



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RWA Board Meeting
Minutes
November 4, 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
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
William Lauritsen, City of Lincoln
Bruce Houdesheldt, 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
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, Vanessa Nishikawa, Stantec, Charles Duncan and Abigail Madrone, West Yost & Associates

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance:

Brian Sanders, Paul Helliker, Rich Plecker, Pauline Roccucci, Anne Sanger, Andy Fecko, Kelley List, Thomas Dainat, Ryan Jones, Stephen Petersen, Tom Nelson, Andrew Ohrt, Mike Blackburn, Bryson Peterson, Nicole Krotoski, Christine Kohn, Jason Houser, Y. K. Chalamcherla, Ashley Gilreath, Daniel Bryant, John Woodling, Jason Burne, Craig Locke, Special Agent Gregory Walker, and Special Agent Darryl Elliott

2. AUTHORIZE A TELECONFERENCE MEEETING

Action: Pass a Motion by a majority vote under Gov. Code, § 54953, subd. (e)(1)(B) that as a result of the COVID-19 emergency: (i) meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and (ii) the meeting is authorized to be held by teleconference pursuant to Gov. Code, § 54953, subd. (e)(1)(C).

Mr. Peifer explained that to have a teleconference meeting today it is necessary to pass a resolution. It was noted that members would like to move back to in-person meetings at the earliest possible time.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Ms. Scherman, to approve the Consent Calendar Item. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, William Lauritsen, City of Lincoln, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langley, City of Yuba City, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation 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. Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville abstained. The motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes from the September 9, 2021 RWA Board of Directors meeting

M/S/C Mr. Houdesheldt moved, with a second by Mr. Greenwood, to approve the Consent Calendar Item. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, William Lauritsen, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langlely, City of Yuba City, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation 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.

5. CYBER THREATS TARGETING WATER AGENCIES/FBI AND CAL OES RESOURCES FOR WATER AGENCIES

Ms. Banonis said this is in response to recent cyber security events in the water and wastewater sectors. She introduced Special Agent Gregory Walker with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Cyber Division, Special Agent Darryl Elliot the FBI Sacramento Infra Guard coordinator, and Danielle Brian with California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

Special Agent Walker gave a presentation on cyber security vulnerabilities and the FBI's role and resources. He gave examples of ways that water and wastewater facilities are compromised and gave mitigation techniques to help prevent those vulnerabilities from becoming cyber threats. Special Agent Elliot explained that the role of Cal OES is to assist the affected entities to get back up and running in an effective and efficient manner. It was suggested that a similar presentation be given for Information Technology staff from RWA member agencies.

Jeff Harris and Patrick Kennedy left the meeting.

6. UPDATE FROM THE STATE ON FUNDING CRITERIA

Mr. Peifer introduced Ashley Gilreath and Kelly List from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The state currently has funds that will be distributed in the form of grants for drought relief, drought projects and multi benefit projects.

Ms. Gilreath, Drought Funding Lead, went over some of the basic funding that is available and the application and review process. The solicitation has just been opened for the urban and multi benefit drought relief funding. She provided

information on their awards that may benefit small and urban communities and have multiple benefits. There is criteria and eligibility requirements for projects.

Ms. List, Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Lead within the Division of Regional Assistance, said that her office works closely with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office, the funding arm of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as administered by DWR. Their mission is to provide funding to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and other responsible entities under SGMA promoting healthy and sustainable groundwater basins. They promote projects that provide multiple benefits while improving groundwater supply and quality. She gave an overview of funding available, how the funding can be spent, who is eligible, and the competitive process with the DWR.

Kerry Schmitz entered the meeting

7. RWA COMMUNICATIONS PRIORITIES FOR 2022

Mr. Peifer said that he would like the RWA communications priorities reviewed every November. Opportunities, communications issues, federal stimulus funding, attracting federal and state funding, communicating with regulators and policymakers on regulatory requirements, the Delta conveyance and water quality control plan are included in the priorities.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to approve the Communications Priorities for 2022. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, William Lauritsen, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District, Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, 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. The motion carried.

8. INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) UPDATE

Mr. Swartz gave background on how the Regional Water Authority arrived at where it is in terms of IRWM planning since Proposition 84 of 2006. There have been successful planning grants, projects, and programs through the years. The Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program is a recent project. He provided information on the benefits of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project that will provide services to the homeless community living near the Lower American River. The IRWM next steps include coordination on the WASH pilot

project, updates to the Opti System where IRWM projects are hosted on-line and the 2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Grant. Staff continues to watch for the most appropriate time for “supershed” planning integration of the lower and upper watersheds for maximum benefit. This would entail eventual combining of the American River Basin IRWM with appropriate portions of the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) IRWM.

M/S/C Mr. Roberts moved, with a second by Mr. Wheaton, to approve Resolution 2021-05 Authorizing the Grant Application, Acceptance and Execution for the Sacramento Regional Drought Response Project. Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, William Lauritsen, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Michelle Carrey, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Diana Langley, City of Yuba City, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District, Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, 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. The motion carried.

9. DROUGHT CONDITIONS UPDATE

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the next RWA Board meeting.

10. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY STAFFING

Mr. Peifer said that this is a standing agenda item to discuss the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) staffing and potential integration with SGA. Staff feels there needs to be additional discussion with the SGA members to ensure there is a good understanding of the potential benefits and challenges. To facilitate further discussion, an SGA Special Board meeting is proposed in January 2022.

11. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian reported that heading into the second year of the legislative calendar there are 22 bills that RWA has a position on that could move forward next year. Bills to be aware of relate to low-income water rate assistance, indoor standards in the water use efficiency requirements, and climate and drought resilience. It is anticipated that there will be a historic budget surplus in the coming year, but it is not known how those funds will be distributed. Final decisions will be made soon on the redistricting process.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer reported that the Emergency Response Ad Hoc Committee met. They have recommended obtaining consulting services to lead a potential mock exercise that could help a regional response to a crisis.

13. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Yasutake said that the Emergency Response Ad Hoc Committee will discuss further the actual types of emergency planning exercises to schedule. This will give members a choice of which exercises they would like to participate in.

Chair Bigley said that in consideration of the budget he requested that all RWA members refrain from contacting RWA legal counsel directly with questions. He asked that all questions or requests be addressed to the Executive Director or in a full RWA board meeting.

Chair Bigley will appoint an ad hoc committee to update Policy 400.4, the Executive Director Performance Evaluation Procedure.

Ms. Carrey mentioned that the City of Sacramento is interested in participating in the RWA Emergency Response tabletop exercise. The City of Sacramento received additional funding that will go towards a new groundwater well.

Mr. Dugan gave an update on the water levels of Folsom Lake after the latest storm.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Bigley adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer