

Chair Sanger called the meeting of the RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee to order at 11:00 a.m. as a teleconference meeting.

## **1. Roll Call**

Individuals in attendance are listed below:

### **Committee Members in Attendance:**

Jeni Buckman, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan, Legal Counsel  
Anne Sanger, Chair, City of Sacramento  
Tony Firenzi, Vice Chair, Placer County Water Agency  
Evan Jacobs, California American Water  
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District  
Noelle Mattock, City of Roseville  
Forrest Williams, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Greg Bundesen, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

### **Committee Members Not in Attendance:**

Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brian Sanders, City of Sacramento,  
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Grace Espindola,  
City of Yuba City

### **Others in Attendance:**

Ryan Ojakian, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, Michelle Banonis, David  
Wheaton, Jessica Law, William Roberts, Jim Peifer and Cecilia  
Partridge

## **2. Public Comment**

Chair Sanger opened the meeting for anyone who had anything that they would like to share with the Federal Affairs Committee.

## **3. Approval of previous meeting minutes**

Minutes from the June 16, 2021, RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee Meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Firenzi moved, with a second by Ms. Mattock, to approve the June 16, 2021, RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee meetings. Forrest Williams abstained. The

motion carried by the voice vote of the remaining committee members.

Chair Sanger mentioned follow up items from the June meeting including the American Rescue Plan letter, the comment letter that RWA drafted and sent, recapping congressional meetings and forming a workgroup to work on the Sacramento Cap-to-Cap papers. Papers have been drafted and the workgroup will continue to meet.

#### **4. Disclosures and Regional Coordination**

Chair Sanger offered an opportunity for committee members who wanted to share with the Federal Affairs Committee.

Mr. Peifer reminded committee members to disclose their plans to schedule visits to capital offices for coordination of efforts.

#### **5. Federal Legislative Review**

- a) Update on federal issues of interest to the committee
- b) Review Federal Legislative Tracker; consider priority bills
- c) Federal outreach recommendations

Ms. More reported that conversations have focused on FY22 appropriations, the infrastructure package and the PFAS contamination issue. Senator Padilla and Senator Feinstein have chosen projects from the Sacramento area account to prioritize in the Senate bill including a \$10 million request for the Sacramento area regional account. The House and the Senate are moving forward on legislation to implement and authorize different portions of the infrastructure package.

Chair Sanger noted that some of the water bills include language that is favorable for the water bank.

It was suggested that the committee assist RWA in writing a letter to Senators in opposition of HR 2467, the PFAS action.

Mr. Sapirstein said that there was a statewide letter sent to fight the PFAS liability provisions relative to superfund designation. If the PFAS action were enacted into law, there are concerns that exposure would be a potential liability for PFAS biosolids from wastewaters and drinking water treatment with a requirement to implement pretreatment programs by EPA and wastewater agencies.

Chair Sanger noted that the actual meetings for Cap-to-Cap will be scheduled for October after some issues have been solidified. The committee will

continue to put a platform together and schedule meetings with members in late October.

M/S/C Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Mr. Williams, for RWA to send a letter expressing concerns with respect to PFAS. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of the committee members present.

**6. WRDA Section 219 Work Group status** – Potential action may be taken

Ms. More reported that meetings are being scheduled with the Core District Office, House of Appropriations' Committee and staff to review the status of projects in the legislation.

**7. WIIN Act Funding for Water Bank Status**

Ms. Banonis gave a status update on the Water Bank. Comments were sent to Reclamation regarding the budget for the upcoming scope of work related to a feasibility study, groundwater banking and climate change.

**8. COVID-19 Pandemic and Economic Impacts** – Potential action may be taken

Mr. Sapirstein commented that he had discussions with EPA about the American Rescue Plan dollars. Decisions need to be made on how to distribute funds that were included in the fiscal recovery assistance fund for state and local governments. He will continue to monitor this issue. Once funding is received for projects a grant writer will be needed.

**9. Action Items**

Mr. Ojakian will work on federal bill language that can be helpful at the state level for the water bank.

A letter will be generated and sent to Senators regarding HR 2467 on PFAS articulating what our concerns are.

Mr. Peifer commented that we need to find ways to support Mr. Sapirstein and Ms. More to gain local success for FY23.

Chair Sanger said that Roberto Rizzo of Senator Alex Padilla's staff, is local and would like to know more about the issues in our region including water. She suggested giving him an in depth briefing of what our region is doing for modern resilience.

**10. Public Comment**

None.

**11. Next Meeting August 18, 2021**

**12. Adjournment**

Chair Sanger adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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