

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Ewart called the regular meeting of the Executive Committee to order on July 25, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the RWA Board Room located at 2295 Gateway Oaks, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833. Six of the Executive Committee Members were present at roll call; a quorum was established. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Executive Committee Members

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
William Roberts, City of West Sacramento
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Michelle Banonis, Ryan Ojakian, Trevor Joseph, Monica Garcia, Ashley Flores, and Andrew Ramos, legal counsel.

Others in Attendance:

None

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Director Bigley entered the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approve draft meeting minutes of the June 30, 2023 Executive Committee Special Meeting.

3.2 Recommend approval by the RWA Board of Directors for the Executive Director to execute Change Order #4 in the amount of \$521,900 with Stantec Consulting Services Inc for additional technical and planning support for continued development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.

3.3 Recommend approval by the RWA Board of Directors for the Executive Director to execute Task Order #2 in the amount of \$150,000 with Khadam Consulting Inc for additional technical support for continued development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.

A motion was made to approve the consent calendar as presented.

Motion/Second/Carried Director Kamilos moved, with a second by Director Saunders

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; William Roberts, City of West Sacramento Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; and Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; voted yes. The motion passed.

Ayes- 6
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 3

Director Bigley entered the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF AMERICAN RIVER TERMS FOR ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE NEEDS (ARTESIAN)

Executive Director Peifer and Michelle Banonis, Manager of Strategic Affairs presented this action item for the Executive Committee provided an overview of the current version of the agreement. Staff asked the Executive Committee to approve the form and content of the ARTESIAN agreement and commit to moving this agreement through RWA member agency boards who will be receiving funding through the State Funding Agreement.

A motion was made to approve the form and content of the ARTESIAN agreement and commit to moving this agreement through RWA member agency boards who will be receiving funding through the State Funding Agreement.

Motion/Second/Carried Director Greenwood moved, with a second by Director Roberts

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; William Roberts, City of West Sacramento; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; and Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; voted yes. The motion passed.

Ayes- 7
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 2

5. LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

Mr. Ryan Ojakian presented an action item for the Executive Committee to review and discuss various State legislation and approve positions on legislative bills. Mr. Ojakian provided an oral report on legislation and recommended Executive Committee action on bills related to water rights administration, bond measures, groundwater management, and water use efficiency.

AB 676 (Bennett D- Ventura) Would define what is considered domestic use within existing law characterizing the highest uses of water.

The bill had previously addressed several other issues and RWA currently has an oppose unless amended position on the bill.

Recommendation: Neutral

AB 755 (Papan D- San Mateo) Would, as proposed to be amended require an agency when conducting a water usage demand analysis, as defined, to identify the marginal cost incurred by an agency from major water users, defined as the top 10 percent of users. The water usage demand analysis should be conducted as part of a cost of service analysis.

RWA currently has an oppose position on the bill.

Recommendation: Neutral

AB 779 (Wilson D- Susin City) Would require a court in an adjudication proceeding to be consistent with SGMA. Judgment must consider water use of "small farmers" and DACs and also not "substantially impair" SGMA management. GSA would be required to call a public meeting to explain the adjudication and invite DWR to that meeting. RWA currently has an oppose position on the bill.

The bill has significantly changed to consider the role of a GSA, and largely maintains a GSA's authority.

Recommendation: Neutral

SB 389 (Allen D- Santa Monica) Would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to investigate the diversion and use of water from a stream system to determine whether the diversion and use are based upon appropriation, riparian right, or other basis of right.

RWA currently has an oppose unless amended position.

Recommendation: Neutral

A motion was made to approve the recommended positions of neutral on the legislative bills.

Motion/Second/Carried Director Roberts moved, with a second by Director Greenwood

Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; William Roberts, City of West Sacramento; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; and Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; voted yes. The motion passed.

Ayes- 7

Noes- 0

Abstained- 0

Absent- 2

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Peifer reported at the last Water Quality Committee the topic of recruitment and retention of water operators was brought up. This Friday, select staff is meeting with the Department of Water Resources to participate in a video on water banking. The Department of Water Resources and Department of Reclamation have formed two groups recently, a technical (Trevor) and policy (Jim) group, to study streamflow depletion factors. SGA 25th Anniversary Event is on September 21, please join us. The leadership development program is scheduled to launch with an formal invitation to go out this Fall.

Executive Director Peifer asked the Committee if they have any interest in adding an additional benefit of a Flexible Savings Account (FSA). The Committee was in full support of staff researching the cost and process of adding that to the RWA benefit package.

Executive Director Peifer also thanked Josette Reina-Luken and Ashley Flores for their efforts packing, moving the old office and in standing up the new office.

7. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Roberts reported that he is also looking for a champion for recruiting water operators. He thanked Josette and staff for their work on setting up the new office. He also offered temporary help with staffing.

Director Saunders reported that he just had his ACWA interview and part of his interview talking points was about recruitment and retention of water operators and other technical positions. He also reported that GDPUD has retained Frank A. Splendorio of Best, Best & Kreiger as general counsel. The erosion control project has been completed by staff. 1.5 million dollars of appropriation has gone through the house and GDPUD is looking forward to receiving the funding. Director Saunders is looking forward to working with Amy Talbot on an upcoming speaking engagement.

Director Greenwood reported that the storage tank project is almost complete at Carmichael Water District. Conversations are still happening regarding the Sacramento Suburban Water District and Carmichael Water District merge. He also thanked Trevor for this Water Bank presentation he provided.

Director Kamilos reported that Elk Grove Water District has retained Andrew Ramos of Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan. EGWD is working on meter increases payments and budget corrections.

Director Ewart reported that he apprised the Water Forum of the executed DWR agreement. He is also currently working on Development Impact Fees for the River Arch project. All but two of the South wells for Sacramento Suburban are off and resting allowing for recharge.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chair Ewart adjourned the special meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Approved by:



Anthony Firenzi, Chair

Attested by:



Ashley Flores, Secretary