

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bigley 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  
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville  
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, Amy Talbot, Josette Reina-Luken, Monica Garcia, Cecilia Partridge, and Andrew Ramos, legal counsel

### **Others in Attendance**

David Wheaton, Ken Payne, Brian Sanders, Charles Duncan, Mike Huot, Kevin Thomas, Mike Grinstead, Anne Sanger, Bob Reisig, and Paul Helliker

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Minutes of the March 24, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

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

#### **4. FISCAL YEAR 2021 – 2022 BUDGET**

Mr. Peifer introduced the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget that includes a 0% increase in total Core and Water Efficiency Program dues from last year's approved budget. This was possible because of significant savings last year due to the COVID 19 crisis, additional revenue brought in by staff and subscription programs. A table of grants was presented that gives the sense of the return on investment that is offered through the RWA.

Ms. Reina-Luken gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the RWA budget objectives. There are three parts to the budget, the staff report, the actual physical budget, and program budget. The overall expenditure budget is large, but is offset with multiple reimbursements. A spreadsheet was presented that included a summary page, core budget, program budget and grant budget. The proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 complies with all RWA budget policies. The PowerPoint presentation highlighted changes, what the budget accomplishes, and what the budget may look like in the next four additional years.

Ms. Reina-Luken additionally gave a summary of the unfunded pension liability, the payments that are made and how the liability is being paid down. An updated CalPERS valuation report is expected by the end of the first quarter 2022 at which time an update will be presented to the Executive Committee.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved with a second by Mr. Firenzi to recommend RWA Board adoption of the Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 Budget. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

#### **5. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

Mr. Peifer reported that Gina Bartlett, Consensus Builders Institute, will be providing facilitation services. Ms. Bartlett will be conducting stakeholder interviews to get a sense of what the issues are.

#### **6. OFFICE OPERATIONS**

Mr. Peifer reported on staffing the RWA office on a limited basis. Most RWA employees have been working remotely from home due to COVID-19 restrictions. He would like to take steps towards having staff begin to work in the office for the purpose of greater collaboration between staff. Staff may continue to work remotely on a limited basis, working in the office as needed, ensuring protocol is followed and staff is comfortable with the safety measures. The updated COVID-19 protocol has been reviewed by legal counsel and was included in the packet.

#### **7. POLICY 500.18 – NEW RWA MEMBER DISCOUNTED DUES**

Mr. Peifer outlined a step-up membership method for recruitment of new RWA members that would give them a 50% discount on their first year dues and a 25% discount on their second year dues. They would guarantee their RWA membership for three years and would pay the full dues amount during the third year and every year thereafter.

There was agreement that this is a good idea that gives new members a trial period to see the value of the RWA organization. Further discussion was suggested for the Associate and Affiliate membership to determine if they would fall under the same discount rates for new members.

M/S/C Ms. Schmitz moved with a second by Mr. York to recommend Approval of Policy 500.18 to the Board of Directors. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## **8. 2021 REGIONAL GROUNDWATER SUBSTITUTION TRANSFER PROGRAM STAFFING SUPPORT AGREEMENT**

Mr. Swartz provided information on an agreement for RWA to provide staffing support for a groundwater substitution transfer. Staff has been working with legal counsel and has developed a streamlined program agreement to allow RWA to receive funding to cover staff time spent in support of the transfer. RWA is entering into this agreement with the City of Sacramento on behalf of the other participants.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved with a second by Ms. Schmitz to Approve the 2021 Regional Groundwater Substitution Transfer Program Staffing Support Agreement. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## **9. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

Mr. Ojakian said that the legislature is wrapping up first policy committee hearings this week. RWA has a position on 31 bills with about a third of those bills becoming two-year bills. RWA has a support position on two thirds of the remaining 20 bills. He gave an update on the bills that we have an opposed or an oppose unless amended position on including AB 339, AB 377, AB 1434, SB 222, SB 223 and SB 378. The Executive Director used his emergency authorization under Policy 100.5 to take positions on SB 222, the low -income rate assistance program, SB 223, dealing with shutoff prohibitions and Senate President Pro Tempore Atkins' budget proposal to direct funding for drought related projects.

Mr. Ojakian said that AB 339 would revise the Brown Act. AB 377 includes a revision to water quality and AB 1434 revises the indoor water use efficiency standard. When the budget actions became clear and it appeared the Senate was moving forward, we put together a proposal for what we thought would be appropriate funding out of the budget. There is \$200 million for water resilient infrastructure

which would include funding for the water bank. He gave a brief update on the State safe drinking water program. The State Waterboard released a “needs assessment” to evaluate the funding gap for sufficient resources necessary for all Californians to have access to high quality, reliable, affordable water.

M/S/C Mr. Firenzi moved with a second by Mr. Greenwood to take positions on State Legislation and Federal Legislation as recommended by Mr. Ojakian. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## **10. MAY 6, 2021 RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

M/S/C Mr. Roberts moved with a second by Mr. Greenwood to Approve the May 6, 2021 Proposed RWA Board Meeting agenda. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

## **11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Peifer said that a manager’s drought meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 10, 2021 to focus on statewide dry conditions.

A celebration is being considered for the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for RWA.

Ms. Talbot has been doing a great job with the water loss regulations. Anyone who would like information on the economic model that the Water Board staff is working on should please contact Ms. Talbot.

RWA has received a letter from multiple non-governmental organizations that are interested in the Water Bank and are inquiring as to how they can be engaged. Staff is considering on how to engage with these groups.

Mr. Peifer gave an update on the federal infrastructure bill. Staff is interested in receiving funding to help build our members’ projects particularly with resilience. Mr. Bigley said that the House process has a set limit in terms of the number of projects that a House member can submit. The Senate process has a quick turnaround to receive appropriation requests. RWA staff will be working quickly to engage as an organization in that process.

## **12. DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS**

Mr. Greenwood reported that after the results of a recent forensic audit Carmichael Water District filed charges against three former employees for the misuse of public funds.

Ms. Carrey said that the City of Sacramento is moving forward in preparation for a 2021 groundwater substitution transfer.

Chair Bigley said that the City of Roseville has been working on closing out a \$33 million water infrastructure finance and innovation act loan through the US EPA. The funds will help finance six additional aquifer storage and recovery wells and making some improvements on their recycled water system.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary