



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RWA Board Meeting
Final Minutes
September 9, 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
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento
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
Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dave Jones, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Dan Rich, San Juan Water District
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

RWA Associate Members

Jared Deck, Placer County, Ansel Lundberg, Sacramento Municipal Utility District,
Terri Mitchell and José Ramirez, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

RWA Affiliate Members

Paul Selsky and Melanie Holton, Brown & Caldwell, and Vanessa Nishikawa, Stantec

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance:

Rob Roscoe, G. Patrick O’Dowd, Mike Grinstead, Brian Sanders, Mike Huot, Cathy Green, Kevin Thomas, Craig Locke, Paul Helliker, Bob Reisig, Jessica Law and Kristin White

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes from the July 8, 2021 RWA Board of Directors meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Zlotnick moved, with a second by Mr. York, to approve the Consent Calendar Item. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District, 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 Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

Agenda item number 7 was moved ahead of item number 4, but for continuity, items are reported in the order that they were listed on the agenda.

4. DROUGHT CONDITIONS UPDATE

Kristin White, Bureau of Reclamation Operations Manager for the Central Valley Project, reported on current drought conditions and what is expected for next year. The snowpack evaporated, soaked into the ground, or sublimated, which took us from what was predicted to be a below average year to our third driest year on record. Folsom Reservoir is the workhorse of the Central Valley Project and in 2021 Folsom started at a higher reservoir storage than in prior drought years but is

ending at an end of September storage of roughly 215 TAF. The effect of drought is likely to become more pronounced in the upcoming months and possibly into next year if dry conditions continue. Information on the drought contingency planning that Reclamation and DWR are working on will be shared when it becomes available.

Ms. Banonis said that some of the American River water suppliers are already taking actions to reduce surface water use by shifting diversions from the lower American River to groundwater or alternate sources. Atmospheric temperatures have been hotter than normal, with customers typically increasing water use to account for higher evapotranspiration. Additionally, with the late declaration of drought (July 8 2021), water savings are taking a little longer to materialize. If the state imposes additional water savings measures, there may be additional reporting requirements.

Ms. Talbot reported on drought messaging. The primary message is to water your lawn less but keep watering your trees. Messaging will be distributed on social media, online, TV and radio media outlets and the Water Efficiency Program's Be Water Smart website. The website includes a landscape watering map where customers can enter their address and get information about their water schedule, reporting water waste, and rebates and services available from their water provider. Current customer rebate program funding available to suppliers through RWA includes irrigation efficiency measures, turf replacement, and customer water loss programs. RWA will be hosting focus groups in both English and Spanish to help ensure the messaging being released is likely to be well received and understood by a broad audience.

5. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY STAFFING

Mr. Peifer reported that the RWA/SGA/SCGA process laid out by facilitator Gina Bartlett will be slowed down. This will allow for further discussion and for staff to work with the SCGA to answer some of the questions that have been presented.

Chair Bigley noted his concern with the amount of staff time that is being dedicated to this effort.

6. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian reported that all bills will be settled in legislative session on September 10th by midnight. He gave an update on AB 897 that deals with regional adaptation planning. AB 361 is related to the issue of the need to have public meetings in person with the current flexibility to expire at the end of this month which, would mean that in-person meetings would begin in October. The proposed legislation would allow for the process of meetings to continue virtually that would include adopting a resolution monthly.

With respect to funding, there is \$400 million of additional spending in areas significant for RWA including an additional \$120 million for SGMA implementation and \$300 million related to habitat restoration in relation to water supply and multi benefit projects. Additionally, there is some funding for groundwater cleanup and recycled water.

7. ADOPT RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ACWA VICE PRESIDENT

Chair Bigley said that this item is to discuss the recommendation by him and Vice Chair York for the ACWA Vice President and to approve a resolution of support for the candidate the board chooses.

Mr. O'Dowd and Ms. Green each made comments to the RWA Board stating their qualifications for the position. Both candidates answered questions from Board members.

Chair Bigley reported on the ACWA Vice President candidate interviews that he and Mr. York conducted. He summarized the questions and answers from the interviews. Their recommendation is to approve a resolution in support of Cathy Green for ACWA Vice President.

M/S/C Ms. Scherman moved, with a second by Ms. Espindola, to accept the recommendation from the Chair and Vice Chair for Candidate Cathy Green for ACWA Vice President and Approve a Resolution of Support for the Candidate. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District, Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, 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. Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company and Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company abstained. The motion carried.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer reminded everyone of the RWA 20th Anniversary celebration scheduled for October 7th on the Sutter Club rooftop. There are signup and sponsorship options listed on the website.

Congressman Ami Bera participated in our recent coffee chat on August 27th answering federal affairs questions.

A Water Community Meet Up is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on September 23rd at Kathrin's Biergarten in Rocklin. Outdoor seating is available. This is not an RWA sponsored event.

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Ms. Lee, Carmichael Water District, reported that they have not reached their 15% reduction goal. They are considering drilling additional wells to help with the extended drought.

Mr. Roberts, City of West Sacramento, said that the listening session with RWA Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director was appreciated.

Ms. Espindola, City of Yuba City, appreciates the assistance she has received navigating the process of water in the region. They have a need to find funding assistance for groundwater wells, with a specific need of \$9 million for one well.

Mr. Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District, reported that SB 427 was signed into law. The bill increases penalties for water theft. The law requires agencies to adopt an ordinance that sets forth the administrative procedures that should govern the fines imposed, enforced, and collected.

Mr. Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, said that they have doubled their rebate budget to incentivize conservation.

Mr. Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, said that the support and offers of assistance received from agencies with respect to the wildfire situation was appreciated.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer