of the Board of Directors a letter making that recommendation.
2. The recommended Executive Committee replacement must be one of the two identified representatives on the Board of Directors for that Member or Contracting Entity, provided the nomination is consistent with the RWA JPA and the Executive Committee Election Policy.
3. The recommended replacement to the Executive Committee may begin to serve immediately, but must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
4. In the event that a recommended replacement is not identified or not approved, the Board of Directors will select a member consistent with the procedures identified in Section I. of this policy.