

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Executive Committee Members

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento
Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Dan Rich, San Juan Water District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Rob Swartz, Michelle Banonis, Josette Reina-Luken, Monica Garcia, Cecilia Partridge, and Ryan Bezerra, legal counsel

Others in Attendance

Brian Sanders, Greg Zlotnick, Andy Fecko, Alan Driscoll, Mike Huot, Mike Grinstead, David Wheaton, Anne Sanger, Mark Madison, Patrick Lee, and Paul Helliker

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Peifer introduced Michelle Banonis as the new RWA Manager of Strategic Affairs. Ms. Banonis formerly worked for the Department of Water Resources and US Bureau of Reclamation.

Mark Madison, Elk Grove Water District, provided information on Sacramento Emergency Rental Assistance (SERA). The program provides state and federal government assistance to help renters with rent and utility bills. Sacramento Housing and Development Agency is administering the program on behalf of Sacramento County. The money can be used to help pay water and utility bills. There are guidelines that customers need to follow to get assistance. Information is posted on the Elk Grove Water District website. There is a short window of time to

apply for assistance. Mr. Madison offered to provide additional information for anyone who contacts him.

3. CLOSED SESSION – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9, subdivision (d)(4): One case, concerning Bay-Delta water quality control plan.

Mr. Peifer gave instructions for the Executive Committee members to participate in the Closed Session.

4. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

There was nothing to report from closed session.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of the January 27, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Rich moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to approve the Consent Calendar items. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

6. RWA DUES STRUCTURE AND ALLOCATION

Mr. Peifer said that last year Chair Schmitz appointed a Dues Ad Hoc Committee to reconsider the RWA dues structure, which has remained the same for the past 20 years. The committee has proposed a new dues structure. The new structure provides a declining block rate with a discount for agencies that are not within the American River Watershed.

The Dues Ad Hoc Committee members were Tom Gray, Michelle Carrey, Robert Dugan, Paul Schubert, Ron Greenwood and Kerry Schmitz.

M/S/C Ms. Schmitz moved, with a second by Mr. Roberts, to recommend approval of the Dues Ad Hoc Committee's proposed dues structure and allocation to the Board of Directors. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

7. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

An update on the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority is a standing agenda item for RWA Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings. Staff is working with the Water Forum to obtain facilitation services that would be paid for through the Department of Water Resources' Facilitation Support Services Program. A joint board meeting is expected between the three authorities to discuss issues regarding potential integration.

8. OFFICE SPACE

RWA has short-term and long-term office space issues. There are benefits with our current office space, but also some shortcomings with the need to accommodate additional staff. In the future, things will change as people are able to work together again and meet in person.

An option to consider is leasing a temporary office space at a downtown Sacramento location that would allow Mr. Ojakian and Ms. Banonis the ability to be in closer proximity to people and places they regularly meet.. Mr. Peifer suggested that we identify what our needs are and what our future needs will be in both the short-term and long-term.

It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be appointed to work with staff and study the options to find a logical approach for resolving office space needs. Consideration for office space needs to include parking, a financially feasible location, and meeting room availability.

Mr. Peifer suggested that Vice Chair York meet with Chair Bigley to determine who to appoint for an ad hoc committee. Mr. Greenwood volunteered to be a member of the committee to utilize his real estate background.

9. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, said that the legislature continues to focus on addressing health and economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfire and affordability with particular focus on housing and homelessness. Two big issues are going to be on water affordability and climate resilience bond. He gave an overview of bills for the Committee's early consideration including AB 315 that would limit liability of landowners for streambed restoration projects, AB 322 would direct funds from electric program investment charge program and direct them towards small power plant biomass, AB 361 extends the Brown Act exemption put in place in response to COVID for future emergencies, and AB 418 is attempting to create a program for public safety power shut offs ensuring that there is appropriate power support for local government agencies including water utilities.

SB 230 creates a program to address constituents of emerging concern, SB 323 would apply the same validation action timeline as other local agencies have to water and sewer service fees, SB 369 would establish the Yolo bypass partnership multi benefit program, and SB 427 would provide the ability to enhance penalties for water theft.

Mr. Ojakian recommended a support position on AB 315, AB 322, AB 418, SB 230, SB 323, and SB 369 with a support if amended position on AB 361.

Mr. Peifer explained that the Regulatory Advocacy Committee and Federal Affairs Committee recommend positions to take and the Executive Committee confirms those positions. At the January meeting, the Federal Affairs Committee directed the Executive Director to send a letter of support on HR 535 and at the February meeting, they directed that a letter of support for HR 1015 be sent.

M/S/C Mr. Williams moved with a second by Ms. Schmitz to take positions on State Legislation as indicated by Mr. Ojakian. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Ms. Carrey, to take positions on Federal Legislation as indicated by Mr. Ojakian. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

10. MARCH 11, 2021 RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

It was suggested that agenda item 8, Strategic Plan Prioritization Workshop, be deleted from the March 11, 2021 RWA Board meeting agenda.

M/S/C Mr. Roberts moved, with a second by Mr. Schubert, to approve the March 11, 2021 proposed RWA Board meeting agenda deleting agenda item 8. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer reported that the ACWA D.C. conference begins February 24th.

A Special Board meeting has been scheduled for a coffee and conversation meeting. Three guest speakers will talk about important projects in the region. Jerry Brown will talk about the Sites Reservoir, James Corless will talk about Green Means Go, and Tony Firenzi and Charles Duncan will talk about River Arc.

The Water Forum negotiations are ongoing. A 2 x 4 committee has been created that includes two members of each of the four caucuses to assist in framing the big picture issues that need to be solved. Mr. Schubert and Mr. Peifer are representing the Water Caucus on the committee.

12. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood said that Carmichael Water District is going through changes in their structure. Their senior management will include a new engineering manager and there is a vacancy for a Finance Manager.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair York adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary