



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**RWA Board Meeting
Final Minutes
July 7, 2022**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair York called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:02 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, Rebecca Scott, Citrus Heights Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Chuck Poole, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Bill Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Diana Langley, City of Yuba City, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City
Alan Gardner, Del Paso Manor Water District, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District, Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District
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, Kevin Thomas, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

RWA Associate Members

Ansel Lundberg, SMUD, José Ramirez, SRCSD

RWA Affiliate Members

John Woodling and Chris Petersen, GEI Consultants Vanessa Nishikawa, Stantec

Staff Members

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

Others in Attendance:

Veronica Blette, Anne Sanger, Brian Sanders, Chris Hunley, Jay Boatright, Jeff Nelson, Pauline Roccucci, Mark Emmerson, Paul Helliker, Pauline Espinoza and Trevor Kent

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**Bruce Houdesheldt entered meeting*

3. AUTHORIZE A TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Zlotnick moved, with a second by Greenwood, to authorize a Teleconference Meeting.

Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Ted Pool, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Alan Gardner, Del Paso Manor Water District, Jim Abercrombie, El Dorado Irrigation District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban, Greg Zlotnick (19) voted yes. The motion carried.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4a. Environmental Protection Agency Award to RWA Water Efficiency Program

Veronica Blette, Chief, WaterSense Branch, USEPA, presented the RWA's Water Efficiency Program (WEP) with its Partner of the Year Award. This is the second WaterSense Award for WEP, which in 2016 earned a WaterSense® Excellence in Education and Outreach Award for its outstanding efforts to educate Sacramento-area residents about water efficiency and the WaterSense brand. WaterSense is a voluntary partnership program sponsored by EPA that provides labels for water-efficient products and homes, as well as resources for helping consumers learn ways to save water. Ms. Blette reported that they have over 2100 partnerships across the country and 300 in California saving consumers and businesses 6.4 trillion gallons of water since 2006. In addition to water savings, WaterSense has helped reduce the amount of energy needed to heat, pump, and treat water by 603 billion kilowatt hours and save \$108 billion in water and energy bills.

Amy Talbot gave an update on the 2020 Water Efficiency Program (WEP). The program promoted WaterSense's monthly themes for Fix a Leak Week, water-smart landscaping, Sprinkler Spruce-Up, and saving water at home. Additionally, the WEP found several creative ways to engage residents during the pandemic. Through the Water Spots Video contest, local middle school and high school students created public service announcements (PSAs) centered around a "Be a leak detective" theme. To reach a younger audience, RWA funded several exhibits, which include examples of WaterSense labeled products, in the newly opened Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC). Finally, the WEP partnered with WaterSense manufacturer partner Rachio in 2020 to offer an instant rebate for Rachio's WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers.

4b. RWA Board of Directors Orientation

Mr. Peifer made a brief presentation to RWA Board members, which included the role of the Executive Committee and the Chair as well as expectations for the Board members.

**Grace Espindola arrived at meeting*

5. CLOSED SESSION

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Government Code §§ 54954.5(e), 54957(b)(1) Title: Executive Director
Nothing to report currently.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 6a. Approve the minutes of May 12, 2022 Board Meeting
- 6b. Approve draft RWA Policy 500.19 – Water Efficiency Reserve Policy
(6b. **REMOVED FROM MEETING**)
- 6c. Approve No Changes to RWA Operations Policies 300.1, 300.2, and 300.3

M/S/C Mr. Houdesheldt moved, with a second by Mr. Dugan, to approve the Consent Calendar Items; minutes of May 12, 2022 and no changes to RWA Operations Policies 300.1, 300.2, and 300.3

Evan Jacobs, California American Water, Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District, Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Ted Pool, City of Lincoln, Bruce Houdesheldt, City of Roseville, William Roberts, City of West Sacramento, Grace Espindola, City of Yuba City, Alan Gardner, Del Paso Manor Water District, Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District, Robert Hunter, Orange Vale Water Company, Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency, Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency, Dan York, Sacramento Suburban, Greg Zlotnick (17) voted yes. The motion carried.

7. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE

Mr. Ojakian reported on the following bills and informed the Board that Legislature is on “summer recess” for the month of July.

SB 222 (Dodd D-Napa) would establish a state-run water rate assistance program upon funding. RWA’s current position is support.

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.

SB 1205 (Allen D- Santa Monica) would require the Water Board to include climate change when issuing new water rights. RWA’s current position is support if amended

AB 1931 (Luz Rivas D- Arleta) would require the replacement of all lead service lines as defined or an alternate compliance method. RWA currently has an oppose position on the bill.

AB 2201 (Bennett D- Ventura) would add new requirements to the well permitting process. RWA currently has a support position on the bill. It is expected the bill will be amended significantly in Senate appropriations.

AB 2639 (Quirk D- Fremont) would have prohibited the issuance of a new water right for surface water storage until the Water Board adopted a new Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan. RWA had an Oppose Unless Amended Position on the bill. The bill died on the Assembly floor.

AB 2895 (Arambula D- Fresno) would maintain the existing water transfer process as is and establish a second voluntary water transfer process. RWA currently has a neutral position on the bill.

In late June the Legislature approved an updated budget and several trailer bills. The budget contains \$21 billion for resources including drought and wildfire among other issues. There is approximately \$13 billion that is still to be specified. The action to designate those funds is expected to happen in early to mid-August. Some member requests have been funded. There is an expectation that additional member requests may occur in August. RWA's \$16.7 million request has yet to be acted on.

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

Mr. Peifer reported that at the 3x3 July 5, 2022 meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee concluded its activities with this statement for its boards:

“Considering all of the input from the SGA and SCGA Boards, the 3x3 Ad Hoc Committee was unable to develop consensus around a governance proposal that would broadly satisfy the interests of all SGA and SCGA members and be likely to gain support from the JPA signatories.”

Mr. Firenzi had noted that he participated on the 3x3 committee and provided his own personal perspective that the merger of the two organizations was a missed opportunity, and he was disappointed. Ms. Schmitz noted that she served on the 3x3 committee and said she too was disappointed in the outcome. Mr. York thanked the participants on the committee for their diligent work throughout the process and expressed his opinion on whether this was a missed opportunity. He said maybe we didn't go far enough and if this evolves in the future, maybe there is a different approach on how we conduct the analysis.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Peifer gave a brief update on the Water Bank and reported that a kickoff meeting was held with the Bureau of Reclamation on June 21st for the Water Management Options Pilot Study (WMOPS). This study will help develop and analyze operations related to storing Central Valley Project water in the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.

Mr. Peifer reported staff is working on upgrades to allow for hybrid meetings in the RWA conference room. Mr. Peifer said the RWA will be transitioning to Zoom for teleconference meetings in the meantime.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Greenwood reported that Carmichael Water District gets 70% to 80% of their water supply from the American River. They have rights on the river that they hoped would stay with them but he received a call back this morning notifying CWD that they have to curtail any water use off the American River which is effective immediately. He stated that this is an example of how far and deep this drought is going.

Ms. Roccucci is looking forward to meeting in person for September's meeting.

Mr. Ewart reported that the city's water transfer, along with some of the other participants in the region, was approved by the waterboard. He complimented the RWA staff and said that this would not have been possible without the support services through a contract with RWA. He said Rob Swartz has been vital in making this a successful program for all the participants.

Ms. Espindola reported that last week she took four different trade unions on a tour to the site's reservoir. The city received a \$750,000 a grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation to help build a second ground water in Yuba City and it will go towards other water projects in our city. Ms. Espindola said she is looking forward to going to Washington next week and seeing members in person.

Alan Gardner said as he listened to the restriction from the American River, it is unfortunate the pipe between Carmichael Water District and Del Paso Manor Water District was never built because they might have been able to help Carmichael out.

Mr. Jones reported as one of the newest board members to RWA, he appreciates being a part of the RWA Board and thanked Mr. Peifer for everything he and his staff have done to introduce them into the RWA process and ideas. He is excited to be part of this organization. Nevada Irrigation District is embarking upon a multi-month planning for water process. It is their long-term future projection on supply versus demand needs in the sphere of influence within the Nevada Irrigation District. They are looking at the long-term trajectory of 50 plus years of future source climate change, land use, planning, development, opportunities, and how it is going to affect their future supply, and what the demands may be. It is going to take another 18 months to complete.

Mr. Dugan reported PCWA is currently partnering with the South Sutter and EID in efforts related to fish upstream, which affects everything downstream. He said he shares the frustration about an opportunity lost today regarding the SGA – SCGA governance proposal, but he does not want that to get in the way of what is possible in the future.

Mr. Zlotnick said he echoed Mr. Ewart's comments regarding the invaluable contribution that Rob Swartz has made to the transfer this year and they are pleased they were able to contract with RWA to do that. He said he wanted Mr. Greenwood to know San Juan Water District has been in contact early this morning with Reclamation to try to get the approval to move Carmichael Water District the 12-acre feet of water per day that they would allow in the past. They are working on it as they did not expect this to happen, considering the health of Folsom Reservoir. They are trying to get that approval as quickly as they can so Carmichael Water District can start diverting as they did before.

Dan York said he echoed the comments on the water transfer and agreed with Mr. Ewart and Mr. Zlotnick's high recognition of the invaluable efforts that the RWA staff, Ms. Banonis and Mr. Swartz have put in to make this project succeed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair York adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary / Treasurer