



**Regional Water Authority  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Final Minutes  
March 23, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair York 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  
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento  
Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento  
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City  
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District

**Staff Members**

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

**Others in Attendance**

Brian Sanders, Trevor Joseph, Rebecca Scott, Tom Hennig, Paul Helliker, Greg Zlotnick, Angela Frost, William Lauritsen, Kevin Thomas, Robert Dugan, Tom Gray, Ed Winkler and Andy Fecko

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT** - Members of the public who wish to address the committee may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

None

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Ewart moved, with a second by Mr. Bigley to approve the consent calendar items. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes.

#### **4. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Mr. Peifer gave an update on the 3x3 committee, the Purchasing Ad Hoc committee, the Election Process Ad Hoc committee, the Executive Director Review Ad Hoc committee, and the Water Quality standing committee.

#### **5. EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION STUDY AND POSITION RECLASSIFICATIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Peifer said that the compensation survey is managed by the Executive Committee. A solicitation was sent electronically to seven firms with two firms declining to submit a proposal. The deadline to submit a proposal is March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Ad Hoc Committee will review the consultant selection and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee next month.

#### **6. FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Ms. Reina-Luken said that staff is in the process of assembling the draft budget for consideration. She asked for confirmation on the Associate Member Dues Cap Increase, selecting the discount rate to be used for funding purposes of RWA's retiree health benefits trust (California Employee Retirement Benefits Trust - CERBT), determining RWA transfer percentage to the Water Efficiency Program Budget, the reduction of rent expense for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and confirmation on the presentation of the budget layout.

The Executive Committee agreed to move forward on the Associate Member Dues Cap increase, maintain a conservative approach for CERBT, there were no objections to the proposed RWA transfer percentage to the Water Efficiency Program Budget, the committee confirmed reducing the rent expense and there was support for a three-year budget projection.

M/S/C Ms. Espindola moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood for the Executive Committee to provide direction on various Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 budget items. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes.

#### **7. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

Mr. Ojakian suggested taking support positions on AB 2078, the Department of Water Resources Atmospheric Rivers and FIRO, AB 2142, tax exemption for turf rebates, AB 2362, streamlined permitting for ecosystem restoration and climate adaptation, SB 1065, establishing a program to address abandoned and derelict commercial vessels in the Delta, SB 1197, creating the Initiative to Advance Water

Innovation and Drought Resiliency at the Office of Planning and Research, and SB 1469, adding water corporations to Public Utilities Commission responsibilities to ensure over collections and under collections are avoided. A support if amended position was suggested on AB 2313, water judges and technical support in water cases, AB 2387, \$7.4 billion water, fire, flood, extreme heat bond, AB 2419, requiring 50% of federal funds administered by the state be spent directly in disadvantaged communities, AB 2449, allowing greater flexibility for teleconferencing under the Brown Act, and SB 1188, allowing systems beyond those that serve disadvantaged communities to receive 100% grant funding or principal forgiveness. Oppose Unless Amended positions were suggested for AB 2639, prohibits extensions or new water rights unless the Water Board adopts a Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan by end of 2023, SB 1157, lowers the existing indoor element of the water use efficiency objectives and expands the authorities granted to the Water Board to appoint an administrator to struggling water systems. The position on SB 1205, requiring the Water Board to adopt regulations to provide great specificity for determining water availability in the issuance and administration of water right permits and licenses was changed from Support if Amended to a Watch Position.

Mr. Peifer reported that a letter was sent to Senator Feinstein supporting her draft legislative proposal on the STREAM Act (Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities Act).

Mr. Ojakian gave an update on the administrative draft of a new MCL on Chrome 6, the statewide drought conditions, and potential mandatory restrictions.

M/S/C Mr. Ewart moved, with a second by Ms. Espindola to take positions on State Legislation and affirm positions on Federal Legislation with the suggested amendment to the position on SB 1205. Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes.

## **8. FUTURE MEETING FORMAT**

Mr. Peifer provided options to consider for returning to in-person meetings. A hybrid meeting would require research to determine costs including RWA's information technology (IT) consultant, the purchase of additional equipment, and staff time.

There was discussion on utilizing larger meeting venues to provide adequate space for participants when attending in-person meetings. At this stage of the pandemic, some members are not comfortable with in-person meetings and would prefer the option of hybrid meetings that would combine in-person with a teleconference option. It was noted that RWA meetings conducted virtually have seen greater participation and engagement. It was suggested that exploring the hybrid option would be a good investment.

Mr. Ramos, legal counsel, said that we are currently allowed to meet virtually under the Governor's Emergency Order. At some point, the Emergency Order may no longer be in effect, and we will be forced to meet in-person.

## **9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Peifer enjoyed a tour at Yuba City hosted by Grace Espindola that provided information on the area.

A dinner meeting with the Water Forum Environmental Caucus was held to discuss what their interests were with RWA and SGA initiatives.

Yuba City received a grant for an ASR well.

Listening Sessions with agencies will be begin soon for 2022.

The first Emergency Preparedness seminar was held with consultant Gannet Fleming. This is a subscription program that will explore opportunities for emergency services and assist with our response to future catastrophes.

Senator Feinstein and Senator Padilla have forwarded our request for congressionally directed funding for our list of projects.

## **10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Greenwood reported that Carmichael Water District received \$4 million to build much needed water wells. They also received \$2 million from the Bureau of Reclamation from the Water Smart Drought Response Program. The district will be requesting additional funds for infrastructure and pipeline projects.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair York adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Board Secretary