



**Regional Water Authority**  
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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**RWA Board Meeting  
Final Minutes  
March 10, 2022**

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair York 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  
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District  
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District  
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom  
William Lauritsen, City of Lincoln  
Angela Frost, City of Lincoln  
Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville  
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville  
Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento  
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento  
Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento  
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City  
Diana Langley, City of Yuba City  
Alan Gardner, Del Paso Manor Water District  
Ryan Saunders, Del Paso Manor Water District  
Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District  
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District  
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District  
Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company  
Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company  
Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency  
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency  
Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

### **RWA Associate Members**

Ansel Lundberg, Sacramento Municipal Utility District and José Ramirez,  
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

**RWA Affiliate Members**

Paul Selsky, Brown & Caldwell and Charles Duncan, West Yost & Associates

**Staff Members**

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

**Others in Attendance:**

Rob Roscoe, Jay Boatwright, Rebecca Scott, Raymond Riehle, Paul Helliker, Pauline Roccucci, Anne Sanger, Bob Reisig, Jessica Law, Kevin Thomas, Christine Kohn, Craig Locke and Ligaya Kohargura

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Chair York addressed the recent loss of Forrest Williams and shared his many accomplishments.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 3a. Authorize a Teleconference Meeting
- 3b. Approve Minutes of the January 13, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting
- 3c. Approve Revised RWA Board Meeting Schedule
- 3d. Approve Renewal of RWA Policies 300.4, 300.5, 500.9 and 500.17

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Espindola moved, with a second by Ms. Scherman, to approve the Consent Calendar Items. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Angela Frost, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langley, City of Yuba City, Ryan Saunders, Del Paso Manor Water District, Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

**4. CHAIR'S VISION FOR 2022**

Chair York said that his vision for 2022 is to enhance teamwork and collaboration. Motivation to change is a collaborative and teamwork effort between board members recognizing the power of relationships that are the backbone of any successful team. To cultivate a truly collaborative spirit requires mutual trust and

goodwill between our team members that include boards, the community and RWA staff. He said the listening sessions are an excellent communication tool, and he would like to continue the sessions in 2022.

**5. RESOLUTION NOMINATING PAMELA TOBIN TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY**

Mr. Peifer said that Pam Tobin, ACWA President, is interested in being nominated to run for the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority Executive Committee.

M/S/C Ms. Espindola moved, with a second by Mr. Zlotnick, to adopt Resolution No. 2022-01. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Angela Frost, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Ryan Saunders, Del Paso Manor Water District, Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Joe Duran, Orange Vale Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District voted yes. Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District voted no. The motion carried.

**6. REVISIONS TO RWA POLICY 200.3 (PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**

Chair York said that the purpose of this review is to look at the process and procedures for electing the Executive Committee. Chair York appointed Kerry Schmitz as Chair, Caryl Sheehan, Marcus Yasutake, Audie Foster and Tony Firenzi to an Ad Hoc Committee to propose revisions to Policy 200.3

Ms. Schmitz said she would like to get member thoughts for an improved process.

**7. DEVELOPMENT OF FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2023 BUDGET**

Ms. Reina-Luken gave a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the budget development process, fiscal year 2022 mid-year budget status and outlook, budget policies, budget assumptions and the budget schedule.

Staff will prepare and present the draft budget at the April Executive Committee meeting for possible recommendation for approval by the RWA Board at the May Board meeting.

Mr. Yasutake requested that the Strategic Plan be revisited to identify parts of the plan that are supported by the budget.

**8. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA UPDATE)**

Mr. Peifer provided an update saying that the Sacramento Groundwater Authority voted to proceed to phase two of the process roadmap as the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority voted to do last year. A 3x3 committee is being convened to begin working through the process.

**9. DROUGHT CONDITIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Peifer is interested in a discussion on water conservation in the region. To receive funding for projects, we need to have a resilient water supply and continue water efficiency efforts by conserving water.

Ms. Banonis gave information on the status of the major reservoirs throughout the state and how they meet the environmental objectives and water supply. It is possible that the Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Water Resources will seek a temporary urgency change petition granting an order to ease regulatory restrictions that would normally require more water releases from reservoirs. Last year, RWA member agencies shifted to alternate supplies like groundwater and engaged in a 15% conservation target.

There was discussion on requesting customers to continue to cut back and the different water conservation stages for agencies.

Mr. Peifer said that the RWA Water Efficiency Program Manager will provide content for water conservation messaging.

**10. REINITIATION OF CONSULTATION ON THE COORDINATED LONG-TERM OPERATION OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT AND STATE WATER PROJECT**

Ms. Banonis gave information on the regulation of surface water supplies being compliant with the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The Central Valley Project and State Water Project coordinate their operations by pooling their water rights to meet certain obligations. A biological opinion is an authorization based on scientific findings that agencies like the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepare. A proposed action is being led by the Bureau of Reclamation that includes an analysis on the potential effects and impacts to endangered species. She provided information on California's Endangered Species Act, the Environmental Impact Report, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

**11. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

Mr. Ojakian gave an update on bills that are related to water rights, water use efficiency, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, regulatory authority, Endangered Species Act issues and funding. He described bills that RWA is currently supporting. Specifically, AB 1724 requiring microfiltration on washing

machines, AB 1817 prohibiting PFAS in textiles, AB 1906 refining reimbursement for voluntary private property stream restoration, AB 1939 requiring climate change education in grades 1-6 and 9-12, and SB 901 that updates flood control management and requirements in West Sacramento.

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

Mr. Peifer said that RWA hosted a Coffee Chat with Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth earlier this week.

Recent interviews and media stories include a KCRA interview on the Water Bank, an ABC 10 interview on the Water Bank, a KCRA interview on the North American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, an NPR interview on Weather Whiplash and water management and a Sacramento Bee Editorial Board editorial supporting the Water Bank.

RWA staff will be meeting with the Environmental Caucus soon to discuss the groundwater bank and other topics.

Mr. Peifer provided information on his presentation to the Sacramento Grand Jury.

## **13. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Houdesheldt reported that City of Roseville is at the end of the two-year construction on their West Side Tank project.

Mr. Dugan reported that work continues by the Policy 400.4 Ad Hoc Committee.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair York adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m. The meeting was dedicated and adjourned in honor of Forrest Williams.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer