

Vice Chair Firenzi 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:**

Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency  
Evan Jacobs, California American Water  
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District  
Noelle Mattock, City of Roseville  
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville  
Brian Sanders, City of Sacramento  
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency  
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

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

Anne Sanger, City of Sacramento, Greg Bundesen, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City and Forrest Williams, Sacramento County Water Agency

### **Others in Attendance:**

Ryan Ojakian, Eric Sapirstein, Michelle Banonis, Lane Dickson, William Roberts, David Wheaton, Bruce Kamilos, Mark Smith, Jim Peifer, Cecilia Partridge and Jennifer Buckman, Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan, Legal Counsel

## **2. Public Comment**

Vice Chair Firenzi 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 August 18, 2021 and October 20, 2021, RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee Meetings.

A quorum was not present at the time the minutes were presented for approval. The August 18 2021 and October 20, 2021 minutes will be included on the December 15, 2021 Federal Affairs meeting agenda for approval.

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

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

Mr. Ojakian reported that a delegation including representatives from RWA, the Water Forum and the City of Sacramento met with David Palumbo, Deputy Commissioner for Operations with the Bureau of Reclamation. There was discussion on operations, the water bank, habitat data, restoration work, water reuse and recycling. One of the points Mr. Palumbo made is the similarity of the Colorado and the American River Watershed that we saw this year.

Vice Chair Firenzi gave a recap of the Cap-to-Cap trip the week of October 25<sup>th</sup>. He and Ms. Sanger prioritized engagements and focused on meeting with staffers. There were outreach efforts prior to the trip. Roberto Rizo, staffer for Senator Padilla has an interest in forest health issues and water issues.

The week prior to the Cap-to-Cap trip Mr. Dugan, Mr. Alpine and Mr. Firenzi served on a panel covering water issues. A member of the Building Industry Association and a representative from Vineyard Agriculture Industry attended the meeting.

Mr. Peifer said that in the Strategic Plan the Federal Affairs platform is to be updated annually. He would like to present a revised platform to the Executive Committee in December for consideration and recommendation to the RWA board for approval in January.

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

##### **a) FY 22 Budget Timeline**

Mr. Sapirstein gave a summary of the budget approach. December 17<sup>th</sup> a second budget continuing resolution is expected which may extend until February or March 2022. On the Democratic side there is a desire to finalize spending bills before the end of the year. Submissions for project requests will be made in February.

##### **b) Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (HR 3684)**

Vice Chair Firenzi reported that Mr. Sapirstein has prepared summaries of the different agencies and the funding assistance available. The most important items to focus on include water, storage, groundwater storage, conveyance, the RWA water bank and sites reservoir. Now is the time to begin the process that is necessary before presenting projects. New rules and standards will be implemented in the application of buy American

mandates. Exemptions were secured in the Buy American provisions in the Senate for rock, gravel and cementitious materials that are needed to build infrastructures.

Mr. Peifer said that all RWA members do not have lobbying resources and they rely on RWA to help support their funding requests. He would like to better understand how RWA can support members in different funding opportunities.

There was discussion on the different funding opportunities and where the funding may be directed.

#### **c) WRDA Section 219 Work Group Status**

Mr. Dickson said that there are funds for in the Infrastructure Bill for environmental infrastructure. It was suggested that agencies engage with the Corps of Engineers to help the Corps identify and understand agency projects.

There was discussion on how to present projects to receive the necessary funding for completing them.

#### **d) Arrearage funding – LIHWAP**

The Treasury Department issued a guidance document for the Homeowners Assistance Fund which could be for mortgage assistance during the pandemic. Utility fees for eligible homeowner assistance is included with the assistance and is not subjected to income tax.

### **6. WIIN Act Funding for Water Bank Status**

Ms. Banonis reported that Reclamation is sending a draft MOA document through channels which should take about a month then we will be able to execute the document. She anticipates meeting with Reclamation in December to walk through the process to provide any information to prepare to move forward.

### **7. Action Items**

The 2022 Cap-to-Cap program is in the planning stage with regional outreach to make sure we cover representation.

Forming an Ad Hoc Committee for preparation of a federal platform.

Form an Ad Hoc Committee for evaluation of the FAC program, reflecting on the memo that formed the committee.

Send the summaries to all Federal Affairs members and meeting participants.

**8. Public Comment**

None.

**9. Next Meeting December 15, 2021.**

**10. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Firenzi adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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