

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

Noelle Mattock, City of Roseville

Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District

Sean Bigley, City of Roseville

Brian Sanders, City of Sacramento

Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City

Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency

Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Evan Jacobs, California-American Water, Greg Bundesen,

Sacramento Suburban Water District, Greg Zlotnick, San Juan

Water District and Forrest Williams, Sacramento County Water

Agency,

Others in Attendance:

Ryan Ojakian, Eric Sapirstein, Michelle Banonis, Lane Dickson,

Ross Branch, Mark Smith, William Roberts, Roger Gwinn, Jim

Peifer and Cecilia Partridge

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 December 15, 2021 RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee Meetings.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Dugan moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley, to approve the December 15, 2021, RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried by the voice vote of the committee members present. Ms. Lee was not present at the time of the vote.

4. Disclosures and Regional Coordination

Chair Sanger said that the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber met with the water resources team for their 2022 program. There are plans for in person lobbying trip to Washington DC. Anyone who would like to assist in shaping the agenda is welcome to join the team. The list of agenda items will be similar to the agenda items last year.

There was discussion on priority items to list on the agenda including forest health, air quality issues and coordinating water and air quality teams and how wildfire issues affect our watersheds.

Mr. Peifer said that there is a conflict with the 2022 dates for Cap-to-Cap and the ACWA Spring Conference. It was suggested that an advocacy trip to Washington DC be scheduled the week prior to Cap-to-Cap enabling members to attend the ACWA conference. An early trip to Washington DC would provide an opportunity for focused meetings with representatives.

5. Federal Legislative Review

a) FY 22 Budget Timeline

Mr. Sapirstein said that they are still working with the top line funding numbers. It appears that a final agreement is being put together for energy and water development.

b) Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (HR 2684)

Mr. Gwinn gave a brief update on the Corp of Engineers work plan for the Core funding under the infrastructure package. Many of the projects receiving funds and the pending 2022 appropriations process were not included in the spending package or the work plan associated with the infrastructure package. A meeting is planned with the Corp headquarters to address options regarding the environmental infrastructure. Focus will include expanding support for a larger investment in the future.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to coordinate with the Bureau of Reclamation on the supplemental funding opportunities and our regions specific needs. There was discussion on the money needed to deal with projects, the disadvantaged and underserved communities and support for the Groundwater Bank.

6. WIIN Act Funding for Water Bank Status

Ms. Banonis gave an update on the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Reclamation for the water bank. The MOA will define the steps and commitments that each of the participating parties are making.

7. Action Items

The ACWA and Cap-to-Cap Conferences will be coordinated amongst the members so both conferences are adequately covered.

A letter will be drafted to Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant requesting the water bank be included in the next round of funding.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Next Meeting February 16, 2022.

10. Adjournment

Chair Sanger adjourned the meeting at 12:07 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
