AGENDA

The public shall have the opportunity to directly address the Board on any item of interest before or during the Board's consideration of that item. Public comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Board is welcomed, subject to reasonable time limitations for each speaker. Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection in the customer service area of the Authority's Administrative Office at the address listed above. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Executive Director of the Authority at (916) 967-7692. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the Public who wish to address the committee may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR
   a. Minutes of the October 23, 2019 Executive Committee meeting
      Action: Approve Consent Calendar item
   b. IN Communications Contract Extension
      Action: Approve IN Communications Contract extension for both the Water Efficiency and Public Relations Programs through December 31, 2020.

4. LAND IQ IMAGERY ANALYSIS CONTRACT
   Presentation and Discussion: Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager
   Action: Direct Executive Director to contract with Land IQ for the aerial imagery analysis work

5. RETIRED ANNUITANT TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT
   Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director
   Action: Authorize the Executive Director to Enter into an Agreement with Barbara Houghton as a Retired Annuitant Temporary Employee and Approve a Budget Adjustment to Increase Revenues in the SGA Service Fee Budget Category by $30,000 and Increase Expenses by $30,000 in the Staff Budget Category.

6. STRATEGIC PLAN
   Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director
   Executive Committee to provide input into the development of the Strategic Plan
7. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE
Discussion: Kerry Schmitz, Ad Hoc Committee Chair and Jim Peifer, Executive Director
Action: Recommend the Board of Directors approve the Voluntary Agreement Consultant Assistance Program Agreement

8. RWA LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITY AND POLICY ISSUES
Presentation and Discussion: Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Program Manager
Action: Recommend the Board of Directors approve the RWA Legislative and Regulatory Priority and Policy Issues

9. FEDERAL AFFAIRS AD HOC COMMITTEE – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RWA FEDERAL PLATFORM
Discussion: Sean Bigley, Ad Hoc Committee Chair

10. RWA JANUARY 9, 2020 BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Action: Approve Agenda for January 9, 2020 Meeting of the RWA Board of Directors

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

12. DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meetings:

Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings – January 22, 2020 and February 19, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the RWA office

Next RWA Board of Directors’ Meeting – Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the RWA conference room, 5620 Birdcage Street, Suite 110, Citrus heights, CA 95610
AGENDA ITEM 3a: CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of the October 23, 2019 Executive Committee meeting

Action: Approve the October 23, 2019 Executive Committee meeting
1. CALL TO ORDER

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

**Executive Committee Members**
- Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
- Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
- Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
- Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
- Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
- Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
- Pam Tobin, San Juan Water District

**Staff Members**
- Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojakian, Nancy Marrier, Josette Reina-Luken, Cecilia Partridge and Ryan Bezerra, legal counsel

**Others in Attendance**
- Kelye McKinney, Charles Duncan, John Woodling and Marisa Tricas

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Swartz distributed an interview of Stanford Water in the West researchers entitled “Making California’s Water Supply Resilient.” On the last page of the interview, it refers to keys of resilience, forming governance structures, and how to take small systems and have them work together to build resilient systems. Mr. Swartz explained to the committee that the RWA organizational model and the proposed water bank are the types of collaboration needed for resilience success. Mr. Swartz continued to explain that the RWA is at the forefront of dealing with the issues mentioned in the article.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. The minutes from the September 25, 2019 Executive Committee meeting

b. Adopt Resolution 2019-11
Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. York, to approve the September 25, 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes and recommend RWA board adoption of Resolution 2019-11 authorizing Submittal of a Proposal to the California Department of Water Resources for an Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant and Execution of a Funding Agreement. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

4. RWA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

James Peifer, Executive Director, said that the RWA prepared a strategic plan in 2013 and adopted minor plan updates in 2017. An update of the Strategic Plan has been recommended by the Executive Director and Executive Committee with input that has been received. Similar to the 2013 update, the Executive Committee will guide the development of the process to update the plan, including schedule, the processes used to solicit input from members and stakeholders, and other considerations.

Pam Tobin entered the meeting.

Mr. Peifer said that he has nearly completed the member listening sessions and plans to meet with Fair Oaks Water District, Orange Vale Water Company and Golden State Water Company soon. The initial strategic plan framework is a good base to work from for updating for 2024 and beyond. Assessments need to be made, perhaps using a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis.

Hiring a consultant would be beneficial to complete the strategic plan by the end of the fiscal year and prior to the approval time of the next fiscal budget. The focus will be to create a strategic plan for what the RWA needs to be in the next five to 10 years.

Mr. Peifer explained that on his listening tour, he heard common themes from a number of members including unfunded mandates, erosion of local control, aging infrastructure funding, having sufficient water supply for growth, having adequate rates, creating awareness of the value of water, water supply reliability and adaption to climate control, implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, contaminants in water supply and groundwater, and regulatory uncertainty.

Mr. Peifer noted that the members’ visions for the RWA are to develop and implement the Sacramento Regional Water Bank and for RWA to become the coordinator with a leadership role for the region. RWA should become the face of the region and should provide opportunities to share information, resources, and entitlements. The RWA should explore opportunities for reducing costs and gaining
efficiencies. Members would like to see more education, communication and sharing of information, assistance for members with common planning elements, technical support, and RWA to become more involved in regulatory proceedings. To defray costs, especially for small agencies, it was suggested that a common billing system be explored that could be utilized by all agencies.

The greatest value that members see in the RWA include grants, coordination, a place to network, and the benefits of the Legislative Affairs Program. All agencies had said that they receive value as members of the RWA. There is room for improvement, but overall members are satisfied with the RWA services.

Mr. Peifer suggested a staff proposal for revisions to the mission and vision will be presented at the January 2020 RWA Board meeting. Mr. York said the Board should consider revisions to the Mission and Vision without a staff proposal and Mr. Shubert agreed. A workshop is anticipated to be scheduled after the first of the year.

It was suggested that, for comparison, RWA look at what similar organizations are doing with their strategic plans and what is working for them. Organizations outside of RWA agencies could provide new ideas and additional information. At least once a year, periodic checks are made to make sure the strategic plan action items are being implemented and achieved.

Mr. Peifer will continue to work with the RWA Chair, Vice Chair and the committee to finalize some structure and thoughts to lay out for the proposed workshops. A guide for the Strategic Plan needs to be finalized prior to the next fiscal year budget.

5. OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) FUNDING POLICY REPORT

Nicole Krotoski, RWA’s financial and accounting consultant, gave a power point presentation explaining the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Funding Policy. In March 2009, the RWA Board of Directors approved using the California Employers’ Retiree Benefits Trust (CERBT), which is managed by CalPERS, to invest RWA’s funds into an irrevocable trust for the purpose of funding ongoing retiree health obligations.

Bi-annually, RWA’s actuary, Catherine MacLeod, provides an updated OPEB funding report that outlines RWA’s budgetary OPEB information. This funding report uses various assumptions to drive the overall calculation. Factors that play into these assumptions include type of investment strategy, CERBT discount rate, amortization period, implicit and explicit liability, and future health care costs.

- Currently, RWA is invested in CERBT Strategy 1; the most aggressive funding strategy. The CERBT Strategy 1 has performed well. It was last reported that RWA experienced an approximate 10% average annualized rate of return.
through July 2017 (updated annualized return pending). This favorable investment return is partly because the trust inception date correlated with a market low point in 2008 and then experienced subsequent investment growth. As a result, RWA’s OPEB plan is very well funded (approximately 90%).

- In October 2018, the CERBT adjusted the discount rate used to calculate Strategy 1. Previously, the target rate was 7.28%. RWA approved the use of 7% discount rate to provide some buffer for choosing a more aggressive strategy. The new CERBT blended rate, adopted in October 2018, is now 7.59%. With increased information available regarding performance and cash flows, RWA’s actuary is now able to take this data and create a customized discount rate for RWA’s future retiree health obligations.

- RWA currently uses a 10-year period to amortize the unfunded liability. Essentially, the amount of unfunded retiree costs is pro-rated over a 10-year period for trust funding purposes.

- As it pertains to OPEB liability, the implicit liability is estimated by determining what the health premiums would be for retirees as if the health premiums were age rated. The explicit liability is calculated by determining the required health care premiums for all expected retirees at the actual cash flow required to fund the liability. RWA participates in the CalPERS health plan where health care premiums are similar among all age groups. Currently RWA funds both the explicit and implicit liability.

- In the 2017 OPEB funding report, the actuary included as part of RWA’s future health care obligation costs, the health care excise tax. The implementation of this Affordable Care Act’s federal tax has been delayed again to 2022.

RWA staff requested input from the Executive Committee (EC) on two key assumptions for the actuary use in determining future funding requirements. These include RWA moving their OPEB investments to a more conservative CalPERS investment strategy (Strategy 2 or 3) and applying different CERBT discount rates.

Some agencies been moving assets into the more conservative Strategy 2 and 3. Since Strategies 2 or 3 are less aggressive, lower rates of return will increase cash flow requirements and the unfunded liability for funding in the future. Currently, the CERBT does not allow for a splitting of investments amongst different strategies, but that may change in the future.

Based on a quick analysis using RWA’s cash flows, the actuary believes RWA’s discount rate to be around 6.85%. Updated retiree health care cash requirements will result in a new blended rate that could be higher or lower than the CERBT rate of 7.59%. Once the new blended rate is determined, the actuary can provide an
additional analysis using a slightly lower rate (current practice) and provide the comparative results at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Staff recommends that the actuary provide OPEB cash flow and liability analysis using the customized blended rate for Strategy 1 (as determined by the actuary) and then an additional analysis with a lower discount rate for comparative purposes. In addition, the actuary shall also determine the customized rate for funding Strategies 2 and 3 and the resulting cash flow and liability analysis for comparison to Strategy 1; keeping all other remaining assumptions the same as the previous actuarial report.

M/S/C Ms. Schmitz moved, with a second by Ms. Tobin, for the Executive Committee to provide the requested input regarding OPEB cash flow and liability analysis and funding strategies. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

6. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Schmitz reported that Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) has hired ICF to assist staff efforts on the Voluntary Agreement process. The ad hoc committee has worked with PCWA to assign the first tasks to ICF by assembling a list of everything happening with the Voluntary Agreements. One of the challenges is deciding what to focus on at any given time as things continue to change. ICF will draft a document to identify what the priorities should be and where staff time and resources should be spent moving forward.

7. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Committee Chair Ms. Schmitz said that a program description and draft agreement have been prepared by the committee that will be presented to the Executive Committee in December and the full RWA board in January.

Ms. Schmitz also reported that Andy Fecko with Placer County Water Agency will give an update on the Voluntary Agreement process to the full board at the November 14th board meeting.

8. FEDERAL AFFAIRS AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Chair Mr. Bigley reported that a survey was sent out to the general managers with 18 responses received. A committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to compile the survey results and determine how the results will factor into the committee recommendations to the RWA board. All members are invited to attend the meeting. The committee will also incorporate a Washington DC and federal affairs update for the board.
Mr. Peifer said that the federal affairs effort will be part of the RWA strategic plan. The committee vice chair will make a presentation to the board to educate the members on what the ad hoc committee has developed and how that will be worked into the strategic plan.

9. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Mr. Peifer said that RWA Policy 300.3 defines procedures by which surplus property can be disposed. The policy gives authority to the Executive Committee and the Executive Director for disposing of surplus property. The policy precludes board members and employees from purchasing or receiving surplus property. The policy does not extend this limitation to former employees.

Ms. Marrier is seeking approval of the Executive Committee to purchase an RWA owned 2012 Dell Vostro 470 desktop computer for fair market value after her departure on December 2, 2019. Staff researched prices for a similar used computer on the internet and recommends a price of $30. The alternative to this transaction will be to dispose of the computer as e-waste since there is no other employee who will use it.

M/S/C Ms. Schmitz moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve the sale of 2012 Dell desktop to the outgoing Finance and Administrative Services Manager consistent with RWA Policy 300.3. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

10. WATER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS PILOT

Rob Swartz, Manager of Technical Services, said that RWA successfully applied for funding assistance through the United Bureau of Reclamation’s Basin Study – Water Management Options Pilot Program. RWA has been awarded $650,400 that will be used to conduct operations modeling with Reclamation to ensure that the Water Bank does not impact Central Valley Project operations. The operations model is of surface water operations related to reservoirs and rivers, and it would need to be linked to the regional integrated water flow model (IWFM) currently being developed in the region to evaluate the Water Bank. The IWFM model development is being used to meet the local cost share requirement for the Reclamation funding support. Because SGA is managing the development of the IWFM model for the North American Subbasin (NASb), SGA would need to be a part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) currently being developed between RWA and Reclamation. This would allow the funds being used for the NASb IWFM to be counted as local cost share. Staff is requesting that the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter
into the MOA with SGA and Reclamation upon its completion. A copy of the MOA template was included in the packet.

To meet the local cost share, existing commitments of funding were being used with work that is being done through the Sacramento Groundwater Authority to develop the Integrated Water Flow model for the North American Subbasin.

M/S/C Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Ms. Schmitz, to recommend to RWA Board to Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Water Management Options Pilot Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation and the Sacramento Groundwater Authority. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

11. RWA NOVEMBER 14, 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

After discussion, it was agreed to change the Voluntary Agreement Ad Hoc Committee Update to Bay Delta Voluntary Agreement Update on the November 14th RWA Board meeting agenda.

M/S/C Ms. Tobin moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to approve the November 14, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Agenda with the suggested change. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Annual Holiday Social – The 2019 RWA Holiday Social is scheduled for Thursday, December 12th at North Ridge Country Club.

Finance and Administrative Services Manager Recruitment – Ms. Josette Reina-Luken started on October 8th as the new Finance and Administrative Services Manager.

Grants Update – Staff is managing five grants totaling in excess of $28 million. One of those grants, the 2011 Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant for $16 million, concluded on June 30, 2019. Staff is in the process of preparing the final project completion report as required by the grant agreement.

RWA Outreach – Rob Swartz presented on the Water Bank to the Groundwater Resources Association of California’s Western Groundwater Congress on September 19th and to the City of Sacramento Water Committee on September 24th.

Jim Peifer and Rob Swartz briefed Marguerite Patil from Contra Costa Water District and Mike Tognolini from the East Bay Municipal Water District on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank (Water Bank) on September 30th.
RWA staff participated on a regional congressional staff tour on October 8th. The tour was organized by Marisa Tricas from the City of Roseville. RWA staff briefed congressional staff on the Water Bank during the tour.

RWA and Water Forum staff brought State Legislative staff on a tour on October 11th to educate them on RWA and Water Forum initiatives including water use efficiency efforts, habitat management projects, managing groundwater contamination, and development of the Water Bank. The tour was organized and led by Ryan Ojakian. Tour stops were made at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery across from the Sailor Bar Side Channel Project and San Juan Water District. The event was well attended with 18 staff members participating.

Ryan Ojakian and Jim Peifer met with Thomas Gibson, Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water at the California Natural Resources Agency to discuss the Water Bank and request the State recognize the Water Bank as a state led storage project for purposes of pursuing federal funding opportunities on October 16th.

Mr. Peifer has been requested to make a presentation at the November LAFCO meeting.

**Water Efficiency Update** – The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) released their proposed framework for performance standards for water loss and the associated economic model in September. These proposed performance standards will be used to assess water suppliers’ compliance with Senate Bill 606, Assembly Bill 1668, and Senate Bill 555. The State Board is requesting comments on the proposed standards with a deadline of October 25th at noon. The water supplier community and RWA have some significant concerns with the proposed standards and economic model. A coalition comment letter has been organized through CMUA and individual water suppliers are encouraged to submit their own letters outlining specific examples of concerns that are unique to their agency. RWA will submit a comment letter on behalf of the region. The State Board is required to adopt water loss performance standards on or before July 1, 2020.

13. **DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS**

Mr. Bezerra said that Alan Lilly from Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan has been appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board as the first administrative hearing officer.

Mr. York said that Sacramento Suburban Water District’s 218 Public hearing for a five-year water rate increase was approved by their board.

Mr. Bigley announced that City of Roseville was invited by the US EPA to apply under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act with a
required letter of interest and to participate in a follow up screening process. This includes a funding loan for a suite of groundwater and recycled water projects.

Ms. Carrey said that City of Sacramento submitted a comment letter to the State on the Water Loss Audit Compliance Standards.

Mr. Greenwood said that Carmichael Water District is working with Kennedy Jenks on replacing their La Vista water tank. The District continues their search for a new General Manager. He is not running for LAFCO chair this year, so the seat will be open for others to apply.

Chair Schubert said that Golden State Water Company has been working State Division of Drinking Water with consolidation of some small water systems. If anyone knows of small systems that need assistance please contact Mr. Schubert.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Schubert adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Nancy Marrier, Board Secretary / Treasurer
AGENDA ITEM 3b: CONSENT CALENDAR

BACKGROUND:

On March 12, 2015 the RWA Board approved a contract validation with IN Communications for the Water Efficiency Program and for the Public Relations Programs. The recurring contract with IN Communications has an indefinite term period. As stated in Section II of RWA Policy 300.2 Professional Services Selection and Contracting, staff must request validation from the Executive Committee for recurring contracts with an indefinite term every five years. As such, the current contract validation approval will expire on March 12, 2020.

Since 2009 IN Communications’ expertise and services have been integral to the success of the Water Efficiency Program and Public Relations program. Their service offerings include award winning public outreach campaigns, legislative tours, science-based water conservation outreach strategies and the development of key partnerships. Additionally, IN Communications has active contracts with several RWA member agencies and other statewide and local partners providing an additional layer of coordination for RWA’s programs. IN Communications’ knowledge of this region, its member water agencies and local, regional and state media is invaluable and directly relates to the success of RWA’s programs.

Although IN Communication is highly-recognized for their work, RWA is fiscally accountable to its members to ensure that consulting services are offered at a fair, competitive and reasonable price. As IN Communications contract has exceeded a ten-year term, staff recommends that a public procurement process be issued for a new contract for both the Water Efficiency and Public Relations Programs. Staff will need some time develop the appropriate procurement documents. Additionally, the Executive Committee will be addressing RWA’s overall level of public outreach and communication as part of its strategic plan update which will have a direct effect on the requested scope of work.

For the reasons stated above as well as ensuring continuity of services, staff requests that the Executive Committee extend the IN Communications contract through December 31, 2020 for the Water Efficiency and Public Relations Programs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Information Presentation: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Approve IN Communications Contract extension for both the Water Efficiency and Public Relations Programs through December 31, 2020.
AGENDA ITEM 4: LAND IQ IMAGERY ANALYSIS CONTRACT

BACKGROUND:

Presentation and Discussion: Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager

In 2016, RWA contracted with Land IQ to perform a basic urban residential analysis of Sacramento and Placer County public imagery and parcel data to estimate irrigated landscape area (Total cost: $10,700). In 2018, the Governor approved Senate Bill (SB) 606 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1668, which outlined a framework for water supplier level water demand budgets. These budgets include a residential and commercial landscape water budget component. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has begun a process to formally define the methodology and regulation associated with these landscape water budget components. Five RWA water supplier members (City of Yuba City, City of West Sacramento, City of Folsom, Sacramento County Water Agency, and San Juan Water District) are interested in simultaneously exploring similar landscape budget methodologies for their respective service areas using regionally obtained landscape imagery files (Part 1). RWA has obtained 3 inch 4 band imagery through a partnership with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and 1 foot 4 band imagery that the DWR is using for the SB 606 and AB 1668 process. The five participating suppliers will fund this project through a subscription program. No RWA general or Water Efficiency Program funding will be used for this project. RWA will also host a regional landscape imagery analysis training open to all suppliers to teach supplier staff how to create a customer landscape budget and compare that budget to meter data (Part 2). The training will be paid for by Water Efficiency Program funding and participating water suppliers (cost per attending person). RWA released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for both Part 1 and Part 2 work on June 11, 2019 (https://rwah2o.org/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-the-regional-landscape-imagery-project/). RWA directly sent the RFP to five firms, posted the RFP on the RWA website and sent out an eblast notification through the RWA list serv to those contacts that selected contracting interest. RWA received three response: AppGeo, Eagle Aerial, and Land IQ. Staff coordinated a RFP response evaluation team that consisted of the City of Sacramento (Brett Ewart), San Juan Water District (Lisa Brown), City of West Sacramento (Ryan Burnett), Elk Grove Water District (Sarah Jones), Sacramento County Water District (Christian Bennett), and RWA (Amy Talbot). The committee selected Land IQ as the top choice to perform the work based on their previous experience in the region and their proposed analysis methodology. Total project cost is $54,500 (Part 1 - $42,500 or $8,500 per participating supplier and Part 2 - $12,000).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation and Discussion: Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager

Action: Direct Executive Director to contract with Land IQ for the aerial imagery analysis work
AGENDA ITEM 5: RETIRED ANNUITANT TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT

BACKGROUND:

On three past occasions, RWA has employed CALPERS retirees as a Retired Annuitant (Annuitant). Such employment is on a temporary basis to assist in completion of specific work for which the Annuitant possesses specialized knowledge or experience. For one of the previous engagements, RWA hired an Annuitant to assist the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) in completing its 2014 Groundwater Management Plan. SGA funded the position.

SGA staff has identified the need for assistance to complete the state-mandated Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), which is due by January 31, 2022. Among other requirements, preparation of the GSP will include: 1) detailed analysis of groundwater level data and trends to assess basin health from a quantity perspective; 2) the relationship between groundwater and surface water; and 3) detailed analysis of groundwater quality data and trends to characterize basin health from a quality perspective.

Staff has identified Barbara Houghton as an Annuitant with the experience to assist with this work. Ms. Houghton is a California Professional Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist with more than 25 years of private and public sector experience in groundwater. Most recently, Ms. Houghton was a manager with the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department where she had oversight of multiple programs including the Hazardous Materials Program (underground storage tanks, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, incident response), Solid Waste Program (illegal dumping, litter), Water Program (small water systems and wells), and Liquid Waste Program (septic systems). Ms. Houghton retired from this position in December 2018, and is eligible to be employed as an Annuitant.

Staff is proposing to work with RWA and SGA legal counsel to develop a temporary employment contract with Ms. Houghton for the period January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022. Staff is seeking authorization from the Executive Committee to enter into this agreement upon its completion. To fully authorize the proposed employment action through the remainder of the current fiscal year, SGA staff will seek concurrence of the SGA Board on December 12, 2019 to fund the temporary staff position through the remainder of the current fiscal year. Future funding would be subject to approval of the RWA Board during its annual budget process, with concurrence of the SGA Board.

To recognize the additional expense and revenue associated with the Annuitant position for FY20, staff is requesting that the Executive Committee approve a budget adjustment that includes increasing the Staff expense budget category and also increasing the SGA Service Fee revenue budget category. Both budget categories
December 11, 2019

would increase by $30,000, which will offset the additional RWA staff expense with revenue from SGA. This action is required by RWA Policy 500.11.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

**Action:** Authorize the Executive Director to Enter into an Agreement with Barbara Houghton as a Retired Annuitant Temporary Employee and Approve a Budget Adjustment to Increase Revenues in the SGA Service Fee Budget Category by $30,000 and Increase Expenses by $30,000 in the Staff Budget Category.
AGENDA ITEM 6: STRATEGIC PLAN

BACKGROUND:

The RWA prepared a strategic plan in 2013 and adopted minor plan updates in 2017. An update of the Strategic Plan is recommended by the Executive Director and Executive Committee input is requested. Similar to the 2013 update, the Executive Committee will guide the development of the process to update the plan, including schedule, the process(es) used to solicit input from members and stakeholders, and other considerations.

Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Executive Committee to provide input into the development of the Strategic Plan
AGENDA ITEM 7: VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND:

Chair Paul Schubert has appointed an ad hoc committee to address the RWA’s role in the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) and the Voluntary Agreements (VA). The new ad hoc committee’s charge is to oversee the participation of RWA and its Executive Director in the ongoing negotiations and proceedings concerning the SWRCB proposal to amend the WQCP. The ad hoc committee will make recommendations to the RWA Board and Executive Committee for defining the RWA role and commitments of resources.

The Ad Hoc committee is proposing a subscription program that would allow the RWA to obtain consultant services to assist the members in developing a voluntary agreement. The proposed program agreement is attached.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion: Kerry Schmitz, Ad Hoc Committee Chair and Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Recommend the board of Directors approve the Voluntary Agreement Consultant Assistance Program Agreement
REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
PROGRAM AGREEMENT

VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This Agreement is made and entered into as of the _____ day of ______, 2019, by and between the Regional Water Authority (“RWA”), a joint exercise of powers authority formed under California Government Code section 6500, and following, and the Members and Contracting Entities of RWA listed in Exhibit 1 to this Agreement, upon their execution of this Agreement (who are collectively referred to in this Agreement as “Participants”), to provide for carrying out a project or program that is within the authorized purposes of RWA, and sharing in the cost and benefits by the Participants.

RECITALS

A. RWA is a joint powers authority, formed to serve and represent regional water supply interests and to assist its members in protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.

B. The joint powers agreement (“RWA JPA”) pursuant to which RWA was formed and operates, and as was amended on October 8, 2013, authorizes RWA to enter into a “Project or Program Agreement,” which is defined in the RWA JPA as an agreement between RWA and two or more of its Members or Contracting Entities to provide for carrying out a project or program that is within the authorized purposes of RWA, and sharing in the cost and benefits by the parties to the Project or Program Agreement.

C. Article 21 of the RWA JPA states: “The Regional Authority’s projects are intended to facilitate and coordinate the development, design, construction, rehabilitation, acquisition or financing of water-related facilities (including sharing in the cost of federal, State or local projects) on behalf of Members and/or Contracting Entities. The Regional Authority may undertake the development, design, construction, rehabilitation, acquisition or funding of all or any portion of such projects on behalf of Members and/or Contracting Entities in the manner and to the extent authorized by such Members and/or Contracting Entities as provided in this Agreement, but shall not accomplish these functions, nor acquire or own water-related facilities in its own name.”

D. Article 22 of the RWA JPA states: “Prior to undertaking a project or program, the Members and/or Contracting Entities who elect to participate in a project or program shall enter into a Project or Program Agreement. Thereafter, all assets, benefits and obligations attributable to the project shall be assets, benefits and obligations of those Members and/or Contracting Entities that have entered into the Project or Program Agreement. Any debts, liabilities, obligations or indebtedness incurred by the Regional Authority in regard to a particular project or program, including startup costs advanced by the Regional Authority, shall be obligations of the participating Members and/or Contracting Entities, and shall not be the debts, liabilities,
E. RWA and the Participants desire to carry out a project and share in the costs and benefits of the project, as a Project or Program Agreement as provided for in Articles 21 and 22 of the RWA JPA.

In consideration of the promises, terms, conditions and covenants contained herein, the parties to this Agreement hereby agree as follows:

1. **Recitals Incorporated.** The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated by reference.

2. **Defined Terms.** Terms defined in the RWA JPA will have the same meaning in this Agreement.

3. **Description of the Program.** The RWA and the Participants desire to carry out this Voluntary Agreement Assistance Program (“VA Assistance Program”) to obtain the services of a consultant to assist in the completion of the Voluntary Agreements. The RWA subscription program would include tasks necessary to successfully conclude analyses and negotiations concerning the VAs to support their submission to the State Water Resources Control Board as an alternative to unimpaired flow-based proposals for minimum streamflows. Some of those tasks include but are not limited to:

   1. Schedule and facilitate coordination meetings between American River principals (those general managers who represent the region at meetings) to ensure consistency in messaging.
   2. Schedule and facilitate weekly or bi-weekly update meetings for all American River VA interests.
   3. Create and maintain a list of deliverables, deadlines and timelines associated with the process. List shall include issues that require resolution by the American River parties. Maintain key documents and draft work products on joint secure website.
   4. Create and maintain a “parking lot” of issues to be resolved.
   5. Facilitate meetings as needed to develop agreements necessary to implement VA.
   6. Assist in drafting of work products and position papers on various topics associated with VA implementation.
   7. Coordinate with technical experts and regional representatives from other watersheds to assure consistent approach to policy issues.
   8. Work with American River water agency managers and RWA representatives to develop a business plan for the American River tributary that works within the central governance structure created as part of the VA process. Incorporate existing entities – RWA (groundwater bank) and Water Forum (habitat projects) into the process.
   9. Attend meetings as directed and report back meeting outcomes.
   10. Prepare a custom weekly summary recapping the prior week and looking ahead to the next week, using the State’s summary as a starting point, that articulates the American River’s positions on issues of importance to the region.
A scope of work for the VA Assistance Program is attached hereto as Exhibit 2 ("Program Description").

4. **Program Committee.** The Participants hereby form a Program Committee consisting of one representative (and alternates) designated by each Participant. The Program Committee will meet as necessary from time to time to administer and implement this Agreement on behalf of the Participants. A majority of the total members of the Program Committee will constitute a quorum. Each member of the Program Committee will have one vote, either by its representative or an alternate. To proceed with a vote to take action, a quorum must be present at a meeting, with a majority of the number present required for an affirmative vote. Where a vote to take action will occur, notice of at least seven days shall be provided to all Program Committee members so that they may have a reasonable opportunity to participate in the consideration of the action item.

5. **Sharing in Program Costs and Benefits.** The estimated cost to for consultant support from___________ to December 31, 2020 is estimated at $100,000. The assessments for each Participant are further described and attached hereto as Exhibit 3 ("Financing Plan"). Each of the Participants will make one or more payments to RWA for completion of the Program. Any proposed increase in a Participant’s not-to-exceed fee as shown in Exhibit 3 must be approved by that Participant. Participants shall have full access to the work products of the Program.

At the conclusion of the VA Assistance Program, the Program Committee will take action on the dispensation of any remaining funds. If the Program Committee elects to return any surplus funds to the Participants, RWA will pay back such funds to the Participants on a pro rata basis reflecting the amount of the payments made by each of the Participants. In accordance with the provisions of Articles 21 and 22 of the RWA JPA, any debts, liabilities, obligations or indebtedness incurred by RWA in regard to the Program will be the obligations of the Participants, and will not be the debts, liabilities, obligations and indebtedness of those Members and/or Contracting Entities who have not executed this Agreement.

6. **Role of RWA.** The RWA will (a) ensure that the interests of Members and Contracting Entities of RWA who do not participate in this Program are not adversely affected in performing this Agreement, (b) provide information to the Participants on the status of implementation of the Program, (c) assist the Program Committee in carrying out its activities under this Agreement, d) secure consultant support services through a competitive selection process as identified in RWA Policy 300.2, where applicable; and e) manage consultant support services in completion of the Program.

7. **Authorization to Proceed with the Program.** The VA Assistance Program is authorized to proceed upon the commitment of $11,111.12 from Program Participants to fund initial costs. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Participants agree to fund their portion of the VA Assistance Program costs in an amount and manner as described in Exhibit 3 ("Financing Plan") to this Agreement.
8. **Term.** This Agreement will remain in effect for so long as any obligations under this Agreement and/or obligations from other sources of funding secured for completing the VA Assistance Program remain outstanding.

9. **Withdrawal.** A Participant may withdraw from this Agreement without requiring termination of this Agreement, effective upon ninety days’ notice to RWA and the other Participants, provided that, the withdrawing Participant will remain responsible for any indebtedness incurred by the Participant under this Agreement prior to the effective date of withdrawal. If any surplus funds remain after the withdrawing Participant has met all of its financial obligations under this Agreement, then such funds will be returned to the withdrawing Participant in proportion to the total contribution made by each Participant.

10. **Amendments.** This Agreement may be amended from time to time with the approval of all of the Participants and RWA.

11. **Privileges and Immunities.** All of the privileges and immunities from liability; exemptions from laws, ordinances and rules; and all pension, relief, disability, worker's compensation and other benefits that apply to the activity of officers, agents or employees of RWA or the Participants when performing their respective functions for those agencies will, to the extent permitted by law, apply to them to the same degree and extent while engaged in the performance of any of the functions and other duties under this Agreement. It is further understood and agreed by RWA and the Participants that, notwithstanding anything contained herein, the employees of RWA and of each Participant shall continue to be entirely and exclusively under the direction, supervision and control of the employing party.

12. **No Third Party Beneficiary.** RWA and the Participants understand and agree that this Agreement creates rights and obligations solely between RWA and the Participants and is not intended to benefit any other party. No provision of this Agreement shall in any way inure to the benefit of any third person so as to constitute any such third person as a third-party beneficiary of this Agreement or any of its items of conditions, or otherwise give rise to any cause of action in any person not a party hereto.

13. **Liabilities.** With respect to this Agreement, RWA and the Participants expressly agree that the debts, liabilities and obligations of RWA and of each Participant shall remain the debts, liabilities and obligations of that party alone and shall not be the debts, liabilities and obligations of any other party to this Agreement, except as may be otherwise set forth herein or in an amendment to this Agreement.

14. **Audits and Accounting.** All funds provided under this Agreement shall be separately accounted for and maintained, with books and records of such funding open to inspection by the Participants. Funding under this Agreement shall be subject to and consistent with the audit and accounting procedures set forth in Articles 27 and 28 of the RWA JPA.

15. **General Provisions.** Any notice to be given under this Agreement shall be made by: (a) depositing in any United States Post Office, postage prepaid, and shall be deemed received at
the expiration of 72 hours after its deposit; (b) transmission by facsimile copy; (c) transmission by electronic mail; or (d) personal delivery. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. The contact information for each Participant with respect to this section of the Agreement is set forth in Exhibit 4 ("Notice Information"). This Agreement may be executed by the parties in counterpart, each of which when executed and delivered shall be an original and all of which together will constitute one and the same document.

16. Signatories’ Authority. The signatories to this Agreement represent that they have authority to execute this Agreement and to bind the Participant on whose behalf they execute it.

17. No Commitment to Implementation. The Participants acknowledge that they, either individually or collectively, will need to make further decisions, and take further actions, before entering into a Voluntary Agreement. The Participants further acknowledge that these further actions and decisions include conducting and completing any necessary environmental analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The Participants’ execution of this Agreement is only for the purpose of obtaining consultant services to assist in the completion of the Voluntary Agreement and does not commit any Participant to taking any action that would actually do so. The Participants’ actions under this Agreement will not cause, directly or indirectly, any physical change in the environment and will not be a “project” under CEQA, as defined in Public Resources Code section 21065.

The foregoing VA Assistance Program Agreement is hereby agreed to by RWA and the Participants.

Dated: __________, 2019

James Peifer
Executive Director
Regional Water Authority

Signature

Name

Agency

List of Agreement Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – Program Participants
Exhibit 2 – Program Description
Exhibit 3 – Financing Plan
Exhibit 4 – Notice Information

VA Assistance Program Agreement
EXHIBIT 1

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Agency (Proposed)

Carmichael Water District
City of Folsom
City of Roseville
City of Sacramento
El Dorado Irrigation District
Placer County Water Agency
Sacramento County Water Agency
Sacramento Suburban Water District
San Juan Water District
EXHIBIT 2

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The VA Assistance Program will be completed by the consultant as described in the tasks below.

11. Schedule and facilitate coordination meetings between American River principals (those general managers who represent the region at meetings) to ensure consistency in messaging.
12. Schedule and facilitate weekly or bi-weekly update meetings for all American River VA interests.
13. Create and maintain a list of deliverables, deadlines and timelines associated with the process. List shall include issues that require resolution by the American River parties. Maintain key documents and draft work products on joint secure website.
14. Create and maintain a “parking lot” of issues to be resolved.
15. Facilitate meetings as needed to develop agreements necessary to implement VA.
16. Assist in drafting of work products and position papers on various topics associated with VA implementation.
17. Coordinate with technical experts and regional representatives from other watersheds to assure consistent approach to policy issues.
18. Work with American River water agency managers and RWA representatives to develop a business plan for the American River tributary that works within the central governance structure created as part of the VA process. Incorporate existing entities – RWA (groundwater bank) and Water Forum (habitat projects) into the process.
19. Attend meetings as directed and report back meeting outcomes.
20. Prepare a custom weekly summary recapping the prior week and looking ahead to the next week, using the State’s summary as a starting point, that articulates the American River’s positions on issues of importance to the region.

Program Schedule
Program is scheduled to begin in ________ 2019 and be complete by December 31, 2020.

Program Fee
The program budget is provided is the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The not-to-exceed fee for each Participant is shown in the table below. A Participant’s not-to-exceed fee will not be increased without the approval of that Participant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Not-to-Exceed Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carmichael Water District</td>
<td>$11,111.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Folsom</td>
<td>$11,111.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Roseville</td>
<td>$11,111.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Sacramento</td>
<td>$11,111.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Dorado Irrigation District</td>
<td>$11,111.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placer County Water Agency</td>
<td>$11,111.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento County Water Agency</td>
<td>$11,111.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento Suburban Water District</td>
<td>$11,111.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan Water District</td>
<td>$11,111.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXHIBIT 4

NOTICE INFORMATION

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Carmichael Water District
Attn: Steve Nugent
7837 Fair Oaks Blvd
Carmichael, CA 95608
Phone: (916) 483-2452
Email: steve@carmichaelwd.org

City of Folsom
Attn: Marcus Yasutake
50 Natoma St.
Folsom, CA 95630
Phone: (916) 461-6161
Email: myasutake@folsom.ca.us

City of Roseville
Attn: Sean Bigley
2005 Hilltop Circle
Roseville, CA 95747
Phone: (916) 774-5513
Email: SBigley@roseville.ca.us

City of Sacramento
Attn: Anne Sanger
1395 35th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95822
Phone: (916) 808-1725
Email: asanger@cityofsacramento.org

El Dorado Irrigation District
Attn: Jim Abercrombie
2890 Mosquito Rd.
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 622-4513
Email: jmabercrombie@eid.org

El Dorado Irrigation District
Attn: Jim Abercrombie
2890 Mosquito Rd.
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: (530) 622-4513
Email: jmabercrombie@eid.org

Placer County Water Agency
Attn: Andy Fecko
144 Ferguson Road
Auburn, CA 95603
Phone: (530) 823-4965
Email: afecko@pcwa.net

Sacramento County Water Agency
Attn: Kerry Schmitz
827 7th Street, Room 301
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 874-4681
Fax: (916) 874-8693
Email: schmitzk@SacCounty.NET

Sacramento Suburban Water District
Attn: Dan York
3701 Marconi #100
Sacramento, CA 95821
Phone: (916) 679-3973
Fax: 916-972-7639
Email: dyork@sswd.org

San Juan Water District
Attn: Paul Helliker
P.O. Box 2157
Granite Bay, CA 95746
Phone: (916) 791-6933
Fax: (916) 791-6983
Email: phelliker@sjwd.org

Regional Water Authority
Attn: Jim Peifer
5620 Birdcage Street, Suite 180
Citrus Heights, CA 95610
Phone: (916-967-7692
Fax: (916) 967-7322
Email: jpeifer@rwah2o.org
AGENDA ITEM 8: RWA LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITY AND POLICY ISSUES

BACKGROUND:
Review the attached “redline” update to the Legislative and Regulatory Program policy principles adopted September 10, 2015.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
Presentation and Discussion: Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Program Manager

Action: Recommend the board of Directors approve the RWA Legislative and Regulatory Priority and Policy Issues
RWA Legislative and Regulatory Priority and Policy Issues

(Approved by the Board on September 10, 2015)

(Approved by the Board on ________________)

This update rescinds and replaces the Policy Principles on Public Goods Charges adopted by the RWA Board on November 12, 2015 and the RWA Priority and Policy Issues adopted by the RWA Board on September 10, 2015.

Introduction

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy Program (Advocacy Program) has been created as part of the commitment to regional collaboration and unity in pursuit of the region’s common goals as acknowledged by the “RWA 2018+ Strategic Plan”. The intent of the Advocacy Program is to positively influence legislative and regulatory actions to protect, preserve and improve the region’s water supply reliability.

This advocacy effort takes on many forms including high level commitment to increasing the region’s profile in California water politics; a focused and agreed upon set of priorities; a clear and resolute set of Policy Principles to guide advocacy positions and decisions; and fostering beneficial coalitions with allied organizations. The success of these advocacy efforts will be directly linked to maintaining the level of excellence this region has demonstrated in the stewardship of our water resources. This stewardship has resulted in the preservation and enhancement of our local watersheds; protection of a federally designated Wild and Scenic River running through a metropolitan area of over 2 million people (the Lower American River); and a reliable and diverse water supply supporting the growth of the local economy.

The Priority Issues and companion Policy Principles that are adopted by the RWA Board and included herein serve as the foundation for RWA’s Advocacy Program. The Priority Issues are the long-standing, foundational issues that are at the core of RWA’s mission and stand the test of time. An example of a Priority Issue adopted as part of the Advocacy Program is the “protection of the water rights and entitlements of RWA member agencies”. Vigilant protection of these valuable, local assets will be a perpetual priority for RWA and its member agencies. The Policy Principles that support each of the Priority Issues are also long-term in nature though the RWA Advocacy Program should carefully consider and modify these on a regular basis to stay abreast of the ever-changing politics of California’s water resources management.

Combined, the Priority Issues and Policy Principles adopted by the Board of Directors serve as the Advocacy Platform that will guide development of annual legislative and regulatory work plans. The advocacy platform allows RWA staff and member agencies to operate within an agreed upon set of guidelines when advocating for the region’s common goals.
Currently, a contract lobbyist paid for by 10RWA member agencies support the Advocacy Program, and the program is staffed on half-time basis. Consistent with the Strategic Plan, it is a goal of RWA to eventually support full-time staffing and expand participation in funding the lobbyist.

Following the Priority Issues and Policy Principles are the guidelines the Advocacy Program will use for determining recommended positions and prioritizing legislation that is introduced as part of each legislative session.

Finally, this document includes an overview of the California legislative process and calendar, as well as an overview of key state agencies in which we engage.

**Priority Issues**

**Ensure a Diverse, Resilient, and Reliable Water Supply**

Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources along with cost-effective investments in recycled water, stormwater capture, water efficiency, and water conservation can significantly drought proof the region’s water supply, protect the region’s water resources and environment, and assure the continued growth of the region’s economy.

**Policy Principles**

- Promote legislative and regulatory measures that enhance local agencies’ ability to share regional water resources.
- Promote and support the development and expansion of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank. Enhance state support of the Water Bank through bonds funds or other funding sources.
- Support and participate in Folsom Reservoir and Central Valley Project operational improvements to assure a reliable surface water supply to RWA agencies.
- Develop infrastructure necessary to access surface water entitlements.
- Advance efforts to streamline CEQA compliance for water resource projects that diversify or strengthen this regions water supply reliability.
- Promote and support amendments to SGMA and development of regulations that enhance water supply reliability and protect groundwater resources.
- Support measures that help expedite and cost-effectively integrate new water resources such as stormwater reuse and recycled water into the regions water supply portfolio.
- Continue to increase conjunctive use capabilities within the region.
- Sponsor and/or support legislation that guarantees investments made in regional water supply reliability and drought resilience are available for their intended purposes.
- Support cost-effective surface water and groundwater storage projects.

**Protect the Water Rights and Entitlements of RWA Member Agencies**
Water rights issues are complex and contentious. This region’s surface water rights and entitlements and long-standing management of groundwater resources have been critical in the shaping of the local economy and are vital for the future. Our reasonable use of water has and will continue to assure the region’s water rights and entitlements provide the region with abundant, affordable and high quality water while maintaining and protecting the environmental resources of the Lower American River and the region’s watersheds.

**Policy Principles**

- Support and defend the existing water rights priority system.
- Support enforcement of the existing water rights laws.
- Maintain area-of-origin protections.
- Oppose any unreasonable curtailments of our area’s water rights that impact our beneficial use of water.
- Promote legislation that supports and clarifies the multiple beneficial uses of water.
- Support legislation and regulatory action that allows for retaining groundwater rights.
- Support new laws, policies, and regulations embracing the concept that recognize inherent regional differences that drive water use efficiency and conservation.
- Ensure that water rights are preserved, recognized and supported by all federal, state and local agencies. Especially, rights to conserved water.
- Promote system operations that ensure delivery of water supplies based on water rights and contract obligations.
- Proactively engage with the SWRCB and other state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders, concerning the Bay-Delta water quality control plan and any related water-right matters.
- Support and emphasize adherence to existing law applying to the state required reporting to “identify opportunities for streamlined reporting, and eliminate redundant data submissions” as a prism through which all future state proposals and current requirements should be evaluated.

**Maximize Funding Opportunities Beneficial to RWA Member Agencies**

The region is prepared to make and support investments that will improve water supply reliability and protect the environment, including the Lower American River. Large-scale infrastructure projects such as improvements at Folsom Reservoir, increased or new storage capacity, additional facilities on the Sacramento River, and expanded groundwater, recycled water, transmission and distribution facilities will help prepare the region for the future while protecting the environment and increasing water supply reliability.

**Policy Principles**

- Actively engage in legislative and regulatory initiative that consider the development of a public goods charge.
• Develop RWA policy on public goods charges.
• Assure that any funding that is extracted from this region be returned to this region for the benefit of this region.
• Support policies that provide funding allocations based on merit of the project and the impact or benefit.
• Promote the statewide benefits that our actions provide due to our unique location within the State’s water system.
• Support Proposition 218 reform that improves water agencies ability to fund programs that help diversify the region’s water supply portfolio.
  o Develop RWA policy on Proposition 218 reforms.
• Promote statewide funding to increase flexibility for the CVP.
• Support legislation that provides funding for local and regional water resources infrastructure projects.
• Support funding for agencies to develop and utilize storm water capture projects.
• Ensure state funding is available for state-imposed mandates.

Protect Local Authority to Set Water Rates Appropriate for Accessible, Reliable, Service.

RWA is comprised of public water suppliers. Local agencies provide approximately 85 percent of all funding for water management in California. Climate change driven changes in hydrology, aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance, and population growth, are increasing the need for additional investments and creating higher costs for local agencies. Additionally, the affordability of water for those least fortunate has been receiving more scrutiny. Further complicating the situation Proposition 218 limits the ability to both raise revenue and address affordability concerns through rate management.

