

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Short called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Executive Committee Members

S. Audie Foster, California American Water  
Spencer Short, City of Lincoln  
Jim Peifer, City of Sacramento  
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency  
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Rob Roscoe, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District

Staff Members

John Woodling, Rob Swartz, Nancy Marrier, Amy Talbot, Monica Garcia, Dave Brent and Ryan Bezerra, legal counsel.

Others in Attendance

Kelye McKinney

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held February 17, 2016.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Peifer moved, with a second by Ms. Schmitz, to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2016 Executive Committee meeting.

**4. RWA POLICY UPDATES**

RWA policies are reviewed every few years. Proposed changes to the Associate Members Policy 100.3 and Purchasing Card Policy 500.8 were attached for the Committee's review. The Associate Members Policy has been changed to reflect that fees are set by the board at budget time rather than a flat fee. The Purchasing

Card Policy reflects the addition of the Manager of Technical Services classification.

M/S/C Mr. Dugan moved, with a second by Mr. Peifer to approve Associate Members Policy 100.3 and Purchasing Card Policy 500.8

## **5. WATER EFFICIENCY UPDATE**

Amy Talbot, Senior Project Manager, gave a presentation on the regional water savings, conservation targets and the next steps for the State Water Board. The emergency conservation regulation was modified and RWA agencies received a 3% reduction for climate adjustment. The State Water Board staff is meeting with water agencies and associated organizations across the state to gather ideas on how to evaluate water supply data and translate that into modifying current conservation targets. This could include a regional approach for evaluation such as at the hydrologic region scale. The State Water Board is planning to host a public meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> to present a draft proposal and to solicit public comments.

Pam Tobin entered the meeting.

The associations are meeting in an attempt to decipher what a water allotment should be, what a conservation efficiency standard looks like and what constitutes efficient use. Short and long term efforts should be separate. Our preferred long term response is that we have a process in place in the drought contingency plan. For the short term we are working to develop a general proposal where they can roll back the drought and focus on where we are.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to outline the facts of the region, individual water supply situations and what the regional position is. Sean Bigley with the City of Roseville is setting up a meeting to get to an agreement that everyone can support. It was agreed that the outcome of Mr. Bigley's meeting be circulated to the Executive Committee members. By April 7<sup>th</sup> RWA should be sending out something to the entire RWA membership stating what is being proposed and asking agencies to write appropriate comment letters.

## **6. REGIONAL RELIABILITY PLAN UPDATE**

Rob Swartz, Manager of Technical Services, reminded the committee that the 2013 RWA Strategic Plan calls for development of a Regional Water Reliability Plan. The RWA Board recently approved the selection of Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH) as the prime consultant to begin assisting staff in the development of a scope of work and budget for the plan. Staff provided an overview of recent outreach efforts related to the plan and gave an update on the process to develop the scope of work.

The intent of the plan is to identify agency vulnerabilities and what can be done to mitigate those vulnerabilities. MWH will assist in identifying the vulnerabilities and mitigations. The entire project will be up to a 3 year project with a year on the first

phase. There will be decisions to be made during the process to decide how committed we are to continue the project beyond the basic reliability plan. Mr. Swartz will be meeting with MWH to determine what the basic project will look like and how to collect funding beyond the current subscription program designation and the IRWM designation. Staff will prepare a project agreement for circulation and approval. The current plan is to have a project committee meet on April 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss what has been developed so far and begin developing a project agreement that has some form of an initial phase to begin collecting funds.

The Bureau of Reclamation released a letter of interest asking for agencies who are interested in becoming involved in continued basin studies. If we respond seeking funding support we could use the Bureau's contractors and support for conducting technical studies. The contractors that staff has been working with, including MWH and RMC, are on the approved list of contractors for the Bureau.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires that we complete groundwater sustainability plans by 2022. In order to accomplish this, especially in the North American Basin, Placer County, North Sacramento and Sutter County, we will need to complete additional groundwater modeling. We have the need and the funds from Prop 1 for a sustainable groundwater management grant. There are various future funding opportunities that may become available.

## **7. LEGISLATION UPDATE**

Dave Brent, Water Policy Advisor, presented an update on bills that RWA is monitoring and explained what the list categories mean. The deadline for bill introduction for the 2016 California Legislative Session was February 19, 2016. Staff has subsequently identified and analyzed more than 100 bills related to RWA interests using the priorities, policy principles, and guidance provided in the RWA Advocacy Program (Advocacy Program) adopted by the Board in September 2015. Mr. Brent gave a presentation showing where the bills can be viewed on the RWA website.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Lobbyist Subscription Program (LSP) Committee met and developed the preliminary list of bills and recommended positions RWA should take on the "Hot List" bills. The "Hot List" is defined as those bills considered either high or medium priority according to the guidance provided in the adopted Advocacy Program. In general, these types of bills are of significant interest to RWA and will be the focus of our legislative advocacy efforts.

The low priority and spot bills, as well as bills that are amended, will be watched for changes that could either increase RWA's interest or eliminate them from further consideration.

In addition to the new bills introduced in 2016, there are eleven "Hot List" bills left over from 2015, referred to as 2-year bills that are still in play and may be acted upon during the 2016 Legislative Session. It is likely that only a few of these bills will be acted upon, but it is recommended they remain on the RWA Hot List at this point.

It is still early in the legislative process and it should be anticipated that the list included in the packet and some of RWA's positions will change over the coming months as bills are amended.

Attachment A was a summary of the 34 Hot List bills. At this point, the LSP Committee's preliminary recommendation is that RWA take a "Watch" position on 29 of those bills. Upon more information gathered from RWA's contract lobbyist (Fernandez Government Solutions), follow-up meetings with legislators and their staff, input from ACWA and other organizations, and other channels, some of these "Watch" positions may be elevated to Support or Oppose.

The LSP Committee recommends the following preliminary positions on five "Hot List" bills:

**AB 1555 (Gomez D) - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund - Support.**

This bill would appropriate \$1.7 Billion from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, including funding for turf replacement, toilet replacement and energy efficient groundwater pump replacement. RWA will meet with the author and try to include funding for advanced meter instrumentation and pump upgrades for treatment plants and pump stations.

**AB 1749 (Mathis R) - CEQA: exemption: recycled water pipelines – Support**

This bill extends the sunset of a CEQA exemption for construction of recycled water pipelines and related infrastructure, including related groundwater replenishment projects, from January 2017 to January 2022.

**SB 814 (Hill D) Drought - excessive water use: urban retail water suppliers - Oppose**

SB 814 will require both public and private urban retail water suppliers that directly provide potable municipal water to more than 3,000 users to levy fines against excessive water users. The bill prohibits excessive water use and requires water suppliers to assess a penalty of at least \$500 on residential water customers for every hundred cubic feet used above an "excessive use definition".

**SB 1317 (Wolk D) - Conditional use permit: groundwater extraction facility – Oppose Unless Amended**

This bill would, by July 1, 2017, require a city or county overlying a basin designated as a high- or medium-priority to establish a process for the issuance of conditional use permits for the development of a groundwater extraction facility. RWA would like to work with the author to amend the bill to not apply to public water supply wells and provide some consideration for the status of management of the groundwater basin.

**SB 1318 (Wolk D) - Local government: drinking water infrastructure or services: wastewater infrastructure or services – Oppose**

This bill requires cities and special districts to make water and wastewater services available to existing communities within or adjacent to their spheres of influence prior to annexing more land or extending services for new development.

Attachments B, C and D include the list of “Low Priority” bills, 2-Year Hot Bills, and “Spot” bills, respectively. Further descriptions and updated information on all these bills can be accessed on the RWA website under the “Advocacy” page or upon request.

Mr. Brent gave a brief summary of bills that he would recommend be placed on the support list or the hot list to see what the amended language is and how far they get in the process.

Staff recommends the Executive Committee adopt the preliminary list of bills and positions as put forth by the Lobbyist Subscription Program Committee. The entire list of bills will be tracked continuously, vetted through the LSP Committee, and brought forward to the Executive Committee to assure appropriate actions are taken as the 2016 Legislative Session proceeds.

M/S/C Mr. Peifer moved, with a second by Ms. Tobin, to adopt RWA positions on California Senate and Assembly Bills.

**8. RWA MAY 12, 2016 BOARD MEETING**

The draft agenda was included for the May 12, 2016 full Board meeting.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California would like to give a presentation to the RWA full board at a future meeting. It was decided to invite them to give a presentation at the September RWA Board meeting.

Audie Foster left the meeting.

After discussion it was agreed to add agenda item 4b. Approve Associate Members Policy 100.3 and Purchasing Card Policy 500.8 and delete the Legislative Update numbering the remaining items accordingly.

M/S/C Mr. Peifer moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to approve the March 10, 2016 proposed RWA Board meeting agenda with the changes noted.

**9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Woodling gave a brief history of the RWA organization explaining that 15 years ago there was a fundamental change to the joint powers agreement when regional leaders decided the existing Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority (SMWA) did not have the capacity to take on the needed regional planning and implementation efforts. The joint powers agreement made fundamental changes to SMWA to create

the Regional Water Authority. RWA will celebrate its 15 year anniversary at an event on July 14, 2016.

**Grants Update** – Staff is currently managing seven grants totaling \$54.7 million. Staff is working with DWR to develop and execute a funding agreement for the \$1.757 million grant award from the 2015 Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant round. RWA has recently distributed significant Prop 50 reimbursement checks to members including: \$693,000 to the City of Lincoln; \$540,000 to Citrus Heights Water District; and \$177,400 to Orange Vale Water Company. The Prop 50 grant is set to expire on June 30, 2016.

## **10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Roscoe reported from Sacramento Suburban Water District's latest Board meeting reporting that the attending public did not want groundwater substitution water transfers and there was a 3 to 2 vote on a cost of living adjustment for connection fees.

Chair Short thanked everyone for the efforts on the budget at the last Executive Committee meeting which, along with the presentation given by Mr. Woodling, allowed us to move through the budget item very quickly.

## **11. CLOSED SESSION UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 54954.5(C) AND 54956.9(D) – UPDATE ON CALPERS CONTINUED OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE PENSION BENEFITS TO RWA EMPLOYEES**

No closed session was necessary.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Short adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Nancy Marrier, Board Secretary / Treasurer