

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
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

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Rob Swartz, Michelle Banonis, Amy Talbot,
Monica Garcia and Cecilia Partridge

Others in Attendance

Brian Sanders, Charles Duncan, Mike Huot, Kevin Thomas, Bob Reisig,
Mike Grinstead, Anne Sanger, Andy Fecko, Cathy Lee, Charles Duncan,
Kelye McKinney, David Wheaton, Greg Zlotnick, Joe Duran, Pam Tobin,
Rob Hunter, José Ramirez, Kevin Thomas, and Paul Helliker

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of the April 28, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Schubert 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.

4. CALPERS 457 PLAN ROTH OPTION

Mr. Peifer said that CalPERS provides an option for employees to contribute to a Roth 457 plan using post-tax contributions into a savings or retirement account. There is no additional cost to RWA to participate, but it must add this component to its CalPERS benefits package for employees to be allowed to contribute. Feedback was requested if this is something that the RWA should sign up for to benefit staff.

After discussion it was agreed that this plan is supported by the Executive Committee.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved with a second by Mr. Roberts for the Executive Committee to provide input and direct the Executive Director to authorize the CalPERS 457 Roth option. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

5. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Peifer reported that a meeting of the three authorities was held where Gina Bartlett gave a report on a stakeholder assessment. She provided a roadmap with four proposed phases and an associated timeline. Each phase will be agreed upon before moving on to the next phase. It is expected, if all phases are accepted, that the final phase will be completed next year.

In preparation of moving into phase two in September, workshops during regular RWA and SGA Board meetings will give opportunities for questions to be asked, have open discussions, and receive input from the board. A handout with frequently asked questions will be generated.

Mr. Peifer encouraged any RWA member with questions or requests for additional information to contact him.

6. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian said in the legislative process bills will be heard in their second policy committee by July 14th. A number of higher profile bills are no longer active because each member had bill limits put in place. The Legislature passed a budget on June 15th that included \$3.475 billion for drought response and \$1 billion to address water arrearages. The specifics of what will be funded in the drought response will be sorted out in a budget trailer bill. Budget trailer bills must be passed before the Legislative session ends on September 10th.

Bills that are no longer moving through the 2021 legislative process are: SB 45 - the resilience bond; SB 223 dealing with water shutoffs; AB 377 which would recast for water quality requirements; AB 1434 which would have established new indoor water use efficiency requirements; and AB 1500 - the resilience bond.

There is \$3.5 billion for drought response, \$3.5 billion for climate resilience, and \$1 billion to address water arrearages. We do not have guidelines as to how those dollar amounts will be distributed. Amendments to SB 222, the low-income water rate assistance bill, are positive and require a funding source to be identified. We have a support position on AB 897 related to regional climate adaptation planning that is likely part of the \$3.5 billion for climate resilience.

7. JULY 8, 2021 RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Greenwood requested updated information on the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC) where RWA will have two exhibits. Ms. Talbot said that designs are nearing completion, exhibit construction will start soon, and RWA and MOSAC staff are meeting regularly. MOSAC is targeting a late 2021 public opening. As part of our sponsorship agreement, RWA will have access to the facilities for private events.

M/S/C Mr. York moved with a second by Mr. Greenwood to Approve the July 8, 2021 Proposed RWA Board Meeting agenda. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all directors present.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer reported that he, Chair Bigley, and Vice Chair York have started listening tours with RWA member agencies to assure that RWA is meeting member needs, getting their perspectives, and finding ways to add value to their membership. We have a wide range of agencies with different capacities, capabilities, and needs. Communication is key to providing effective RWA services to members.

Letters have gone out to 9,000 post-1914 water right holders to curtail diversions of surface waters. The State Board received 300 responses.

We continue to hold board meetings virtually and look to transition in the months ahead to in-person meetings. It was suggested that we continue virtual meetings to continue the participation of board members who do not frequently engage due to location and travel time. In person meetings will be phased in slowly, perhaps beginning with Executive Committee meetings. It is important to meet certain guidelines and be mindful of the comfort level of meeting attendees.

Mr. Peifer referred to a letter from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) requesting a \$10,000 sponsorship for the Water Policy Center. As part of our communications program, RWA partnered with the PPIC and the Nature Conservancy earlier this year to get the word out for the things that we need in terms of funding policy support from the state and federal government and others. RWA members and member consultants agree that we should participate in sponsorship of the PPIC as they are an influencer in California's water policy. After discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Director should go forward with sponsorship of the

PPIC for the upcoming fiscal year and to track the benefit of sponsorship moving forward.

A Sacramento Bee article entitled “How an invisible water source will help Sacramento get through the upcoming drought” submitted by Jim Peifer was included in the packet. Additional articles are being prepared to inform policy makers and significant influencers on the needs of the American River.

It was suggested that communication and education to water customers would improve water efficiency. Additional drought messaging by RWA would help navigate through the drought.

9. DIRECTORS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood reported conversations between Carmichael Water District and SMUD director Heidi Sanborn regarding working together for a mutually-beneficial partnership to share ideas on energy and water-related issues.

Mr. Roberts said that City of West Sacramento is preparing for staff to begin returning to the office starting the first week of August.

Mr. Schubert said that SCGA passed Prop 218 and set the groundwater fee for fiscal year 2022. Golden State Water Company is using the RWA drought messaging.

Mr. Firenzi said that the City of Rocklin requested Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) give a drought presentation at their Council meeting. The presentation gave information on the water supplies that PCWA has, their deliveries to the lower American River environment, and the drought. The presentation provided context that aligns with the RWA message. Linda Higgins, PCWA Water Efficiency Manager, gave a brief presentation on what customers are being asked to do for conservation.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
