



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

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**RWA Board Meeting  
Final Minutes  
May 12, 2022**

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Firenzi 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**

Audie Foster, California American Water  
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District  
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District  
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District  
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  
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  
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  
Dave Jones, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Kevin Thomas, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Dan Rich, San Juan Water District

### **Staff Members**

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

**Others in Attendance:**

Ricky Peck, Greg Jones, Adam Robin, Pauline Roccucci, Anne Sanger, Jay Boatwright, and Chris Petersen.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

3a. Authorize a Teleconference Meeting

3b. Approve Minutes of the March 10, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting

3c. Approve Revised RWA Board Meeting Schedule

3d. Approve Biological Opinion Support Services Subscription Program

3e. Approve RWA Financial Policy Updates and new COVID-19 Employee Vaccination Policy

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Houdesheldt moved, with a second by Ms. Espindola, to approve the Consent Calendar Items. Audie Foster, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Alan Gardner, Del Paso Manor Water District, 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, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dave Jones, Suburban Water District and Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

Angela Frost entered the meeting.

**4. STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW**

Mr. Peifer discussed RWA's mission and vision. He stated the mission is to serve, represent and align the interests of the regional water providers and stakeholders for the purpose of improving water supply reliability, availability, quality, and affordability. RWA is recognized as a leader for its integrated and collaborative approach in assisting its members in effective management of the region's water resources, in support of a sustainable environment, healthy communities, a vibrant economy, and water supply reliability and resilience under future climate conditions.

Mr. Peifer presented a matrix displaying objectives and sub-objectives of the RWA Strategic Plan. The matrix reflects the progress the RWA has made on the

strategic plan and the proposed RWA strategic plan priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

M/S/C Ms. Espindola moved, with a second by Mr. Harris, to approve the Approve Strategic Plan Priorities for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Audie Foster, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, 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, Alan Gardner, Del Paso Manor Water District, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District, Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dave Jones, Suburban Water District and Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

## **5. FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2023 BUDGET**

Ms. Reina-Luken gave a presentation providing an overview of the budget development process that included the status of fiscal year 2022- 2023 (FY23) budget, budget policies, budget assumptions and the outlook for FY24 and beyond. Ms. Reina-Luken reported RWA can anticipate a consistent increase in dues at 4.5% annually over the next two years to meet increased expenses and maintain compliance with all budget policies. The FY23 budget supports the RWA Strategic Plan Objectives.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to approve Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget. Audie Foster, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Angela Frost, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Alan Gardner, Del Paso Manor Water District, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District, Sophia Scherman, Elk Grove Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Robert Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dave Jones, Suburban Water District and Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company abstained. The motion carried.

## **6. DROUGHT RESOLUTION**

Mr. Peifer said that Resolution 2022-02 is to renew the call for RWA member agencies to call on their customers to conserve 15 percent. The resolution directs staff to continue to provide resources to address the impacts of the continuing drought, and to call on water providers to shift sources, as needed, to improve groundwater storage.

M/S/C Mr. Schubert moved, with a second by Ms. Lee, to approve resolution Number 2022-02. Audie Foster, California American Water, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Angela Frost, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Alan Gardner, Del Paso Manor Water District, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District, Sophia Scherman, 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, Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dave Jones, Suburban Water District and Dan Rich, San Juan Water District voted yes. The motion carried.

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

Policy committee hearings in the first house have concluded. RWA currently has a position on 27 live bills. RWA has a support or support if amended on 21 of those 27 bills. There are six bills that RWA has an oppose or oppose unless amended position on. AB 1931 has an oppose position, AB 2201, AB 2639, AB 2895, SB 1124, and SB 1157 have an oppose unless amended position.

Mr. Ojakian reported that the state budget process continues to develop with the current projections estimated at \$68 billion surplus. RWA was active on the assembly in getting a budget request in for a direct appropriation for 16.7 million dollars. This amount would be a direct appropriation that would help advance the water bank. Mr. Ojakian stated RWA will continue to remain engaged with the assembly on how to advance that request.

## **8. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (SCGA) - 3X3 COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Ms. Schmitz reported the Ad Hoc Committee is tasked with evaluating the idea of consolidating SGA and SCGA. The Committee is working with a vision statement, which is about sustainable groundwater management being cost effective, collaborative and governing with representation from water districts as well as stakeholders in the North American and South American subbasins. The Committee is looking at governance options and will be collaborating with the SGA and SCGA.

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

Mr. Peifer, Ms. Talbot, and Mr. Ojakian attended the spring ACWA conference. Ms. Talbot met with DeeDee D'Adamo from the SWRCB. Ms. Banonis attended the Metro Chamber's annual Cap to Cap program in Washington DC. Staff prepared brochures to convince other Stakeholders in the state the need for investments in resilient water facilities and groundwater storage.

Mr. Peifer reported that staff has been looking into holding hybrid meetings. RWA received a quote from their IT Consultant, Group One, for \$4,000. Staff will be researching other agencies that have a hybrid set up.

## **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, thanked RWA staff for a great agenda packet, which included comprehensive reports that were full of information yet concise.

Mr. Bigley, City of Roseville, gave a brief update on initial success in Washington, DC. The Water Resources Development Act is under development. Great news was received from Senator Padilla's Office that he was successfully able to place a \$21 million authorization in the Act for a Roseville and PCWA joint conveyance project.

Mr. Dugan, Placer County Water Agency, reported he has been collaborating with Senator Padilla's Office and is impressed with the Senator's staff for showing the same level of professionalism, research, and sophistication that was seen from Senator Feinstein. He said Senator Padilla seems to be hearing our message for our region as it relates to us, hydrologically up from the Delta, specifically up the American River.

Mr. Kennedy, Sacramento County Water, informed the staff that Sacramento Area Council of Governments recently held a great hybrid meeting and suggested the RWA staff reach out to look at their model.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Firenzi adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

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Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer