



**Regional Water Authority**  
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

---

RWA Board Meeting  
Final Minutes  
July 8, 2021

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bigley called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. as a teleconference meeting. Individuals who participated are listed below:

### **RWA Board Members**

Evan Jacobs, California American Water  
S. Audie Foster, California American Water  
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District  
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District  
David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District  
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District  
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom  
Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville  
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville  
Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento  
Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento  
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City  
Diana Langley, City of Yuba City  
Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District  
Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District  
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District  
Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company  
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency  
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency  
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

### **RWA Associate Members**

Ken Payne, El Dorado Water Agency

### **RWA Affiliate Members**

Vanessa Nishikawa, Stantec

**Staff Members**

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojikian, Michelle Banonis, Josette Reina-Luken, Amy Talbot, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel

**Others in Attendance:**

Brian Sanders, Mike Huot, Craig Locke, Paul Helliker, Bob Reising, Pauline Roccucci, Dave Jones, Jessica Law, Dan Kelly, Tom West, Brent Smith, Ed Winkler and Paul Selsksy

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Minutes from the May 6, 2021 RWA Board of Directors meeting
- b. Minutes of the May 10, 2021 RWA Special Board meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Wheaton moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to approve the Consent Calendar Items. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langlely, City of Yuba City, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

**4. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PAM TOBIN FOR PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES**

Mr. Peifer said that the resolution is to support Pam Tobin for President of the Association of California Water Agencies. RWA supported her candidacy for ACWA Vice President two years ago.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-02 supporting the nomination of Pam Tobin for President of the Association of California Water Agencies. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langlely, City

of Yuba City, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

## **5. WATER FORUM UPDATE**

Jessica Law, Water Forum Executive Director, gave updates on Water Forum activities. The Water Forum has been working with members and state and federal agencies to address recent drought issues. They have been looking at hydrology and working with the Bureau of Reclamation to understand their priorities and what flow releases they are likely to follow in the coming months. Concentration is on protecting storage in Folsom Reservoir and resources for the lower American River to preserve the health of the fisheries. The desired outcomes that the Water Forum is looking for include working closely with the Bureau of Reclamation to maintain storage in Folsom Reservoir and maintain viable conditions for the fisheries in the river.

The original Water Forum agreement is being renegotiated. There are challenges including climate change and adapting the region and system to a more resilient future and how this region needs to take action under drought or drier conditions. A challenge with climate change is water supplies and how the environment might fair in the future given the current circumstances and balancing the goals of water supply for our economy while maintaining protection of the lower American River.

## **6. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT BRIEFING**

Ms. Banonis, Manager of Strategic Affairs, gave a brief update on the American Resource Plan. Water infrastructure is included as part of the act. The American Resource Plan Act provides fiscal recovery funds to provide economic stimulus primarily in response to losses suffered from the pandemic. There are four main categories for funding eligibility: responding to pandemic public health, emergency and the economic impacts, providing a premium pay to essential workers or grants to employers with essential workers, replacing lost, delayed or decreased revenue, and making necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. She gave information on the general eligibility guidelines and reporting requirements to receive funding.

Water projects in our region serve a critical role in advancing public health and safety. Three important topics to focus on are providing clean drinking water, drought response and climate resiliency. RWA has requested from its member agencies a list of projects that are ready to put before funding entities for consideration.

## **7. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY STAFFING**

Mr. Peifer said that there was a meeting between the Sacramento Groundwater Authority, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) and the Regional Water Authority where Gina Bartlett, Consensus Builders Institute, presented her stakeholder assessment findings and a process roadmap. A frequently asked questions list with answers is being generated. The first decision point is whether the authorities should move forward engaging in further conversations. Mr. Peifer encouraged any questions be sent directly to him.

## **8. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

Mr. Ojakian provided an update on the budget that the legislature passed and how the funds are expected to be distributed for drought response, water and climate resilience. Specifically, that \$200 million has been included for funding expanded conjunctive use, \$1 billion has been included for water arrearages, and that further budget actions are continuing into the summer.

Bills of interest include resilience bonds SB 45 and AB 1500 that include wildfire prevention, safe drinking water and drought preparedness, SB 222 for low-income water rate assistance, SB 223 dealing with water shutoffs, AB 377 for water quality and AB 1434 indoor water use efficiency. We will continue to be engaged on funding for outreach to non-English speaking communities until the issue is resolved.

## **9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Peifer commented that there has been discussion about returning to in-person board meetings in the future. It is anticipated that the we will begin to transition RWA Executive Committee meetings being held in person with an option for participants to access the meeting remotely. The remote option is still being researched for feasibility.

RWA continues a collaborative relationship with Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources on the drought. As we rely on them for funding our future resilience projects and policy support, we want to build strong relationships with them. As the drought continues to cause hardship throughout the state, there is less available water putting our water supply in the region in a vulnerable situation. Water demands are going up and water conservation is a challenge.

The RWA 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>.

## 10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood reported that Carmichael Water District held an emergency special board meeting to reapprove a stage two water shortage emergency declaration. The district may reactivate wells that were previously retired.

Ms. Carrey said that the City of Sacramento has a team that is meeting weekly to work on water conservation and responses to the drought. They are taking a proactive approach trying to address and anticipate challenges, especially operationally. They are increasing communications and outreach.

Ms. Espindola, City of Yuba City, said that they have met with several federal representatives to advocate on behalf of the region for available funding.

Mr. Schubert reported that the California Public Utilities Commission authorized the purchase of the Robbins water system in Sutter County, a disadvantaged community with no potable water. Golden State Water Company is working with the county and state agencies to bring the community into compliance.

Mr. York, Sacramento Suburban Water District, reported that Greg Bundesen, Water Conservation Supervisor, conducted an interview on Fox 40. Sacramento Suburban Water District and Carmichael Water District initiated a 2 x 2 Ad Hoc Committee to look at ways to collaborate sharing resources, programs and operations staff.

Mr. Zlotnick, San Juan Water District, reported that they are assisting Carmichael Water District by sending them water.

## Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

By:

---

Chairperson

Attest:

---

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer