

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schubert called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 8:00 a.m. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Executive Committee Members

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
Debra Sedwick, Del Paso Manor Water District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Brent Smith, Placer County Water Agency
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District

Staff Members

Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojakian, Nancy Marrier, Amy Talbot, Cecilia Partridge and Ryan Bezerra, legal counsel.

Others in Attendance

Norm Roberts and Valerie Roberts, Roberts Consulting Group

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. CLOSED SESSION UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 54954.5(e) AND 54957(b)(1). PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

The public portion of the meeting reconvened at 10:01 a.m.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held February 27, 2019

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. York, to approve the consent calendar item. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

5. REGIONAL WATER RELIABILITY PLAN UPDATE

Rob Swartz, Interim Executive Director, gave an information update on the Regional Water Reliability Plan (RWRP). The draft plan was released for review by the project committee on February 26th, with comments received on March 11th. Staff and its consultant, Stantec, are in the process of making revisions to the RWRP. At its February 27th meeting, the Executive Committee recommended that RWA adopt the RWRP upon its completion.

Following the March 13th RWRP project committee meeting, one of the participants expressed that RWA should also consider conducting an environmental analysis of the RWRP under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff would like to discuss with the Executive Committee its recommended actions for the RWA Board with respect to the final RWRP document. Enclosed for discussion were copies of an RWA 2018 adoption resolution of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and an SGA 2008 adoption resolution of a Groundwater Management Plan and CEQA exemption.

Mr. Bezerra said that the reliability plan under CEQA requires that an analysis be completed based on projects that result in a commitment that may affect the environment. SGA has adopted a notice of exemption stating that this is not a project and is exempt from CEQA through the notice of exemption. Mr. Bezerra will discuss this further with Mr. Madison.

After discussion it was decided that no action would be taken at this time. An action item is expected to be brought back to the Executive Committee at the April meeting.

6. SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WATER BANK PROJECT, PHASE 1

Mr. Swartz gave an update on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank Project, Phase 1. One of the key recommendations of the Regional Water Reliability Plan is to continue planning for the establishment of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank (SWRB). Staff has worked with the RWRP Project Committee to develop a follow-on subscription based project to develop the SWRB, which will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 consists of work that is primarily associated with pre-feasibility activities. The Phase 2 scope of work and budget will be further developed during Phase 1 activities and will be focused on final feasibility determinations, including environmental analysis. Near the completion of Phase 1, the Participants will decide on commencing with Phase 2. The completion of Phase 2 is expected to result in an operational water bank, with a target completion by 2022. Phase 2 would be subject to approval of a separate Project Agreement.

Staff has completed a funding agreement that incorporates comments received by prospective participating agencies with an initial budget of \$500,000 and a not-to-exceed budget of \$600,000. The project will be funded by participants, so there will be no financial impact to RWA. The individual agencies are identified in the funding plan and each individual agency has a not-to-exceed budget.

Mr. Bezerra said that the Project Agreement is a standard agreement that RWA has done for other projects.

M/S/C Mr. Yasutake moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to approve the Sacramento Regional Water Bank Project, Phase 1 Project Agreement. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

7. REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Swartz reported that with completion of the Regional Water Reliability Plan, a key planning component of the RWA Strategic Plan as amended on July 13, 2017 is now complete. The RWRP included recommendations to continue planning activities to establish the Sacramento Regional Water Bank. The RWRP also included recommendations related to implementation activities for the RWRP. Staff requested discussion with the Executive Committee for recommendations to update the Strategic Plan to reflect the current state of these efforts and the process for amending the Strategic Plan with the full RWA Board. Staff is also requesting input from the Executive Committee on whether there are other portions of the current amended Strategic Plan that need updating as we go through the process.

The Water Reliability Plan is complete and is eliminated from the development portion of the plan. The Integrated Water Management is also complete and is now listed under implementation. The Sacramento Regional Water Bank is the next planning item and should be added to the plan. On the implementation side we continue to work on the Water Reliability Plan identifying funding opportunities and track projects. The suggested changes to the Strategic Plan are minimal.

The process will include bringing back an edited version to the Executive Committee in April. Based on recommendations a first draft would be presented to the RWA Board in May. Input from the full board will be incorporated into the Strategic Plan and presented to the RWA board at the July 11th meeting for adoption.

8. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, gave an update on the legislative process with budget committee hearings underway. RWA staff testified at the Assembly and Senate committees in opposition to the Governor's safe drinking water proposal, which includes a tax on water customers. Staff is closely tracking approximately 100 bills that will be heard over the next several weeks. RWA currently has a position on four bills. More information about those bills can be found on the RWA Advocacy webpage on the RWA website.
<https://rwah2o.org/programs/advocacy-program/>.

The budget committees met and discussed the Water Tax from last year. Last week AB 217 was amended with an expansion on scope and funding mechanisms, a tax and the agriculture fees that have been seen without the regulatory relief they have seen in the past. In addition to current fees paid to the State Water Board

additional fees would be required based on agency connections. ACWA has an opposed unless amended position on this bill. There is a version of a trust in the bill that was meant to replace the tax. Mr. Ojakian said that staff needs to think about all of the scenarios in terms of positioning us for future negotiations.

After discussion it was decided to keep the Oppose Unless Amended position on AB 217, change the position on AB 658 from Support to Support If Amended and change the position on AB 756 from Oppose Unless Amended to a Hard Oppose. Mr. Ojakian will prepare letters indicating our positions on the bills. He gave a brief description of each bill.

AB 60 SUPPORT IF AMENDED
AB 217 OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED
AB 510 SUPPORT
AB 658 SUPPORT IF AMENDED
AB 756 HARD OPPOSE
AB 1204 SUPPORT
AB 1414 SUPPORT IF AMENDED
AB 1415 OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED
SB 414 SUPPORT IF AMENDED

M/S/C Ms. Sedwick moved, with a second by Ms. Tobin, to take positions on bills AB 60, AB 217, AB 510, AB 658, AB 756, AB1204, AB 1414, AB 1415 and SB 414 with the changes as indicated above. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

Paradise Irrigation District (PID) is requesting a letter of support for their budget request. A sample letter and a copy of their letter making the budget request were included in the packet. The funding is essential to keep PID operating while Paradise recovers and rebuilds from the November 2018 Camp Fire. The budget request of \$21,693, 203, if fulfilled, would provide that assistance.

M/S/C Ms. Schmitz moved, with a second by Mr. Yasutake, to approve a Budget Request Support Letter for Paradise Irrigation District. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

9. WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAM UPDATE

Amy Talbot, Senior Project Manager, gave a power point presentation update on the Water Efficiency Program (WEP). WEP launched the second year of its two-year public outreach campaign, Check and Save, in March. The campaign invites residents to check their yard's soil moisture before watering by using moisture meters and the "screwdriver test" as tools. Ads will be primarily in online and social media advertising. Radio ads and in-person radio interviews will supplement the visual messaging.

WEP is hosting its second Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) 4-week training in March and April. QWEL is a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense-labeled certification program designed for landscape professionals. The training focuses on sustainable landscape practices and

irrigation system audits. RWA is an EPA authorized organization to host QWEL trainings. Registration for the current class is full and has a waitlist. Sacramento Suburban Water District provided the training location. There is additional information on the QWEL website at www.qwel.net.

The new Powerhouse Science Center is now under construction in Sacramento. RWA sponsored two exhibits in the Water Gallery: Water Day-to-Day and Our Water Future. The anticipated opening of the Center is spring 2021.

Staff released an irrigation controller project request for proposals (RFP) this week. The project is grant funded for \$100,000 providing residents with an online portal to purchase discounted “smart” weather-based irrigation controllers, with the option of controller installation services. The RFP includes language to allow neighboring northern California regional water agencies to partner with RWA on the project. Sonoma Water and the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) were contacted and have expressed interest in the project.

Staff is considering an Imagery RFP that will be sent out in the next week to receive input. There is a project team comprised of select agencies to determine the anticipated results of the Imagery project for each agency. Project costs will be determined on how many agencies are involved and the level of work for each agency.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Integrated Regional Water Management Update – RWA staff met with the American River Basin (ARB) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Advisory Committee on March 21st to review draft recommended projects for the upcoming Department of Water Resources Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Program. Staff is seeking around \$9.4 million for approximately 10 projects. The Advisory Committee concurred with the staff draft recommendations. The next meeting of the ARB IRWM Stakeholders will be held on April 22nd, beginning at 1:00 pm, at RWA. The issue is that there is a funding area wide allocation for the entire Sacramento River Hydrologic Region. There are six IRWM groups that are trying to determine how to share the limited resources. That group has discussed a range of everyone receiving an equal share at \$4.8 million to a prorated amount. Staff is requesting \$9.4 million and negotiations continue. One project in the San Joaquin River Funding Area is included with a million dollars being set aside for that project.

Bureau of Reclamation Water Management Options Pilots Program – RWA staff received a forwarded copy from a few member agencies for a new activity and funding opportunity under the Reclamation Basin Study Program. Staff has reviewed the letter and believes that modeling for the future Phase 2 of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank could be a good candidate activity for the program. When proposed operations are shown, staff also has to prove to both the state and federal agencies that our operations won’t negatively impact them. Reclamation has been briefed and they have concerns about the impacts to the central valley project operations. Staff wants to continue to assure them that we can work out the operation issues to make sure that this is mutually beneficial and

can be seen as a partnership with reclamation. The funding is not in the form of a grant, but in the form of direct assistance, to complete the proposed activity. Staff has confirmed with Reclamation that RWA would be an eligible applicant. Staff is still gathering information to determine if it will proceed with submitting a letter of interest by the April 15 deadline. No Board action is required by Reclamation to submit the letter.

11. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Smith said that Placer County Water Agency invited the City of Roseville staff to their board meeting last week to provide information on the their Aquifer Storage and Recover (ASR) wells. Rich Plecker, Sean Bigley and Trevor Joseph attended the meeting and gave an information presentation. City of Roseville is actively using two wells in West Placer under a pilot program that will produce good information.

Ms. Tobin reported that San Juan Water District has a board meeting this evening.

Ms. Sedwick said that she will not be attending the next Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. York said that Sacramento Suburban Water District is in the process of conducting a water rate study to present to their board in April.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Executive Committee, Chair Schubert adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Nancy Marrier, Board Secretary / Treasurer