

**REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, July 15, 2021, 9:00 a.m.**

The purpose of this meeting is to consider a resolution on further drought response actions and to begin discussion of planning for continued dry conditions

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) 847-7589. 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.

Note: Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and given the state of emergency regarding the threat of COVID-19, the meeting will be held via teleconference.

We encourage Committee members and participants to join the meeting 10 minutes early. Note that we will use GoToMeeting to share slides and other information during the meeting. Use the link below to join GoToMeeting. If you have a microphone that you can use with your computer, it should be possible to both listen to, and participate in, the meeting through GoToMeeting. If you do not have a microphone, or a headset with a microphone, that plugs into your computer via USB port, you will need to call into the conference line to listen and comment, although you still should be able to view the meeting materials on GoToMeeting. Please do not simultaneously use a microphone through GoToMeeting and the telephone conference line. That combination results in audio problems for all participants.

Meeting Information:

Thu, Jul 15, 2021 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (PDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/231963557>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3412](tel:+18722403412)

Access Code: 231-963-557

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Members of the public who wish to address the board may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

3. REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY RESOLUTION 2021-03 TO FURTHER DROUGHT RESPONSE EFFORTS

Discussion: Sean Bigley, Board Chair; Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Consider and adopt resolution 2021-03 to further drought response efforts

4. PREPARING FOR CONTINUED DRY CONDITIONS

Discussion: Sean Bigley, Board Chair; Jim Peifer, Executive Director

5. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings:

Executive Committee Meetings: Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 8:30 a.m. and August 25, 2021, 8:30 a.m. at the RWA Office, the location is subject to change depending on the COVID-19 emergency.

Regular Board Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021, 9:00 a.m., at the RWA Office, the location is subject to change depending on the COVID-19 emergency.

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

AGENDA ITEM 3: REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY RESOLUTION 2021-03 TO FURTHER DROUGHT RESPONSE EFFORTS

BACKGROUND:

On May 10, 2021, the Governor issued a proclamation of a State of Emergency for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) watershed. On May 13, 2021, the RWA Board adopted Resolution 2021-01, which called for actions in response to dry conditions to decrease surface water diversions from the American River watershed. On July 8, 2021, the Governor issued an Executive Order calling for voluntary water conservation efforts of 15 percent by all Californians.

The drought has been steadily worsening throughout the Delta watershed, which has resulted in low inflows to the American River, placing stress on ecosystems in the lower American River as well as creating concerns about future water supply conditions. Record-breaking high air temperatures throughout Sacramento and the surrounding regions have further placed stress on water temperatures downstream of Folsom Reservoir, increasing risk for fish species.

Certain RWA member agencies have taken steps to voluntarily conserve between 10 and 20 percent, shifting to alternate water sources, sharing water resources throughout the region, and making releases to support the fishery of the lower American River. However, sustained drought conditions have proven to be challenging and potentially problematic if the winter and spring of water year 2022 remain dry.

In order to preserve local water supplies and protect the environment of the lower American River as dry conditions persist, RWA is proposing Resolution 2021-03, which calls upon its member agencies to consider actions that will result in further reductions in surface water diversions from the American River watershed. This includes asking customers to voluntarily reduce water use by up to 20 percent and additional shifting from using surface water to groundwater, where feasible.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion: Sean Bigley, Board Chair
Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Consider and adopt resolution 2021-03 to further drought response efforts

Attachment: RWA Resolution 2021-03

RESOLUTION 2021-03
A Resolution of the Regional Water Authority
Regarding Extreme Drought Conditions in 2021

WHEREAS, the Regional Water Authority's (RWA) mission includes protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability, and quality of water resources; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, the Governor issued a proclamation of a State of Emergency to mitigate the effects of drought conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed counties including El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yolo counties; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, the RWA Board adopted Resolution 2021-01, which called for the consideration of actions that would result in reduction of surface water diversions from the American River watershed to protect the environment of the lower American River and to preserve local water supplies should dry conditions persist; and

WHEREAS, the actions of RWA Resolution 2021-01 called for voluntary reductions of water use by 10 percent, shifting diversions from the lower American River to the Sacramento River, and/or shifting from using surface water to groundwater as a supply source as part of the region's plan for sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the projected inflow from upstream sources into waterways and surface storage has been less than projected and has resulted in significantly less water in reservoirs than anticipated; and

WHEREAS, sustained high air temperatures and dry conditions have further created additional water temperature stress on lower American River ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Folsom Reservoir, being a primary source of water for several RWA member agencies in the region, is small and highly vulnerable to worsening drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, hydrologic conditions leading into water year 2022 are uncertain, in which continued dry conditions may lead to water shortages and extreme stress to fisheries; and

WHEREAS, shifting to groundwater during this year's drought, while encouraged, should also be managed carefully to ensure adequate water supplies for our communities in the event that water year 2022 is also dry; and

WHEREAS, RWA member agencies have taken steps since RWA Resolution 2021-01 to voluntarily conserve between 10 and 20 percent, shift to alternate water sources, share water resources throughout the region, and make releases to support the fishery of the lower American River; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, the Governor issued an Executive Order calling for voluntary conservation efforts of 15 percent by all Californians by taking commonsense measures with both indoor and outdoor water use; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, RWA immediately calls upon on its member agencies to consider actions that will result in further reductions in surface water diversions from the American River watershed to protect the environment of the lower American River and to preserve local water supplies should dry conditions persist. These actions include asking customers to voluntarily reduce their water use by up to 20 percent and/or additional shifting from using surface water to groundwater, where feasible, as a supply source as part of the region's plan for sustainability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all other prior actions from RWA Resolution 2021-01 shall remain in full effect.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Authority held on July 15, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PREPARING FOR CONTINUED DRY CONDITIONS

BACKGROUND:

On July 8, 2021, the National Weather Service issued an alert that La Nina conditions are potentially emerging during the September-November season, with a 66 percent chance of conditions lasting through the 2021-22 winter (November-January). Staff is seeking input on starting a process to begin discussing actions that could be taken to prepare for continuation of these dry conditions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion: Sean Bigley, Board Chair
Jim Peifer, Executive Director