



**Regional Water Authority
Executive Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
August 25, 2021**

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 and Cecilia Partridge

Others in Attendance

Brian Sanders, Mike Huot, Kevin Thomas, Bob Reisig, Pam Tobin, Audie Foster, Anne Sanger, Andy Fecko, Cathy Lee, David Wheaton, John Woodling, Cathy Green, Craig Locke, Greg Zlotnick, and Paul Helliker

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of the June 23, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Ms. Carrey, to approve the Consent Calendar item. Ron Greenwood was present, but did not vote. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all remaining directors present.

4. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Peifer said that RWA, SGA and SCGA boards participated in a recent meeting. We are in phase one, an exploratory phase, of the process roadmap where there will be a decision on whether to proceed to phase two. A question for discussion is what the governance should look like for a potential consolidation of SGA and SCGA. Phase three would be what would the staffing look like and what resources would be needed to accommodate such an organization. Phase four would include legal counsel drafting agreements.

There are members who have questions and would like to receive additional specific information on the consolidation before moving onto the next phase. It is important for all members to be fully educated on the issues.

There was discussion on the process, the pros and cons of consolidation, and how a potential consolidation could affect the services that are currently provided by RWA and SGA staff.

Mr. Peifer suggested that additional discussion is needed between SGA and SCGA before moving forward. Both the RWA and SGA boards have requested a workshop to answer the questions that have been posed.

Mr. Woodling outlined some of the potential benefits and opportunities for the three organizations with consolidation.

5. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, said that the legislative session ends on September 10th. The primary focus of the Legislature at the end of session remains providing specifics around placeholder dollar amount appropriations made through the approved budget.

Of the bills still live in the legislative process RWA currently has active support positions on AB 315 that limits liability for stream restoration work, AB 322 that invests EPIC funds in biomass, AB 361 that revises access to public meetings, AB 418 regarding resilience to PSPS events, AB 652 dealing with PFAS prohibition in children's products, AB 697 has flexibility in funds for forest health, AB 1250 has timelines for CPUC regulated consolidations, SB 323 challenges timelines on water/sewer fees and SB 369 for the Yolo Bypass multi-benefit partnership program. AB 897 deals with regional adaptation planning and is supported if amended. SB 222 for low-income rate assistance is opposed unless amended.

Staff recommended the Executive Committee take action to update RWA's position to reflect the current language in AB 1200 that prohibits PFAS in food packaging and cookware and SB 222 the low-income rate assistance program.

M/S/C Mr. Firenzi moved, with a second by Mr. York, to take positions on State Legislation. Ron Greenwood was present, but did not vote. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all remaining directors present.

6. SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Peifer said that the Chair and Vice Chair will be interviewing ACWA Vice President candidates and will provide a recommendation to the RWA Board for a resolution supporting one of the candidates.

After discussion, it was decided to add a Drought Conditions Update item to the agenda.

M/S/C Mr. Roberts moved with a second by Ms. Schmitz to Approve the September 9, 2021 proposed RWA Board Meeting agenda with the added agenda item. Ron Greenwood was present, but did not vote. Mr. Schubert abstained. The motion carried by the unanimous voice vote of all the remaining directors present.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer said that there is an RWA Coffee and Conversation Chat scheduled on August 27th with Congressman Ami Bera who represents most of Sacramento's eastern and southern suburbs, including Elk Grove, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova. Any questions for Congressman Bera should be sent to Mr. Peifer.

He asked that RWA Impact Award recommendations be submitted to him for consideration.

He suggested a mock disaster planning exercise to prepare RWA members to recognize regional challenges in the event of future droughts and how to better prepare and increase our emergency response. He would like to schedule another drought disaster planning meeting for general managers to provide updates.

He has been requested by the California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Section to participate in a virtual panel discussion on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.

8. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Ms. Carrey reported that the City of Sacramento approved moving to a stage two water alert. There is emphasis on education and increased outreach before offense enforcement.

Mr. Roberts reported on City of West Sacramento's possible 20% reduction mandate.

Mr. Schubert said that Golden State Water Company received a curtailment notice on their 1851 water rights. A September public meeting is scheduled to go over a revised Schedule 14.1, which has six conservation levels. The first level is a voluntary stage. After that, each stage gives an allocation with a penalty rate if the allocation is exceeded.

Mr. Firenzi gave an update on the direct effects of the fires for Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). It is possible that they will be requesting assistance due to the River Fire that burned around PG&E's canal system that supplies PCWA's water system. They reached out to State and Federal legislators seeking assistance. A letter of support may be requested.

Mr. York reported on the collaboration/consolidation opportunities for Sacramento Suburban Water District and Carmichael Water District. After several meetings, direction has been received from the 2 x 2 committee to set up a joint meeting in October for further discussion with the entire board.

Chair Bigley said that the City of Roseville is in week three of their mandatory stage two with an overall city goal of 20%. With standard restrictions they are seeing the beginnings of conservation within the city. They are working to expedite several infrastructure projects, specifically two new aquifer storage and recovery wells in the western part of the city.

Chair Bigley requested that a closed session agenda item be added to the September Executive Committee meeting for the Executive Director Evaluation process to proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
