

**REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**February 19, 2020; 8:30 a.m.
3701 Marconi Avenue, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95821
(916) 972-7171**

Teleconference location: **80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton CA 94027**

(Teleconference location will be open to the public during the teleconference)

AMENDED 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. The Executive Committee may consider any agenda item at any time during 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**
Approval of the minutes from the January 22, 2020 Executive Committee meeting has been deferred to the March 2020 Executive Committee meeting.
- 4. STRATEGIC PLAN**
Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director
- 5. OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) FUNDING REPORT**
Information and Discussion: Josette Reina-Luken, Financial and Administrative Services Manager
- 6. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**
Information Presentation: Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager
- 7. VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**
Discussion: Kerry Schmitz, Chair, Voluntary Agreement Ad Hoc Committee

Action: Direct the Executive Director to evaluate options and report back to the committee and the Board

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meetings:

Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings –March 25, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. and April 22, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the RWA office

Next RWA Board of Directors' Meeting – Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the RWA conference room, 5620 Birdcage Street, Ste. 110, Citrus Heights, CA 95610

The RWA Executive Committee Meeting electronic packet is available on the RWA website at <https://rwah2o.org/meetings/board-meetings/> to access and print the RWA Board electronic packet.

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AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the minutes from the January 22, 2020 Executive Committee meeting has been deferred to the March 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

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AGENDA ITEM 4: 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.

A focus of this discussion will be to review survey results and to finalize details of the February 21 Strategic Planning Workshop.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

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AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) FUNDING REPORT

BACKGROUND:

This item is a report back from the January 22nd Executive Committee meeting. Items for discussion include available funding strategy options, corresponding discount rates, and other factors that comprise RWA's OPEB actuarial determined contribution.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Information and Discussion: Josette Reina-Luken, Financial and Administrative Services Manager

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AGENDA ITEM 6: LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

BACKGROUND:

The Legislative bill introduction is February 21st. As of February 14th there have only been a few bills introduced related to water management. A potential climate resilience bond remains the primary water issue in the state. SB 45 (Allen) was amended January 23rd moving from \$4.2 billion up to \$5.5 billion. The Governor posted his proposed \$4.75 billion bond as a budget trailer bill January 31st. RWA has put together language requesting \$200 million for conjunctive use to be specifically called out in the bond. A copy of that language is attached. The intent of the RWA language is to direct funding to the Sacramento Regional Groundwater Bank and the RiverArc projects. The approach in the RWA language is to set the regions conjunctive use approach apart from other efforts around the state by prioritizing projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Information Presentation: Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager

Proposed chapter for Climate Resiliency Bond

CHAPTER XX. Regional Water Supply and Environmental Climate Resilience Through Conjunctive Use

SECTION XX. (a) The sum of two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Natural Resources Agency for competitive grants for projects that improve the resilience of a basin’s urban water supplies and environmental resources, through conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater resources, in response to risks associated with climate change.

(b) As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) “Conjunctive use” shall mean the coordinated use of surface water and groundwater to meet demands.

(2) “Basin” shall have the meaning stated in Water Code section 10721, subdivision (b).

(3) “Groundwater management plan” shall have the meaning stated in Water Code 10752, subdivision (d).

(4) “Groundwater sustainability plan” shall have the meaning stated in Water Code section 10721, subdivision (k).

(5) “Sustainable groundwater management” shall have the meaning stated in Water Code section 10721, subdivision (v).

(6) “Urban retail water supplier” shall have the meaning stated in Water Code section 10608.12, subdivision (t).

(c)(1) To be eligible for a grant under this Chapter, a project shall be consistent with the implementation of sustainable groundwater management within the basin.

(2) A project’s consistency with sustainable groundwater management within the basin shall be demonstrated by:

(A) Consistency with the groundwater sustainability plan or plans that apply to the basin; or

(B) If the project would be implemented in a basin that is not required to be covered by a groundwater sustainability plan before January 31, 2022 and the grant is to be made before that date, consistency with the most recent groundwater management plan or plans adopted for the portion or portions of the basin in which conjunctive use would occur with the project’s implementation.

(d) (1) Projects shall be prioritized based upon the following criteria:

(A) The project's ability to support improving conditions in rivers or streams flowing through, or adjacent to, the basin for one or more fish species listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 1531 through 1544) or the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code).

(B) The project's ability to assist in improving environmental or recreational conditions in a river or stream designated under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 1271 through 1287) or the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Chapter 1.4 (commencing with Section 5093.50) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code), with a priority for projects in basins encompassing or adjacent to rivers or streams that are designated under both acts.

(C) The project's ability to contribute to the implementation of a regional water and environmental program defined in an agreement or memorandum of understanding executed by one or more urban retail water suppliers, cities, counties and environmental or other nongovernmental entities.

(D) The project's involvement of multiple urban retail water suppliers as a means of jointly adapting to potential water supply risks associated with climate change.

(E) The project's potential for coordinating diversions from multiple rivers within or adjacent to the basin to enhance conjunctive use in the basin.

(F) The project's ability to support transfers of water to other regions of the state in order to assist those other regions in improving their water supply resilience, environmental resilience or both.

(G) The project's ability to rely on existing water rights or water-supply contracts, with appropriate modifications or amendments.

(H) The demonstrated likelihood that one or more project elements can be implemented within five years of the award of a grant.

(I) The ability of the project proponent or proponents to leverage private, federal, or local funding or participation.

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AGENDA ITEM 7: VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND:

Chair Schmitz has reappointed the ad hoc committee to address the RWA's role in the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP) and the Voluntary Agreements (VA). The 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.

During the December 11 2019 Executive Committee (EC), the VA Committee updated the EC on the status of committee efforts in an effort to move the VA subscription program forward. At that meeting, Andy Fecko from PCWA brought up difficulties relative to consultant assistance as well as that given the multiple processes/challenges to surface water rights in particular, perhaps RWA should contemplate staff resources rather than consultant resources. The EC then gave direction to the Executive Director to investigate the need for a staff position that could take lead on matters that affect the surface water reliability of the member water agencies.

The Ad Hoc Committee met on February 12, 2020 to discuss the potential for a staff position. A report on the deliberations will be made to the Executive Committee.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion: Kerry Schmitz, Chair, Voluntary Agreement Ad Hoc Committee

Action: Direct the Executive Director to Evaluate Options and Report Back to the Committee and the Board

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AGENDA ITEM 8: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

An oral report will be provided.

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AGENDA ITEM 9: DIRECTORS' COMMENTS