

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:

Anne Sanger, Chair, City of Sacramento
Tony Firenzi, Vice Chair, Placer County Water Agency
Evan Jacobs, California American Water
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Noelle Mattock, City of Roseville
Brian Sanders, City of Sacramento
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency
Greg Bundesen, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Forrest Williams, Sacramento County Water Agency

Others in Attendance:

Ryan Ojakian, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, Michelle Banonis, David Wheaton, Jessica Law, Lane Dickson, Jim Peifer and Cecilia Partridge, Jeni Buckman, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan, Legal Counsel

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 July 21, 2021, RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee Meeting.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Firenzi moved, with a second by Mr. Jacobs, to approve the July 21, 2021, RWA Federal Affairs

Standing Committee meetings. Brian Sander abstained. Grace Espindola and Robert Dugan entered the meeting after the motion was voted on. The motion carried by the voice vote of the remaining committee members.

Chair Sanger mentioned follow up items from the July 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 met with SACOG and reported that they have some federal initiatives to move forward. RWA is looking at how we can all support each other's initiatives and is specifically interested in implementing Green Means Go.

Ms. Lee, Carmichael Water District, said that their Board approved an MOA with San Juan Water District to join federal lobbying efforts with the Fergusson Group.

Mr. Bigley said that City of Roseville is in the process of putting together a solar array and battery backup grant for Barton Road water treatment plant and will likely be approaching RWA for a support letter for the grant.

Mr. Jacobs, California American Water, said that IOUs have been affected by Tax Cut and Jobs Act and he explained how grant funds are impacted by having to pay tax on the grants.

5. Federal Legislative Review

a) FY 22 Budget timeline

There have been no changes since our last meeting. There is a reconciliation process for a "human" infrastructure bill. The House returns on August 23 for a very short session and will establish rules for budget reconciliation and a "hard" infrastructure bill. Rules changed and will bring it all to the floor for debate, we are unclear if "hard" infrastructure will be a part of this vote. Everything is headed toward a Christmas time settlement.

b) Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (HR 3684)

The Infrastructure Bill passed the Senate on August 10th with the most interest in Western Water provisions. This will be the bill signed by the President barring anything catastrophic happening. The \$8.3 billion for Western water comes out to \$1.5 billion per year in funding, \$1.1 billion for storage and funds for WIIN storage projects. Staff is confirming if the groundwater bank is eligible to be grandfathered into the WIIN storage funding. There is \$1 billion for water recycling with no project caps, but the limitation of federal contribution is 25% of project cost with funds for habitat and ecosystem restoration. The PFAS treatment is included with money likely to be distributed by March/April 2022. We need to start talking to USBR right after Labor Day to be included in their action plan. Congressman Garamendi is interested in assisting RWA in securing funding for the region.

c) WRDA Section 219 Work Group status

The WRDA Section 219 Work Group with its cost share of 75/25 makes a good program. The next steps for the Sacramento region are funding that is included in both the House and Senate FY 22 appropriation bills with \$75,000 in each bill for projects in the Sacramento area. The US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) is recommending that money is needed up front to conduct oversight of the project sponsor. One of the projects that could get funding is a Placer County Water Agency/City of Roseville project. Agencies have the bandwidth to conduct the oversight, so USACE doesn't need to. It doesn't seem to be worth the effort to obtain \$75K in funding. The Section 219 process has not been used in the Sacramento area since the last time earmarks were allowed

d) Arrearage funding – LIHWAP

The arrearage funding for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), need to be spent by September 2023. The program is run by state Community Services and Development (CSD) and are low-income focused.

e) WRDA 22

We will begin to accept project ideas through the portal soon with projects mostly for USACE and flood control for the region.

f) BRIC

An update on FEMA funded projects was given. There is an account for pre-disaster mitigation efforts. Drought resilience and wildfire mitigation

projects should be submitted. Cal OES and FEMA are deep in the project approval process. RWA is looking at how they might fit in to the disaster process. There was discussion on a mock exercise of how this will work and serve member agencies (water shortage, power outage, etc.). An application needs to be submitted and then a project would/could be invited to participate in the program. The program was earmarked in the Senate.

6. WIIN Act Funding for Water Bank

Ms. Banonis said that there are no updates at this time. Staff has reached out to USBR and are awaiting a response on their review of the MOA.

7. Action Items

Cap-to-Cap is going forward with an October trip with the region being represented on water issues. The policy papers will be circulated.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Next Meeting September 15, 2021.

It was suggested that an alternate date be determined for the September 15, 2021 Federal Affairs Committee meeting as it conflicts with the ACWA 2021 Region Virtual Event Series.

10. Adjournment

Chair Sanger adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