Each water system is unique. Careful balancing and thoughtful prioritization are necessary for water agencies to allocate their limited ratepayer resources to reliably deliver high quality affordable water on an on-going basis.

Recently, state agencies have taken actions to require both robust conservation signals and ensure access to water for all. Taken in totality, these efforts would appear to necessitate water to be both cheap and expensive at the same time. Additionally, retail water is used for multiple purposes, indoor, outdoor, and fire protection, among others uses, and water pricing reflects the need to meet all of these purposes.

Local agencies are best positioned to set water rates that meet all of these sometimes competing challenges. RWA supports policies that maintain local agencies’ authority to set their agency’s water rates as they determine appropriate to ensure the continued reliable delivery of high quality affordable water to their communities.

Policy Principles
• Help develop and support policies that meet water management goals without also exacerbating the affordability of water.
• Help develop and support policies that preserve limited water agency funds to be used for their self-identified highest priority projects to adapt to climate change, increase water use efficiency, and minimize impacts to affordability.
• Help develop and support policies that promote investments from water suppliers statewide in their local and sometimes distant source watershed to maintain and enhance water quantity and quality and maintain and improve environmental conditions.
• Help develop and support policies that reduce local agency investment load to more equitable levels than the current 85 percent.
• Support policies that recognize existing affordability assistance programs and expand on affordability assistance opportunities, from Proposition 218 compliant, non-ratepayer sources.

**Ensure The Region Has Tools To Adapt To Climate Change**

The primary impacts in California from climate change include the loss of snowpack, increasing volatility in precipitation patterns, rising temperature stress on riverine ecosystems, sea level rise, and expanding intensity and number of wildfires. Water management is already being challenged by these climate driven alterations. Challenges that will only be exacerbated in the future. However, the specific impacts will vary from watershed to watershed. The water supply and environmental effects experienced will depend on a number of variables that will be different for each water agency and in each source watershed.

In the American River watershed, as part of a basin study, several future scenarios are being analyzed out to the year 2085. Initial results show precipitation will come more as rain and occur in a narrower more volatile window. This will disrupt current water management operations balancing water supply, flood control, and environmental flows. Additionally, historical fire management has introduced the threat of severe fire in the upper watershed is intensifying with increasingly negative water quality impacts.

These hydrologic changes will necessitate changes to water management and future water management planning. Immediate action to address and mitigate these impacts is necessary to ensure the resiliency of the region. The region is prepared to invest our share, but those investments must correspond to benefits in our source watershed and in the region. There must be recognition that the lion share of water originating in the region has been developed for use outside of the region and that those outside entities should invest equally in the benefits they receive from the region.

**Policy Principles**
• Support policies that will enhance the analysis and characterization of the impacts of climate change on a watershed scale.
• Support policies to develop plans to address climate change through existing local agencies and integrated regional water management processes in a holistic way.
  o Plans should address source watersheds and connect surface, groundwater, and environmental stewardship. Plans should address specific climate impacts expected, making a “single standard” by which plans are structured is impractical.
  o Plans should be able to demonstrate resiliency to drought, flood, and fire threats, demonstrate durable environmental sustainability, demonstrate scalability to limit stranding investments, and demonstrate the ability for long-term sustainability.
• Support incentives for collaboration across disciplines. To efficiently address surface water, groundwater, and environmental reliability there is a need for enhanced collaboration and joint scientific, technical and implementation efforts.
• Support policies that enhance the ability to implement regional conjunctive use, and water banking.
• Support policies that prioritizes state funding assistance of plans that can be verified to comprehensively include adaptation in source watersheds, and address statewide impacts from climate change

**Promote Balanced Statewide Water Management Solutions Beneficial to the Greater Sacramento Region**

RWA recognizes the need for a statewide water plan that assures a reliable water supply for all regions in the state. RWA supports a statewide solution, including protection of the Delta that is balanced and beneficial to the Sacramento region’s water supply reliability.

**Policy Principles**

• Ensure improvements or modifications to the statewide water system are protective of this region’s water supply.
• Support statewide water plans and policies that recognize and honor previous investments made to assure this region’s water supply reliability.
• **Promote a statewide drought action plan that acknowledges this region's investment in drought resiliency.**
• Encourage revisions to policies and operations that streamline water transfers, including transfers of conserved water.
• Support statewide water storage solutions that provide benefit or are neutral to the region’s water supply reliability and flood protection.
• Encourage statewide water planning efforts that recognizes water management differs based on climate, population density, return flows, and other regional geographic and hydrologic factors.
• Promote modifications to state and federal operations that protect the region’s ability to use regional resources.

**Promote Water Efficiency and Water Conservation**

Our region invests in water efficiency and water conservation that are locally cost effective, feasible, and improve the water supply reliability of the region. Water efficiency makes good business sense and is key to assuring we continue our reasonable use of water consistent with our water rights and contracts. This regions’ water use efficiency is comparable to other parts of the state. The biggest driver of water use in the region is outdoor use in hot dry summers. In the most recent drought the region lead the state in water savings producing 12 percent of savings while making-up only 5 percent of the state’s population. Continued improvement on water use efficiency will depend on a consistent regulatory target.

**Policy Principles**

• Unique factors such as climate, land use, and return flows must be taken into consideration when developing statewide laws and regulations.
• Promote policies that recognized the differences between water efficiency and water conservation.
• Promote a better understanding of water use efficiency based on local supplies and site-specific factors.
• Define appropriate water conservation requirements that consider local supplies.
• Develop partnerships with other local agencies on public affairs campaigns/messaging.
• Promote public-private partnerships with local businesses that lead to greater water efficiency and benefit the local economy.
• **Support a state led effort to establish rate stabilization funds programs that are consistent with state laws.**
• Assure that the region receives the benefit of its water conservation efforts, including through water transfers consistent with state laws recognizing the transferability of conserved water.
• Assure any water loss requirements balance costs with benefits.

**Support Stewardship of the Region’s Environmental Resources**

The region’s management of water resources is committed to the preservation of the Lower American River (LAR) and tributary watersheds as demonstrated by the historic Water Forum Agreement enacted in 2000. The **LAR Lower American River** is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River running through a metropolitan area of over 2 million people that still supports one of the prime cold water fisheries in the State and is home to Chinook Salmon and threatened Central Valley Steelhead.
Policy Principles

• Support flow management standards that protect the ecosystem of the Lower American River, prevent low storage in Folsom Reservoir that would interfere with this region’s water supplies, and improve flood safety.

• Promote legislative and regulatory initiatives supporting conjunctive use that will make more surface water available for the Lower American River in dry years.

• Implement infrastructure projects that will improve temperature control and access to cold water at Folsom Reservoir.

• Promote regulatory practices and budget reforms that improve forest management and prioritize funding to support such practices. Ensure all beneficiaries fund the practices.
RWA Legislative Analysis Process

Process for Adopting Positions on Introduced Legislation

The Priority Issues and Policy Principles will be adopted by the RWA Board of Directors and serve as the Advocacy Platform, for which RWA works from in the legislative and regulatory arenas.

Each new legislative session, RWA staff and the contract lobbyist will screen newly introduced legislation using the adopted Advocacy Platform as a guide. Bills that are relative to RWA’s platform or are otherwise considered noteworthy to RWA interests are presented to the Lobbyist Subscription Program (LSP) Regulatory and Advocacy Program (RAP) committee for analysis and consideration.

Through this collaborative process, the LSP RAP committee determines a recommended position on each bill and then assigns a priority (see the list of formal positions and priorities below). During this process, bills may be removed from further consideration and additional bills may be added to RWA’s list based on input from the LSP RAP committee or other factors. The committee’s recommendations are taken to the RWA Executive Committee for further discussion and approval, consistent with RWA Policy 100.5.

Many of these initial positions and priorities will change as bills are amended throughout the course of the legislative process. The LSP RAP committee will be routinely updated on the status of bills as they move through the legislative process and will decide upon changes in position and priority as the process dictates. In time sensitive situations, RWA staff may change a current position and/or priority with the approval of the RWA Executive Director and concurrence of general counsel. Such changes will be done using the adopted Priority and Policy Issues Platform as guidance. The LSP RAP committee will be updated of changes as soon as possible and the Executive Committee will be asked to ratify such changes at its first meeting following the changes.

Formal Positions

Support - A bill that would benefit RWA or one or more RWA members (without detriment to others), and/or is generally good public policy

Support if Amended - A bill that could benefit RWA, or one or more RWA members, if amended. This position implies that RWA is ready to offer specific amendments.

Oppose - A bill detrimental to RWA or one or more RWA members.
**Oppose Unless Amended** - A bill that is detrimental to RWA or one or more RWA members, that could be amended to remove the detrimental provisions. This position implies that RWA is ready to offer specific amendments, and will move to a neutral position if accepted.

**Watch** - A bill of interest to RWA and its members that does not affect RWA directly, or for other reasons does not yet merit a position. May be a “spot” or “intent” bill that does not yet have meaningful language.

**Neutral** - Generally a bill from which we have removed an Oppose or Oppose Unless Amended position due to amendments or other factors.

**Bill Priorities**

**High Priority** - A bill of major significance with direct impact to RWA or a number of RWA members. RWA has a formal position and is actively lobbying, writing letters, offering amendments, testifying in committee, and taking other direct actions as necessary. “Watch” bills can be considered high priority, especially early in the legislative process, depending on the topic, the author, or other factors that warrant heightened monitoring.

**Medium Priority** - A bill of interest but not anticipated to have major significance to RWA or more than a few of its members. RWA has a formal position but is not actively lobbying legislators. RWA and/or RWA members may submit letters, provide testimony or take other actions as part of other groups or coalition or, in some situations, directly. Individual RWA members may be more active depending on the topic of the bill.

**Low Priority** - A bill in an area of interest to RWA, but with little potential impact. RWA will only have a Watch position on such bills. No immediate action is planned but these bills will be monitored to assure they don’t evolve into a high priority status. Individual RWA members may be more active depending on the nature of the bill.
The California Legislative Process Calendar

Below is a general guideline for the legislative calendar. Both the Senate and Assembly develop (coordinated) calendars each year and those calendars should be referenced for specifics.

January – February

- **Bills are introduced in their houses of origin.** All introduced bills must be drafted in Legislative Counsel form by the Legislative Counsel’s Office. Legislative Counsel’s deadline for submission is three weeks prior to the bill introduction deadline. **Most bills first go to the Legislative Counsel’s Office where they are drafted into formal legislative language.**
- Deadline for introducing bills to be heard that year is the end of the third week of February.
- Bill is given a “first reading” in its house of origin, and must be in print for 30 days before they can be acted on.
- In even numbered years bills still in their house of origin must pass through that house by the end of January.

March – April

- **Bills are heard in their respective policy committees.**
  - Bills with a fiscal impact must be out by the beginning of May.
  - Bills without fiscal impact must be out by the beginning of the second week of late May.

May

- Fiscal committees in house of origin hear bills
- Bills go to the “floor” for vote by full house be last week of May.

June – August

- **Process is repeated in the other house.**
  - June through early July in policy committees
  - Recess for most of July
  - Mid-August considered by fiscal committees.

August-September

- **Floor sessions held in both houses.**
- All bills must be out of the Legislature and to the Governor’s desk by August 31st in even numbered years and early September in odd numbered year.
Governor has 30 days from the end of session to take action on bills.

State Regulatory Agencies and Processes

State Water Resources Control Board

- Water Rights
- Water Conservation
- Drinking Water Program
- Grants
- Discharge Programs (through the Regional Water Quality Control Boards)

Department of Water Resources

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Regulations and Implementation
- Water Efficiency
- State Water Project
- Grants - IRWM
AGENDA ITEM 9: FEDERAL AFFAIRS AD HOC COMMITTEE – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RWA FEDERAL PLATFORM

BACKGROUND:

Chair Paul Schubert has appointed an ad hoc committee to address the RWA’s role in Federal Affairs. The new ad hoc committee’s charge is to 1) to make recommendations to the RWA Board on the role of the RWA on federal matters and 2) to provide direction to the Executive Director on federal matters. The committee will terminate upon completion of the updated strategic plan.

The Ad Hoc Committee will make recommendations to the RWA board that address the following questions:

1. What should the RWA’s role be in federal affairs, if any?
2. What are the limits of the involvement? Funding, Policy, Relations with federal agencies/regulators (e.g., Reclamation, COE, EPA, NMFS, FWS)?
3. If the RWA gets involved in federal affairs, what resources would the RWA need? Should the RWA rely on the member’s advocates (with or without contribution from the RWA), or hire an advocate? Are other resources needed such as communication, legal, other?
4. How should a program be structured at the RWA? Subscription or core program? Should there be a standing committee? What would the staff requirements be for this? Could the RWA hire a consultant to assist with this?
5. What are the immediate needs of the effort? What are the priorities?

The Ad Hoc Committee has produced a report that addresses these questions. Ad Hoc Committee Chair Bigley will summarize the report for the committee.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion: Sean Bigley, Ad Hoc Committee Chair
Date: November 23, 2019

To: RWA Board Chairman Paul Schubert, Vice-Chair Kerry Schmitz and members of the RWA Board; Jim Peifer RWA Executive Director

From: Sean Bigley, RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee Chair & Anne Sanger, RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee Vice-Chair and Members of the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee

Re: Findings and recommendations re: RWA’s appropriate role in Federal affairs

Summary of recommendations

After gathering RWA member agency feedback and hours of discussion, the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee Chair recommends that that RWA Executive Director take the following actions to develop some structure and process around RWA’s role in the federal affairs policy space:

Recommendation #1 – The RWA should form a volunteer standing committee as a dedicated forum for coordination, collaboration, education and vetting on federal policy areas of regional interest.

Recommendation #2 – The RWA should establish a concise federal policy platform that is adopted by the RWA Board and updated annually.

Recommendation #3 – RWA should play a leadership role in statewide associations that touch federal affairs, like the Association of California Water Agencies and other national organizations, with the RWA Executive Director as lead in these activities.

Recommendation #4 – RWA should consider initiating a facilitated effort to strengthen its communication with outside organizations, federal agencies and Congressional offices. In the past, there has been some confusion with these entities as to whom is speaking for the region. This would allow the RWA members to speak with one voice and one message.

Recommendation #5 - The RWA Board should evaluate the effectiveness of the standing committee in Recommendation #1, 12-18 months after establishing the standing committee and suggest recommendations to the RWA Board on what, if any, changes should be made – up to and including consideration of a subscription or core program.

Ideal timing for implementation is no later than February 2020 as spring is typically a time of year that the Sacramento region and other interests in the water industry are particularly active in Washington D.C.

Background

In the summer of 2019, the RWA Board Chair Paul Schubert created the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee in order to answer some key questions about RWA’s role in federal affairs and develop recommendations to be presented to the RWA Executive Director and the RWA Board.
The key questions asked were:

1. What should the RWA’s role be in federal affairs, if any?

2. What are the limits of the involvement? Funding, Policy, Relations with federal agencies/regulators (e.g., Reclamation, COE, EPA, NMFS, FWS)?

3. If the RWA gets involved in federal affairs, what resources would the RWA need? Should the RWA rely on the member’s advocates (with or without contribution from the RWA), or hire an advocate? Are other resources needed such as communication, legal, other?

4. How should a program be structured at the RWA? Subscription or core program? Should there be a standing committee? What would the staff requirements be for this? Could the RWA hire a consultant to assist with this?

5. What are the immediate needs of the effort? What are the priorities?

The RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee was made up of the following RWA member agencies:

Sean Bigley, Chair, City of Roseville
Anne Sanger, Vice Chair, City of Sacramento
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Andy Fecko, Placer County Water Agency
Evan Jacobs, California American Water

In developing this recommendation memo to the RWA Board, the Ad Hoc committee wanted to gain a general sense of where the RWA member agencies were in both policy perspectives and their specific thoughts on the appropriate role for RWA in federal affairs. The RWA member survey was sent out in October 2019 and in total the committee received 18 responses and one email. This RWA member survey helped the committee gain context and member perspective which we felt was critical to formulating well-informed and balanced recommendations to the RWA Board. In the analysis of the survey and the one email, the Committee was left with the following key takeaways:

- The level of RWA member agency engagement at the federal level varies and is largely dependent upon its water supply portfolio and source; specifically – are they a CVP contractor or have surface water supplies that are conveyed through Folsom Reservoir or are impacted by Folsom Reservoir operations.

- RWA member agencies generally recognize and value the need for RWA to engage in federal affairs.
• RWA member agencies recognize the need for an RWA policy platform document that is updated on a regular schedule and adopted by the RWA Board (annually).

• RWA member agencies prefer to develop more formal RWA engagement in an iterative fashion – specifically forming a no-cost volunteer effort (standing Federal Affairs Committee) to prove the concept and its value, before considering more formal program models – like a subscription or core program.

• RWA member agencies generally agree that no involvement in federal affairs by RWA is not preferable.

• Some RWA member agencies may be more reliant upon statewide associations, like ACWA, to serve their agencies advocacy needs. This is likely a function of the resources available to each RWA member agency to engage in Federal affairs.

• RWA needs to educate member agencies on where statewide associations are impactful and where they are not as it relates to advancing Sacramento regional interests.

• RWA has a role in influencing the statewide associations, like ACWA, in federal policy matters, to better represent the region’s interests and how they can provide statewide benefits.

• RWA also needs to educate RWA member agencies on where and what the federal relationship is; and what is the Federal Government’s interest in our region.

• Although progress has been made, RWA member agencies recognize the need for better coordination, consistency and communication in the federal affairs policy space, based upon past experiences.

• RWA member agencies identified the following federal policy issues in priority order for the Sacramento urban region: (1) groundwater banking and related infrastructure, (2) adoption and implementation of the Voluntary Agreements; and, (3) surface water planning and related infrastructure.

**General recommendations**

After gathering feedback and hours of discussion, the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee Chair recommends that that RWA Executive Director take the following actions to develop some structure and process around RWA’s role in the federal affairs policy space:

**Recommendation #1 – The RWA should form a standing committee as a dedicated forum for coordination, collaboration, education and vetting on federal policy areas of regional interest.**

The standing committee should meet at least monthly, or more often as needed, and should be led by a Committee Chair (volunteer RWA member) appointed by the RWA Board Chair with a clear and defined mandate. The RWA Executive Director and staff should participate as determined by the RWA Executive
Director. It is important to acknowledge; however, that both the Executive Director and RWA staff have limited bandwidth and involvement in a volunteer standing committee would be limited.

Such a committee can be formed and structured by volunteer member agencies and we do not believe a consultant is needed to develop a volunteer standing committee.

Additionally, the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee recommends that RWA member agencies invite their federal lobbyists to participate and also use this as a venue for further coordination, information-sharing and collaboration.

Based on research, here are estimated costs for varying levels of RWA engagement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Voluntary Standing Committee</th>
<th>Subscription Program</th>
<th>Core Program</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Costs - Salaries plus benefits</td>
<td>Assumes using existing RWA staff with volunteer RWA member assistance</td>
<td>Assumes using existing RWA staff with volunteer RWA member assistance</td>
<td>$213,758</td>
<td>Principal Project Manager @ Top Step ($149,064 x 1.434 (Benefits) = $213,758)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract lobbyist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$108,000</td>
<td>$9,000 per month retainer x 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Costs (RWA staff person)</td>
<td>$10,650</td>
<td>$10,650</td>
<td>$10,650</td>
<td>3 trips to Washington DC annually (4 nights @ $400/night plus; $1,500 airfare, plus $260 per diem, plus cab fare ($150), plus airport parking ($40)) = $3,550 per person per trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other misc. costs (recurring)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,800</td>
<td>Mileage @ $100 per month; office supplies at $1,000; cell phone plan at $50 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other misc. costs (one-time)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Computer ($500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,650</strong></td>
<td><strong>$118,650</strong></td>
<td><strong>$335,708</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded by 5 RWA members</td>
<td>$23,730</td>
<td></td>
<td>Per member</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded by 10 RWA members</td>
<td>$11,865</td>
<td></td>
<td>Per member</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded by 15 RWA members</td>
<td>$7,910</td>
<td></td>
<td>Per member</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded by all RWA members (21 Primary; 5 Associate)</td>
<td>$410</td>
<td></td>
<td>$12,912</td>
<td>Per member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: To be effective in regional advocacy in federal affairs, the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee recommends that that region engage in advocacy in at least three trips per year to Washington DC, and thus the chart above assumes that as a standard.
Recommendation #2 – The RWA should establish a concise federal policy platform that is adopted by the RWA Board and updated annually.

This federal policy platform will help provide general RWA Board direction and provide staff and RWA agencies with a sense of what policy areas are considered to be of regional concern.

To be effective and nimble, the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the RWA federal policy platform be concise and focused on the top 3-5 key issue areas of most importance to the RWA member agencies.

Recommendation #3 – RWA should play a leadership role in statewide associations that touch federal affairs, like the Association of California Water Agencies and other national organizations, with the RWA Executive Director as lead in these activities.

The RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the RWA Executive Director should be active in this area, representing the region. We also believe it is important for RWA to gain an informed understanding of what role associations do play and what areas that associations won’t be able to add value to in regards to specific Sacramento regional interests.

The RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee does not feel that participation in statewide association’s federal programs alone is a substitute for direct Sacramento regional engagement in federal affairs.

Recommendation #4 – RWA should consider initiating a facilitated effort to strengthen its communication with outside organizations, Federal agencies and Congressional Offices to overcome a conclusion by many RWA member agencies that the region does not speak with “one voice” and there is confusion on the region’s identity (i.e., key policymakers don’t know who is speaking for the region on regional issues).

It is the sense of the RWA Federal Ad Hoc Committee that there are some valid concerns by RWA member agencies regarding the lack of coordination and consistency of the region’s key messages due to the largely decentralized nature of federal affairs engagement and advocacy in the region.

The RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee recommends that (1) RWA develop a more defined role for the RWA Executive Director as a key regional spokesperson; and, (2) develop clear protocols and rules among RWA member agencies as it pertains to representation of key federal policy issues; and (3) leverage the recommended Standing Committee to be a venue for federal policy positions (speaking points, letters, etc.) by individual RWA member agencies to be vetted, and if appropriate, endorsed by RWA as a regional federal policy priority.

Recommendation #5 - The RWA Board should evaluate the effectiveness of the standing committee in Recommendation #1, 12-18 months after establishing the standing committee and request recommendations to the RWA Board on what, if any, changes should be made – up to and including consideration of a subscription or core program.

The RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee believes that the RWA members see the value of having RWA have a role in federal affairs. That involvement; however, should start off with a volunteer standing committee, allow the standing committee to undertake activities in the next 12-18 months and
at the end of that period, the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the RWA do an evaluation of whether the volunteer standing committee on Federal affairs should evolve into a program that is formalized (subscription or core program).

The standing committee should immediately focus on advancing potential federal funding opportunities for the Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank in appropriations bills, the potential 2020 Water Resources Development Act, the Water Infrastructure for Improvements to the Nation (WIIN) Act, Storage and other opportunities. RWA has made significant inroads in the federal space for the Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank in 2019, sustained, coordinated activities in 2020 should be the priority. Other federal activities should be tracked and advocated on as well, based on the bandwidth available by the standing committee and RWA staff.

Recommendations in regards to the RWA Strategic Plan

With the RWA Strategic Plan about to be re-opened for updates, the RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee recommends the following language be added under the “Advocacy Goal” as follows:

Objective C. Develop a venue to assist RWA member agencies in engaging federal policymakers and influencing federal legislative and regulatory water policy areas.

1. Develop, implement and update a regional federal policy platform.

2. Establish RWA as a venue to coordinate and collaborate on federal policy issues, advocacy and related regional communication.

3. Establish an RWA Standing Committee on Federal Affairs made up of volunteer RWA member agencies, implement activities by the RWA Standing Committee and evaluate the value of those activities within 12-18 months and develop recommendations for any additional programmatic changes, if any.

Proposed next steps and action items

The RWA Federal Affairs Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the RWA Board consider these recommendations in late 2019/early 2020 and provide RWA Board direction to the RWA Executive Director on any actions that should be developed and implemented.

Ideal timing for implementation is no later than February 2020 as spring is typically a time of year that the Sacramento region and other interests in the water industry are particularly active in Washington D.C.
AGENDA ITEM 10: RWA JANUARY 9, 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

Action: Approve January 9, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
AGENDA

The public shall have the opportunity to directly address the Board on any item of interest before or during the Board’s consideration of that item. Public comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Board is welcomed, subject to reasonable time limitations for each speaker. Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection in the customer service area of the Authority’s Administrative Office at the address listed above. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Executive Director of the Authority at (916) 967-7692. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. CONSENT CALENDAR
   a. Minutes from the November 14, 2019 RWA regular board meeting
      Action: Approve November 14, 2019 RWA Board meeting minutes
   b. Adopt proposed RWA Board Meetings Scheduled for 2020
      Action: Adopt proposed RWA Board Meetings scheduled for 2020
   c. Accept the 2019 RWA Financial Audit Report
      Action: Accept the 2019 RWA Financial Audit Report

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
   a. Information: Final minutes of the October 23, 2019 Executive Committee meeting and draft minutes from the December 11, 2019 Executive Committee meeting

5. GRANT FUNDED WATER EFFICIENCY IRRIGATION CONTROLLER PROGRAM
   Presentation and Discussion: Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager
   Action: Direct Executive Director to contract with Rachio for a regional irrigation controller program

6. IN COMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT
   Presentation and Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director
   Action: Direct Executive Director to contract with IN Communications for both Water Efficiency and Public Relations Programs

7. RWA LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITY AND POLICY ISSUES
   Presentation and Discussion: Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Program Manager
   Action: Approve the RWA Legislative and Regulatory Priority and Policy Issues
8. RWA FEDERAL PLATFORM  
   Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director  
   Action: Adopt the RWA Federal Platform

9. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT CONSULTANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AGREEMENT  
   Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director  
   Action: Consider and adopt the Voluntary Agreement Consultant Assistance Program Agreement

10. ELECT 2020 RWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
    Action: Elect the 2020 Executive Committee of the RWA Board of Directors

11. ELECT 2020 RWA CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR  
    Action: Elect 2020 Chair and Vice-Chair of the RWA Executive Committee and RWA Board of Directors

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

13. DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meetings:
Next Executive Committee Meetings – Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and February 19, 2020, 8:30 a.m. at the RWA office.

Next RWA Board of Directors’ Meeting – Thursday, March 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m., at the RWA Office.
AGENDA ITEM 11: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
DECEMBER 11, 2019

TO: REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FROM: JIM PEIFER

RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

a. **Grants Update** – Staff submitted a funding proposal through the California Department of Water Resources’ Proposition 1, Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program on December 6, 2019. The proposal seeks $7.74 million to fund 10 priority projects in the state’s Sacramento River Funding Area portion of the American River Basin (ARB) IRWM region. A separate application seeking $1 million was submitted to fund a single project in the San Joaquin River Funding Area was also submitted on November 15, 2019. The distinct applications were required by DWR, because the ARB overlaps two funding areas. Final DWR award recommendations are expected in mid-2020.

b. **RWA Outreach** – Jim Peifer and Ryan Ojakian attended the fall ACWA Conference in San Diego. Meetings were scheduled to discuss the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, the Resiliency Portfolio and the Voluntary Agreements with a few managers from the American River Region and representatives from other regions around the State.

c. **External Regional Communications** – In an effort to improve our external regional communications, we will be using the services of a facilitator to work with the general managers, utility directors and the Executive Director to develop protocols for communications to external parties, such as state and federal officials. Tania Carlone from Consensus Building Institute will be the facilitator.
AGENDA ITEM 12: DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS
AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT