

**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**

Audie Foster, California American Water  
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District  
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville  
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento  
William Roberts, City of West Sacramento  
Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City  
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency  
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District

**Staff Members**

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

**Others in Attendance**

Paul Helliker, Brian Sanders, Charles Poole, Jay Boatwright, Mark Emmerson, Charles Duncan and Cathy Lee

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

*\*Grace Espindola and Ron Greenwood entered meeting*

**3. CLOSED SESSION**

CLOSED SESSION – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
Government Code §§ 54954.5(e), 54957(b)(1) Title: Executive Director  
Nothing to report currently.

**4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

Executive Committee is compiling data. No update at this time.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- 3a. Authorize a Teleconference Meeting
- 3b. Minutes of the May 25, 2022, Executive Committee meeting

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Ms. Espindola to approve the consent calendar items; Authorize a Teleconference meeting and minutes of the May 25, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tony Firenzi, Placer County

Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. Motion passed.

## 6. RWA OPERATIONS POLICY UPDATES

Ms. Reina-Luken discussed the following policies: RWA Policy 300.1 – Executive Director Authority, RWA Policy 300.2 – Professional Services Policy, RWA Policy 300.3 – Surplus Property Disposal and Draft RWA Policy 500.19 – Water Efficiency Reserve Policy. There are no policy changes to be made.

M/S/C Mr. Foster moved, with a second by Mr. Ewart to recommend approval of No Changes to RWA Policies 300.1, 300.2, 300.3 and draft RWA Policy 500.19 - Water Efficiency Reserve Policy to the RWA Board of Directors. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. Motion passed.

## 7. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian provided an update on SB 222, SB 1157, AB 2895, and AB 2201 and requests the committee to reaffirm or change positions on the following bills:

**SB 222** (Dodd D-Napa) Would establish a state-run water rate assistance program upon funding. RWA's current position is Support. The bill is on the Assembly floor and was not taken up at the end of last session. There are amendments that would significantly alter the bill. The bill will not be taken up until August and it is not known at this time if these amendments would trigger the bill being pulled back to committee. This Bill has drafting errors and there will be further development on it.

**SB 1157** (Hertzberg D-Van Nuys) Would lower the indoor water use efficiency standards, require additional state studies on impacts of the standard on affordability and create a new variance process. RWA currently has an Oppose Unless Amended. Mr. Ojakian reported our efforts were instrumental in having this bill amended.

**AB 2895** (Arambula D- Fresno) Would revise the existing temporary water transfer process. RWA currently has an Oppose Unless Amended position. With the exception of changing the required engagement with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the bill now returns the process to current process and creates a second process that is not likely to be regularly utilized. Staff is changing status to Neutral on the position of this bill.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Ewart to take positions on Legislation of all Bills SB 222, SB 1157, and AB 2895, as recommended by staff. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. Motion passed.

**AB 2201** (Bennett D- Ventura) Would add new requirements to the well permitting process. RWA's current position is oppose unless amended. The bill has been amended to track with the approach taken in Sacramento County on individual well analysis on surrounding domestic wells and on subsidence. We had significant amendments on this Bill. The amendments shift responsibility to the Well Applicants and not the GSA. We want to change

this bill to support position as this bill now aligns with what our interests are. It is important for us to come out in support on this bill.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Ewart. to take positions on Legislation on all bills with the exception of AB 2201 as recommended by staff. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. Motion passed.

M/S/C Mr. Greenwood moved, with a second by Mr. Ewart to take a support position on AB2201 as recommended by staff. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency voted no. Motion passed.

Mr. Ojakian reported the Legislature passed a budget that includes \$21 billion for climate resilience. This included drought, wildfire, and other climate issues. However, the details on over \$16 billion have yet to be filled in and the expectation is that this will occur at some time in August. This will have an impact on member budget requests.

## **8. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Mr. Peifer gave an update on RWA Policy 400.4 Ad Hoc Committee (Executive Director Performance Evaluation Procedure), RWA Policy 200.3 Ad Hoc Committee (Election Procedures), Employee Compensation Survey Oversight Ad Hoc Committee, Space Planning Ad Hoc Committee, Purchasing Ad Hoc Committee, Awards Committee, Federal Affairs Committee, and the Water Quality Committee. Mr. Peifer is looking for a sponsor for the next Water Quality Meeting. If anyone is interested, please reach out to him.

## **9. RWA JULY 7, 2022 BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

M/S/C Ms. Espindola moved, with a second by Mr. Foster to approve the RWA July 7, 2022, Board Meeting Agenda with changes to move item 6a (Consent Calendar, Authorize a Teleconference Meeting) to Item 3. Audie Foster, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District voted yes. Motion passed.

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

Mr. Peifer gave an update on the progress of the water bank. He stated it is one of RWA's high priorities as the board affirmed the strategic planning process, which was brought up in May. Mr. Peifer attended a breakfast with other executive directors in the region that have regional organizations and he talked about a piece of advocacy that could be helpful to all of us. He stated that understanding what the region needs to do to adapt to climate change will be very impactful in many ways. He wants to get the message across that we are worthy of both state investment and federal investment, and he said we can be a good example for other regions in the country.

Mr. Peifer will be out of the office from July 11- July 27. He will be attending the ACWA

conference that will kick off in Washington, DC the week of July 11<sup>th</sup>. He will be attending the National Water Resource Association in Montana as part of his duty as being the Chair of the Federal Affairs Committee. Delta Counties Water Summit is occurring Friday June 24<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged others to attend. Sacramento County was really interested in getting the word out for this Summit and they are interested in having people understand what the Delta counties perspectives are on water management activities, including the management of the delta.

He informed the Executive Committee that the Staff is making progress on finalizing the procedures to hold Hybrid Meetings in the office. Cameras need to be purchased and the conference room needs to be set up to have video capability. Hybrid meetings likely will not be available until the end of July.

## **11. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Ron Greenwood reported he is pleased with the updates on the water bank.

William Roberts reported that the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the emergency regulation 2022-0018 on May 24, 2022. This regulation directs all water agencies to enact Stage II of their water shortage contingency plans starting June 10, 2022. As required by this regulation, and as authorized by the City of West Sacramento Urban Water Management Plan, the city declared stage two water shortage while asking for up to 20% mandatory reduction of water use in the City. He is advocating to educate the public.

Grace Espindola asked the board to share any reports or data on the Fall water forecast. She said the citizens of Yuba City have been notified that they are in Stage 3 water restrictions. The city will be handing out fines and citations to those who are not using their water efficiently. She shared the AG Life Yuba/Sutter paper which included an insert titled, 'Help for Farmers' and it reports on farmers and the impact of the water.

Tony Firenzi discussed Forest Health. Several reports came out from the Joint Institute for Wood Utilization and the California Board of Forestry. These reports looked at what do we do about forest fires. There are five regions that they are doing planning projects in. PCWA is now part of their planning project.. Part of PCWA efforts will be to reach out to cities and counties and member water agencies that occupy the space in the foothills. This is a 2-year study. PCWA will be doing their annual fire and water publication. They hope to involve Cal Fire, PG&E, and some others in that publication.

Dan York reported the benefits of promoting collaboration with each organization. Sacramento Suburban and the City of Roseville operations staff got together and discussed their preventative maintenance programs. The feedback from the staff was tremendous. He encouraged all agencies to reach out to others to discuss any topics such as preventative maintenance and meter testing. Both agencies came away with a great benefit.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair York adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

By:

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Chairperson

Attest:

