

Chair Sanger called the meeting of the RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee to order at 11:05 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
Tony Firenzi, Vice Chair, Placer County Water Agency
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
Noelle Mattock, City of Roseville
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Brian Sanders, City of Sacramento
Greg Budesen, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City
Jeni Buckman, legal counsel

Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Evan Jacobs, California-American Water, Robert Dugan Placer County Water Agency and Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

Others in Attendance:

Ryan Ojakian, Eric Sapirstein, Kristi More, Michelle Banonis, Mark Smith, Lane Dickson, William Roberts, Paul Helliker, Ken Payne, 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. There was no public comment.

3. Approval of previous meeting minutes

The minutes from the May 18, 2022 RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee Meeting for approval.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Firenzi moved, with a second by Mr. Sanders, to approve the May 18, 2022 RWA Federal Affairs Standing Committee meeting minutes. Anne Sanger, City of Sacramento, Tony Firenzi, Vice Chair, Placer County Water Agency, Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District, Noelle Mattock, City of Roseville, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brian Sanders, City of Sacramento and Greg Bundesen,

Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. Grace Espindola City of Yuba City arrived after the vote was taken. The motion carried.

4. Disclosures and Regional Coordination

Mr. Peifer mentioned the US Senate Hearing on Energy Natural Resources. He will circulate a Sacramento Bee editorial article on water transfers written by Dale Kasler. He will provide a link to editorials on water conservation and climate change. He plans to do an assessment of how the Federal Affairs Committee is doing and how the RWA can be most helpful to member agencies.

Mr. Bundesen noted that we need to understand how the drought is being portrayed across the country and how that can help us as we pursue funding requests at both the state and federal levels. The Sacramento Bee ran a water transfer story recently.

5. Federal Legislative Review – Potential action may be taken

a) Federal FY23 Budget Timeline

Mr. Sapirstein said that at this time there is not a budget resolution. He suggested that the House and Senate will have an informal conference to come up with a final agreed upon bill. There is a concept of a water bill with both the House and the Senate focused on clean water issues.

Mr. Dickson said that the purpose of the drought hearing was to gain momentum and support for Western water issues, to raise the profile of the drought across the country and not miss any opportunities for assistance. It was suggested that the Western drought issue be treated as any other disaster. There was discussion on the long-term and short-term drought impacts and relief opportunities.

Mr. Sapirstein suggested that anyone attending the ACWA DC conference be prepared to explain that our projects are ready to go, the funding needed for those projects and stress groundwater banking as a response to the drought.

b) WRDA 2022

There was not an update

c) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

There nothing new to report.

d) Buy American Implementation Update

Mr. Sapirstein said that EPA issued a formal State Revolving Loan Fund program waiver that states if you have projects in final design and

specifications that have been submitted to the state prior to May 14th, you will be exempt by America mandates. How to obtain waivers was not addressed. There has been discussion on an adjustment period on America mandates where the department said they will allow a 180-day delay from the May 14th effective date for compliance.

e) Section 219 Work Group Update

Ms. More said that there are multiple requests with both the House and Senate to fund projects. The Water Reliability Study and Projects is being tabled for future fiscal years to look at an alternative option for water reliability. Funding was not available to request for FY 2023.

There was discussion on Section 219 funding and what may be available.

6. Water Bank & MOA update

Ms. Banonis reported on the Memorandum of Agreement and how Reclamation is viewing their funding opportunities. Reclamation is deciding whether a feasibility study is required with the WIN Act funding.

7. Action Items

There is additional work to do in DC in terms of expressing our talking points.

There will be follow up with Denver Technical staff for a future tour of our watershed and/or infrastructure.

8. Public Comment

None.

11. Next Meeting July 20, 2022.

12. Adjournment

Chair Sanger adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:
