



Brett Ewart, Chair

William Roberts, Vice Chair Sean Bigley, Director
Audie Foster, Director Ron Greenwood, Director
Bruce Kamilos, Director Chris Petersen, Director
Gwynne Pratt, Director Michael Saunders, Director

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024
at 1:30 p.m.**

**2295 Gateway Oaks, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 967-7692**

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING VIRTUAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Regional Water Authority currently provides in person as well as virtual public participation via the Zoom link below until further notice. The public shall have the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item of interest before or during the Committee's consideration of that item. Public comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Committee is welcomed, subject to reasonable time limitations for each speaker.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88933048300>

Meeting ID: 889 3304 8300

Dial by your location

• +1 669 444 9171 US

• +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection in the customer service area of the Authority's Administrative Office at the address listed above.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Executive Director of the Authority at (916) 967-7692. Requests must be

made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. The Board of Directors may consider any agenda item at any time during the meeting.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public who wish to address the committee may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR: All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered and acted upon by one motion. Committee members may request an item be removed for separate consideration.

3.1 Approve draft meeting minutes of the December 19, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting.

Recommended Action: Approve Consent Calendar

4. AUDIT REPORT RESOLUTION

Presenter: Tom Hoffart, Finance and Administrative Services Manager

Action: Receive Memorandum and Recommend Revisions to Policy 500.8 (Purchasing Card Policy) and Policy 500.13 (Business Expense Reimbursement Policy) to the Board of Directors

5. RWA STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Recommend Approval of the RWA Strategic Plan Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 to the Board of Directors

6. FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Presenter: Tom Hoffart, Finance and Administrative Services Manager

Action: Provide direction on key issues for the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget

7. REVISIONS TO POLICY 400.1 (PERSONNEL RULES) AND POLICY 400.2 (COMPENSATION POLICY)

Discussion: Brett Ewart, Chair

8. POLICY 500.16 (ALLOCATING LAIBILITIES TO WITHDRAWING MEMBERS)

Discussion: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Provide Direction to Staff

9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Take Positions on State Legislation

Action: Take Positions on Federal Legislation

10. WATERSHED RESILIENCE PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

Presenter: Trevor Joseph

11. AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Presenter: Brett Ewart, Chair

12. RWA BOARD AGENDA

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Approve RWA Board Agenda for March 14, 2024 Board Meeting

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

14. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meetings:

Next RWA Board of Director's Meeting:

RWA Board Meeting, March 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Sacramento Suburban Water District Antelope Facility, 7800 Antelope Road North, Antelope, 95843

Next RWA Executive Committee Meeting:

RWA Executive Committee Meeting, March 26, 2024, 1:30 p.m. at the RWA/SGA Office, 2295 Gateway Oaks, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833.

Notification will be emailed when the RWA electronic packet is complete and posted on the RWA website at: <https://www.rwah2o.org/meetings/board-meetings/>.

Posted on: February 16, 2024

James Peifer, Executive Director



Topic: Public Comment
Type: New Business
Item For: Information/Discussion
Purpose: [Policy 200.1, Rule 11](#)

SUBMITTED BY:	Ashley Flores, CMC Secretary	PRESENTER:	Jim Peifer Executive Director
---------------	---------------------------------	------------	----------------------------------

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an information item to provide an opportunity for the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee to recognize or hear from visitors that may be attending the meeting or to allow members of the public to address the Executive Committee on matters that are not on the agenda.

As noted on the agenda, members of the public who wish to address the committee may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

Public agencies are required by law to provide an opportunity for the public to address the RWA Executive Committee matters that are not on the agenda.



Topic: Meeting Minutes
Type: Consent Calendar
Item For: Action; Motion to Approve
Purpose: [Policy 200.1, Rule 14](#)

SUBMITTED BY:	Ashley Flores, CMC Secretary	PRESENTER:	Jim Peifer Executive Director
---------------	---------------------------------	------------	----------------------------------

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item for the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee to review and consider approving the draft minutes of the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee Meeting of December 19, 2023.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

A motion to approve the Minutes, as presented or amended.

BACKGROUND

The draft minutes of the above referenced meetings are included with this Agenda. The minutes reflect the RWA Policy 200.1 to document specific details on items discussed at the meetings.

The Executive Director may list on the agenda a "consent calendar", which will consist of routine matters on which there is generally no opposition or need for discussion. Examples of consent calendar items might include approval of minutes, financial reports, and routine resolutions. Any matter may be removed from the consent calendar and placed on the regular calendar at the request of any member of the Board. The entire consent calendar may be approved by a single motion made, seconded and approved by the Board.

FINDING/CONCLUSION

Staff believes the draft of the presented minutes correctly reflect the information shared and actions taken by the Executive Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Draft meeting minutes of the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee Meeting of December 19, 2023



1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Firenzi called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order on December 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the RWA Board Room located at 2295 Gateway Oaks, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833. Nine of the Executive Committee Members were present at roll call; a quorum was established. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Executive Committee Members

- Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
- Audie Foster, California American Water
- Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
- Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
- Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
- Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
- William Roberts, City of West Sacramento
- Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
- Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Josette Reina-Luken, Raiyna Villasenor, Tom Hoffart, and Andrew Ramos, legal counsel.

Others in Attendance:

Gavin Ralphs (BKS Law), Greg Zlotnick and Paul Helliker

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1 Appoint Josette Reina-Luken as acting Board Secretary
- 3.2 Approve draft meeting minutes of the October 30, 2023 Executive Committee Special Meeting.
- 3.3 Authorize the Executive Director to execute a change order in the amount of \$10,000 to Richardson & Co., LLP.

A motion was made to approve the consent calendar.

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

Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency; Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Willam Roberts, City of West Sacramento; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; voted yes. The motion passed.

Ayes- 9
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 0

4. FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 AUDIT REPORT

Ms. Ingrid Shepline from Richardson and Company presented the Annual Audit to the Executive Committee.

A motion was made to recommend acceptance of the Audit to the Board of Directors.

Motion/Second/Carried Director Ewart moved, with a second by Director Foster

Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency; Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Willam Roberts, City of West Sacramento; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; voted yes. The motion passed.

Ayes- 9
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 0

5. ARTESIAN SUPPORT AGREEMENT

Ms. Michelle Banonis presented this action item for the Executive Committee recommend approval of the ARTESIAN Support Agreement to the Board of Directors.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Directors that the Executive Director is authorized enter into an agreement with West Yost for grant administration services.

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

Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency; Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Willam Roberts, City of West Sacramento; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus

Heights Water District, Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; voted yes. The motion passed.

Ayes- 9
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 0

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Ryan Ojakian briefed the Executive Committee.

7. RWA BOARD AGENDA

Executive Director Peifer presented the proposed agenda to the Executive Committee.

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

Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency; Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Willam Roberts, City of West Sacramento; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; voted yes. The motion passed.

Ayes- 9
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 0

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Peifer introduced Mr. Tom Hoffart to the Executive Committee, reported on the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project Ad Hoc Committee, and a potential partnership with the California Municipal Utilities Association.

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Saunders reported enjoyed the RWA reception at ACWA.

Director Foster thanked and commended Chair Firenzi for his service.

Director Bigley commended Chair Firenzi, and reported on the grand opening of the Solaire Well

Director Ewart discussed the RiverArc EIR kickoff, City increased impact fees, and appreciation for Chair Firenzi.

Director Roberts wished Ms. Reina-Luken well and thanked Chair Firenzi.

Director Greenwood thanked Chair Firenzi for his leadership and wished Ms. Reina-Luken well.

Chair Firenzi thanked the Executive Committee and expressed appreciation for Director Ewart.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Firenzi adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Approved by:

Chair

Attested by:

Tom Hoffart, Acting Secretary



Topic: Audit Report Resolution
Type: New Business
Item For: Action
Purpose: Response to Audit Report – Management Letter

SUBMITTED BY:	Tom Hoffart Finance and Administrative Services Manager	PRESENTER:	Tom Hoffart Finance and Administrative Services Manager
---------------	---	------------	---

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item for the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors to receive the memorandum and consider staffs recommended revisions.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

To receive the memorandum and recommend revisions to Policy 500.8 (Purchasing Card Policy) and Policy 500.13 (Business Expense Reimbursement Policy) to the Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND

Richardson & Company, LLP issued a Management Letter dated December 13, 2023, as part of the fiscal year 2022/2023 audit, which included recommendations to strengthen internal controls and other practices. Staff has provided a memorandum outlining corrective actions for each recommendation, and have proposed revisions of Policy 500.8 (Purchasing Card Policy) and 500.13 (Business Expense Reimbursement Policy) in accordance with the recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Memorandum
- Attachment 2 – Proposed Revisions to Policy 500.8 (Purchasing Card Policy)
- Attachment 3 – Proposed Revisions to Policy 500.13 (Business Expense Reimbursement Policy)

MEMORANDUM

To: RWA Board of Directors
SGA Board of Directors

From: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Date: February 16, 2024

Subject: Proposed practices to address recommendations from Richardson and Company, LLP

Richardson & Company, LLP (Richardson) is the auditor for the Sacramento Groundwater Authority and the Regional Water Authority. As part of the annual audit, Richardson made suggestions to strengthen the internal controls and other practices as part of their management letter dated December 13, 2023. This memorandum restates the recommendations and identifies the practice to address the recommendation.

Richardson Recommendation on improving Internal Controls:

Due to the small number of staff, we understand it is difficult to have ideal segregation of duties. However, we recommend compensating controls be put in place to reduce the risk of misstatement or fraud. The following areas were identified where internal controls can be improved:

1. We noted that the Finance and Administrative Services Manager (FASM) makes the bank deposits and records the transactions in the general ledger. The compensating control in place is that the Executive Assistant (EA) opens the mail and records any checks on a log. The EA then compares the log to the deposit slip prepared by the FASM. For best practices, cash handling and cash recording duties should be separated. Due to the small size of the Authority, separation of duties can be difficult but having someone other than the FASM make the deposit would strengthen the Authority's internal controls, but if this is not possible, then the EA should compare the log to the actual bank deposit, instead of just the deposit slip. The EA could also prepare the deposit slip. From November 2022 to January 2023, the Authority did not have anyone in the EA position, so the checks received were not logged and compared to the bank deposit, creating a situation where the FASM performed all of the functions related to the processing of revenue. The Authority needs to ensure that a back-up plan is in place for the functions performed by the EA while that position is vacant, including reassigning certain tasks to someone else in the organization, or hiring a temporary employee to fill that role, to maintain proper segregation of duties.

Proposed practice: The Executive Assistant will maintain a Check Log of incoming checks, and the Executive Assistant will compare the Check Log to the actual bank deposit and document this process. While the Executive Assistant position is vacant, the Executive Director will open the mail, maintain copies of checks received, compare the checks received to the actual bank deposit and document this process.

2. The FASM inputs invoices into the accounting system, generates checks and also is a signer on the bank account. Although the FASM only signs checks in an emergency situation, it would be better to have someone else be a signer on the account other than the FASM. The compensating control is that

the Executive Director receives the check register on a monthly basis to review, but there are no initials on the register to indicate that this review has been done.

Proposed practice: Staff will continue to have the FASM be a check signer for emergency situations. As a compensating control the Executive Director has been reviewing a packet that includes the check register, but has only been initialing the first page of the packet. Staff will ensure the Executive Director initials the check register on a monthly basis to document this review.

3. To provide compensating controls for the fact that the FASM performs many of the duties of processing receipts and disbursements, the Executive Director receives a packet containing bank statements, bank reconciliations, journal entry list, check register, and income statement to review on a monthly basis. Currently only the bank statements are being initialed to document review of these documents. We recommend that the list of journal entries and check register also be initialed to document the review process.

Proposed practice: As a compensating control the Executive Director has been reviewing a packet that includes the list of journal entries and check register, but has only been initialing the first page of the packet. Staff will ensure the Executive Director initials the journal entry listing and check register on a monthly basis to document this review.

Richardson's recommendations on Expense Reimbursements and Credit Card Usage

The Authority's policies do not require itemized receipts for meals reimbursed or paid by credit card. We noted in our audit a large meal charge where only the charge slip was provided and not the itemized receipt. To follow IRS documentation standards, we recommend itemized receipts be required and that policies be updated to reflect this change. The receipts should contain the business purpose of the expense and for meals, a list of those in attendance. The credit card policy should also be updated to discuss the types of charges on credit cards that are not acceptable.

Proposed practice: Staff will be proposing revisions of the Purchasing Card Policy (RWA Policy 500.8) and the Business Expense Reimbursement Policy (RWA Policy 500.13) for the Board of Directors consideration and approval to reflect prohibited charges, the need for itemized receipts, and the need to document the business purpose and meal attendees.

Richardson's recommendations on Grant Billings

The recording of grant revenue needs to correspond with when the expenditures under the grant are incurred. Currently the grant billings are being done as of May 31 instead of June 30, resulting in the need for accounting entries to accrue additional revenue to the extent of expenditures incurred through June 30. We recommend the Authority consider billing the grants up through June 30 to eliminate or at least reduce the amount of accounting entries that need to be made and then reversed to accrue the revenue.

Proposed practice: Staff will make every effort to bill all grants through June 30 to eliminate or at least reduce the amount of accounting entries needed at year end. Since this has not been done in the past we are unsure of how this will affect staff time. Staff will provide an update to the Board of Directors if the new practice consumes a significant amount of staff time.

Also, the Authority has historically not accrued retentions on grants. Given the history the Authority has of collecting a majority of grant claims submitted, we recommend the Authority consider accruing revenue

for the retention amount, instead of waiting to recognize the revenue until it is received. If the retention is accrued and a different amount is collected, the adjustment can be recorded in the accounting period that the amount was collected.

Proposed practice: Staff will begin to accrue revenue for retention on grants. This will have a limited effect on revenue amounts as new grants from the Department of Water Resources have not withheld retention on each invoice and instead withheld retention amounts on the final grant invoice.

Richardson's recommendations on Payroll Documentation

We recommend that a Personnel Action Form be prepared when cost of living pay increases are given to document current pay rates. In addition, the Authority needs to ensure that all timesheets are reviewed and signed off by the employee's supervisor. One of the timesheets selected for testing was not signed by the supervisor.

Proposed practice: The Executive Director will begin documenting employee salaries on a Personnel Action Form (a copy is attached). Staff will ensure that timesheets are reviewed and signed off by the employee's supervisor.



PERSONNEL ACTION FORM

Employee Name:

Effective Date:

Reason for Action:

Current Status

New Status

Job Position/Classification:

Step:

Monthly Salary (Exempt):

Hourly Pay Rate (Non-Exempt):

Employee Signature:

Date:

Authorizing Signature:

Date:

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Policy Type : Fiscal Management
Policy Title : Purchasing Card Policy
Policy Number : 500.8
Date Adopted : September 11, 2008
Date Amended : January 10, 2013
May 12, 2016
May 12, 2022
March 14, 2024

Purchasing Card Policy

Formatted: Font: 18 pt, Italic

Formatted: Centered

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish the Regional Water Authority's (RWA) requirements for procuring materials and trade services on credit through the use of purchasing cards.

Definitions

Purchasing Card means the merchant purchase authorization card issued and administered by the State Department of General Services under the CAL-Card program. No other type of purchasing card will be authorized for RWA purchases.

Cardholder means the following RWA employees: the Executive Director, the Finance and Administrative Services Manager, the Manager of Technical Services, the Manager of Strategic Affairs, staff within the Principal, Senior, and Associate Project Manager series and the Executive Assistant.

Authorized Purposes

RWA Purchasing Cards are provided solely for the purpose of obtaining authorized Authority goods and services. No other uses of RWA Purchasing Cards are permitted. The RWA's Executive Director (or his or her designee) will have oversight of the Purchasing Card program for the RWA.

A Purchasing Card may not be used for personal transactions. Any employee who uses or authorizes the use of the RWA Purchasing Card for unauthorized purposes will be required to immediately reimburse the RWA for the purchase and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. If the employee cannot repay the unauthorized amount immediately and the RWA is required to use the "VISA Waiver of Liability," the employee will still be required to pay the RWA in full for the purchase.

Authorized Users and Purchasing Limits

The following RWA employees are authorized Purchasing Card holders, and may make purchases within the dollar limits specified:

<u>Authorized User</u>	<u>Purchasing Limits</u>
Executive Director	\$10,000 per transaction; \$10,000 per month
Finance and Administrative Services Manager	\$5,000 per transaction; \$5,000 per month
Manager of Technical Services	\$5,000 per transaction; \$5,000 per month
Manager of Strategic Affairs	\$5,000 per transaction; \$5,000 per month
Principal and Senior Project Managers	\$5,000 per transaction; \$5,000 per month
Associate Project Manager	\$2,500 per transaction; \$2,500 per month
Executive Assistant	\$1,500 per transaction; \$2,500 per month

Purchasing Card holders are required to: (1) follow all current Authority purchasing procedures and policies when placing orders; (2) document the receipt of goods or services; (3) receive monthly statements from U.S. Bank, review invoices on the statement, attach receipts (including itemized receipts for meals), shipping orders and other required documentation; and (4) review the statement of account before forwarding them to the Executive Director each month. If any charges are in dispute, card holder must comply with any RWA or CAL-Card procedures to facilitate processing the dispute.

If a Purchasing Card is lost or stolen, the Purchasing Card holder must report the lost or stolen card to the Executive Director immediately.

Transaction and monthly amounts may be exceeded only with prior written approval of a specific purchase by the Executive Director but may not exceed the Executive Director limits.

Prohibited Purchases

Purchase of alcoholic beverages are prohibited with the exception of those instances where the beverages are included in the registration fee for a conference, training session or similar event.

Purchase of any good or service that is solely for an individual's personal use and the purchase is not in furtherance of a legitimate RWA objective is prohibited.

Formatted: Tab stops: 0.75", Left + Not at -1"

Areas of Responsibilities

The Executive Director has overall responsibility for the Purchasing Card program within the RWA, will ensure that this policy is followed at all times and will provide for training to all Purchasing Card holders as necessary. The Executive Director has the authority to issue cards at his or her discretion.

Reporting

A detailed listing of all transactions made by the Executive Director will be provided to the RWA Chair to review, consider and approve each month for monthly statements above \$500 balance. The Executive Director will review, consider, and approve all staff transactions monthly.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at least every two years.

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Policy Type : Fiscal Management
Policy Title : Business Expense Reimbursement Policy
Policy Number : 500.13
Date Adopted : July 13, 2003
Date Amended : May 17, 2012
May 12, 2022 (reviewed by staff)
March 14, 2024

Business Expense Reimbursement Policy

In determining the eligibility of incurred expenses for reimbursement, the principle applied is that the employee will neither lose nor profit by incurring expenses while on Authority business. An employee who has received direction or authorization by either the Executive Committee or the Executive Director to attend a conference, meeting, seminar, workshop or other event, that is mutually beneficial to the employee and the Authority may incur expenses that will be reimbursed by the Authority. In such cases, the following guidelines will be applied to determine eligibility of the incurred expenses for reimbursement by the Authority:

- 1) Requests for reimbursement will be submitted on the form provided by RWA for each reimbursable event, on a monthly basis, or when determined appropriate by the Executive Director, and will include the information required to make the reimbursement conform to an "Accountable Plan" under IRS regulations, guidelines and per diem rates for an accountable expense reimbursement plan as defined in the IRS's Publication 463 ("Travel, Entertainment, Gift and Car Expenses") and Publication 1542 ("Per Diem Rates (For Travel Within the Continental United States)"). Credit card slips and other cash receipts will be attached whenever possible. Itemized receipts for meals will be submitted. Reports should be received within thirty-five days of the event, or close of each month when filing on a monthly basis.
- 2) Reasonable business expenses for meals, lodging, parking, tolls, phone calls, fax and tips will be reimbursed as stated in this Policy. IRS requires that the business purpose of the function be noted.
- 2)3) Prohibited purchases include: alcoholic beverages, with the exception of those instances where the beverages are included in the registration fee for a conference, training session or similar event; and any good or service that is solely for an

Formatted: List Paragraph, No bullets or numbering

Formatted: Tab stops: 0.25", List tab

individual's personal use and the purchase is not in furtherance of a legitimate RWA objective.

3)4) Reimbursement will be made for the following expenses up to the maximum limit set by the annual budget or RWA policy, provided that reimbursement will not be provided for expenses that exceed the limitations allowed in an Accountable Plan. Such limits may not be exceeded without prior approval:

- a) registration, hotel, airfare and/or mileage, parking and meals for authorized conferences and meetings, as further provided below.
- b) airfare reimbursement will be based upon actual expenditures for coach class fares;
- c) preferred conference or meeting hotel rates should be used when available; and
- d) mileage will be reimbursed at the current IRS rates.

4)5) RWA pays no expenses for a spouse or guests, or for expenses unrelated to approved conference or meeting activities.

5)6) Expense reports will be submitted and reviewed by the Executive Director for approval and consistency with this policy prior to reimbursement.

6)7) The Executive Director will have discretion to determine the meetings and conferences that may be attended within California and adjacent states that are related to RWA activities.

7)8) Other meetings that may be attended for which reimbursement will be provided include the following: (a) conferences, seminars and other meetings of the Association of California Water Agencies, including the ACWA D.C. conference in Washington D.C.; conferences of the American Water Works Association; WaterSmart Innovations annual conference; and conferences of the National Water Resources Association (b) meetings and conferences of the Sacramento Metro Chamber, including the Cap-to-Cap trip, and (c) other meetings that are related to RWA activities that have been approved by line item in the RWA-approved budget, or that have otherwise been approved by the Executive Committee.

8)9) The employee attending a conference for which RWA provided reimbursement of expenses will report (including a brief discussion of the substance of the matters discussed) to the Executive Director and/or the Executive Committee.

9)10) The Executive Director will report to the Executive Committee on upcoming conferences for which RWA will be reimbursing employee expenses.



Topic: RWA Strategic Plan Priorities
Type: Unfinished; Old Business
Item For: Action; Motion to Approve
Impact: Fiscal/Budget

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

PRESENTER: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item for the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors to receive a presentation summarizing feedback from a Strategic Plan Prioritization Survey from the members and to consider staff proposed priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

A motion to recommend approval of the Strategic Plan Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 to the Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND

The RWA Board of Directors approved the Strategic Plan in August 2020. The Strategic Plan lays out a number of goals and objectives that allow for the RWA to achieve our mission: To serve, represent and align the interests of regional water providers and stakeholders for the purpose of improving water supply reliability, availability, quality and affordability.

Policy 400.4 requires the RWA to set RWA priorities as follows:

The Executive Director Shall lead the following procedure to set priorities for the coming year:

1. The Executive Director shall solicit input on the strategic plan and/or other priorities from the members.
2. The input from members shall be reviewed by the Executive Director, staff, and the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Director shall propose strategic plan and/or other priorities to the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee should propose the priorities to the Board for adoption.

Member feedback from the survey placed a high priority on the completion of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank and assisting in obtaining funding for our member's projects. Feedback suggested support for the communications objective of: "Provide a forum for education, discussion, and outreach on water issues affecting the region." Member feedback suggested a desire for the RWA to continue with legislative advocacy, regulatory advocacy, and various

subscription programs the RWA offers.

Proposed Priorities

Proposed strategic plan priorities from the Executive Committee for the Board’s consideration are below:

- **Communication and Outreach**

Priorities for our Communication and Outreach program include:

- Educate and secure support from local policymakers and other stakeholders regarding the Water Bank and other RWA priority issues. Communications support includes facilitating receptions, tours and briefings, as well as advocacy through the news media, social media, targeted digital advertising, and other avenues.
- Maintain a Regional Coalition of Business Leaders led by a core group of organizations whose members heavily rely on an uninterrupted and reliable water supply who can support RWA in its advocacy. With core group formed, focus on educating and recruiting local, state and federal officials, and community leaders (civic and business). Communications support also provided by Integrated Communications and includes developing relationships and creating tools such as PPTs.
- Build Local Support for Funding to Implement the American River Voluntary Agreement by involving and keeping key stakeholders informed about ongoing discussions with state agencies.
- Support the pursuit of additional funding sources via secondary and longer-term opportunities (potential 2024 bond measure, and Reclamation, for example).
- Continue to provide a forum for education, discussion, and outreach on water issues via preferred member communication such as the monthly E-Alert update, Coffee & Conversation events.

- **Sacramento Region Water Bank (SRWB) Development**

Significant effort will go into advancing the water bank this year including outreach and the preparation of draft environmental documents.

- Continue to prepare draft environmental documents.
- Begin the preparation of NEPA and other documents necessary to seek Federal Acknowledgement of the Water Bank.
- Execute surface water and groundwater modeling analysis to optimize water bank operations.
- Advocate for external public investment in SRWB and River Arc.

- **Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Program**

Staff highly recommends the WUE program should continue to be a priority of the RWA. The program reduces members’ costs from its economy of scale approach to public outreach, school education, and incentive programs and provides a forum for the WUE

member agencies' staff to learn from one another and RWA staff on how to comply with regulatory requirements. A key strategic program benefit is a positive perception throughout the State that our region is implementing solutions for WUE that are simultaneously consistent with State goals and effective for our members. Additionally, the program provides strategic value and credibility for advancing desirable outcomes in other water policy, funding, and regulatory efforts.

- Plan and staff the Water Use Efficiency Program. Annual program activities will be presented to the Board of Directors.
- Provide technical assistance and programmatic support to member agencies to assist in compliance with the Water Conservation Regulation.

- **Regulatory and Policy**

This item relates to two general areas: Surface water regulation and management which is covered in the recently adopted Common Interest Management Services (CIMS) services agreement and the development of Water Use Efficiency regulations. The members that participate in the CIMS program appear to have a high degree of satisfaction with the program and would like to see it continued. The focus of the program will be:

- Continue to seek positive outcomes from the AB 1668/SB 606 Rule Making process (Water Conservation Regulations).
- Continue to seek positive outcomes from the initiation of the Reclamation's Biological Opinion process.
- Continue to advance the Voluntary Agreement process in a way that is beneficial to the participating members and our region.
- To protect our members' interests in the development of the Delta Conveyance Project.
- To build Federal Partnerships with the RWA and federal agencies including Reclamation.
- To assist the CIMS members as necessary.

- **Legislative**

RWA staff will be active in legislative activities including seeking positive legislative outcomes.

- Advocate for legislation that allows for a process to give a regulatory offramp for the Water Conservation Regulations.
- Advocate on Priority Bills (TBD).
- Participate in the development of a water bond or other legislative funding vehicle.
- Building state partnerships including the River Arc partners.

- **Sacramento Groundwater Authority**

Agenda Item 5



The RWA provides staffing and administrative services to the SGA. The work relating to the SGA will include the North American Subbasin groundwater sustainability plan implementation and activities that fall outside compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act compliance such as coordination of the Regional Contamination Issues Committee.

- See Sacramento Groundwater Authority strategic priorities.

- **RWA Administrative Services**

There are a number of back office functions that need to occur, such as paying bills, making payroll, etc., that could be characterized as “taking care of business.” This should be a priority and should include the following:

- Receive a clean audit for both the RWA and SGA.
- Complete accounting functions.
- Prepare Budgets for RWA and SGA.
- Office Management.

- **Funding Member Projects**

The RWA will continue to participate in initiatives that result in State and potentially Federal investments that fund our member’s water supply projects. These initiatives include:

- The Watershed Resilience Pilot Project with the Department of Water Resources.

(See Legislative items above for the potential Water Bond)

FINDING/CONCLUSION

A Strategic Plan is a valuable tool for establishing a strategic unified vision, outlining goals and objectives, and for monitoring business performance results. The existing strategic plan can be considered the universe of activities that the RWA will operate in. The strategic plan priorities are the initiatives that the RWA staff will spend most of their time on in fiscal year 2024/2025.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Strategic Plan Survey Data

Attachment 2 - RWA Strategic Plan

Attachment 3 – SGA 2024 Strategic Priorities

Q1 What is your name?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Marcus Yasutake	1/23/2024 3:52 PM
2	Jim Abercrombie	1/22/2024 1:42 PM
3	Gwynne Pratt	1/21/2024 7:59 PM
4	Dan York	1/3/2024 10:21 AM
5	Lisa Kaplan	1/2/2024 10:27 AM
6	Matthew Medill	12/27/2023 9:44 AM
7	Tony Firenzi	12/20/2023 4:37 PM
8	Greg Zlotnick	12/18/2023 3:21 PM
9	Tom Nelson and Bruce Kamilos	12/14/2023 12:52 PM
10	Hilary Straus	12/12/2023 4:03 PM
11	Anne Sanger	12/4/2023 2:56 PM
12	Nicholas Schneider	11/28/2023 10:44 AM
13	Diana Langley	11/27/2023 9:50 AM

Q2 What is your organization?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	City of Folsom	1/23/2024 3:52 PM
2	EID	1/22/2024 1:42 PM
3	Del Paso Manor Water District	1/21/2024 7:59 PM
4	Sacramento Suburban Water District	1/3/2024 10:21 AM
5	City of Sac	1/2/2024 10:27 AM
6	City of Lincoln	12/27/2023 9:44 AM
7	PCWA	12/20/2023 4:37 PM
8	San Juan Water District	12/18/2023 3:21 PM
9	Elk Grove Water District	12/14/2023 12:52 PM
10	Citrus Heights Water District	12/12/2023 4:03 PM
11	City of Sacramento	12/4/2023 2:56 PM
12	Georgetown Divide Public Utility District	11/28/2023 10:44 AM
13	City of Yuba City	11/27/2023 9:50 AM

Q3 What is your title?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Environmental & Water Resources Director	1/23/2024 3:52 PM
2	GM	1/22/2024 1:42 PM
3	director	1/21/2024 7:59 PM
4	General Manager	1/3/2024 10:21 AM
5	Councilwoman	1/2/2024 10:27 AM
6	Public Works Director	12/27/2023 9:44 AM
7	Director of Strategic Affairs	12/20/2023 4:37 PM
8	Water Resources & Strategic Affairs	12/18/2023 3:21 PM
9	Tom Nelson (Board Chair) and Bruce Kamilos (General Manager)	12/14/2023 12:52 PM
10	General Manager	12/12/2023 4:03 PM
11	Government Affairs Manager, Utilities	12/4/2023 2:56 PM
12	General Manager	11/28/2023 10:44 AM
13	City Manager	11/27/2023 9:50 AM

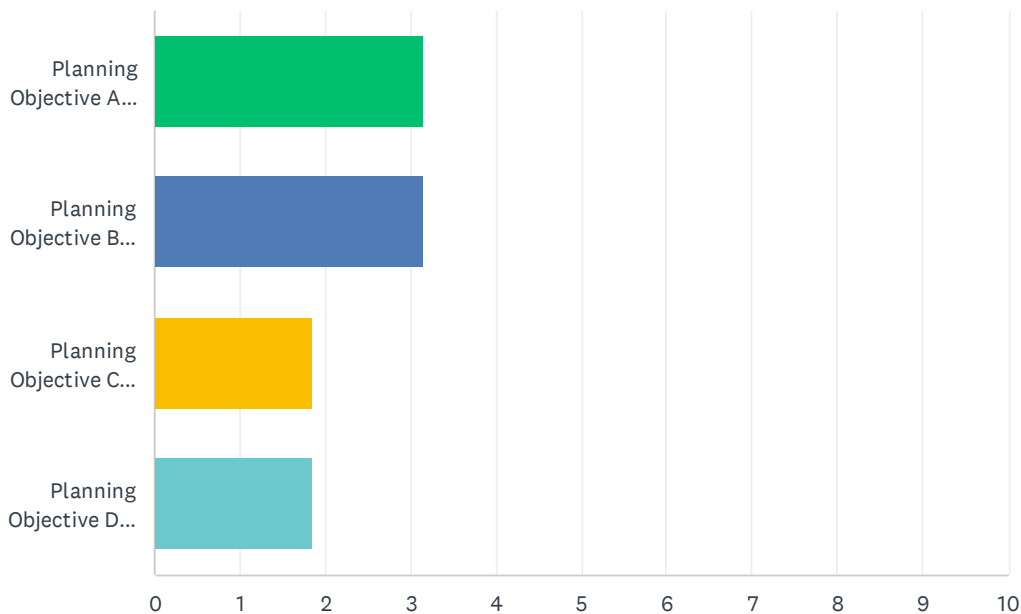
Q4 What is your phone number?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	916-461-6161	1/23/2024 3:52 PM
2	5303060966	1/22/2024 1:42 PM
3	9165029695	1/21/2024 7:59 PM
4	(916) 869-7349	1/3/2024 10:21 AM
5	9168087001	1/2/2024 10:27 AM
6	916-434-3302	12/27/2023 9:44 AM
7	916.624.0640	12/20/2023 4:37 PM
8	916-791-6933	12/18/2023 3:21 PM
9	(916) 685-3556	12/14/2023 12:52 PM
10	(916) 725-6873	12/12/2023 4:03 PM
11	916-808-5378	12/4/2023 2:56 PM
12	15309574413	11/28/2023 10:44 AM
13	530-822-4792	11/27/2023 9:50 AM

Q5 The PLANNING GOAL in the Strategic Plan is: Continuously improve regional water management planning that is comprehensive in scope and contributes to more effective regional water resources management. Please rank in order of importance the following PLANNING GOAL objectives for RWA in 2024.

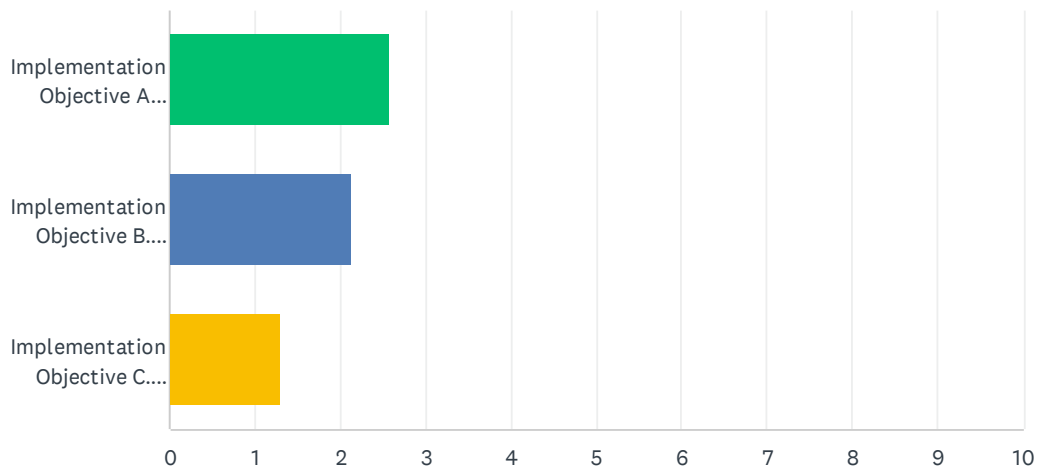
Answered: 13 Skipped: 2



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Planning Objective A Complete development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank to improve water supply reliability and resilience.	53.85% 7	23.08% 3	7.69% 1	15.38% 2	13	3.15
Planning Objective B Evaluate and respond to impacts on the region's water suppliers and operations.	30.77% 4	53.85% 7	15.38% 2	0.00% 0	13	3.15
Planning Objective C Lead and support planning efforts that benefit water agencies.	7.69% 1	15.38% 2	30.77% 4	46.15% 6	13	1.85
Planning Objective D Plan for the sustainability of RWA and its members.	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	46.15% 6	38.46% 5	13	1.85

Q6 The IMPLEMENTATION GOAL in the Strategic Plan is: Lead successful water management strategies, as well as develop and undertake related beneficial programs on behalf of the region. Please rank in order of importance the following IMPLEMENTATION GOAL objectives for RWA in 2024.

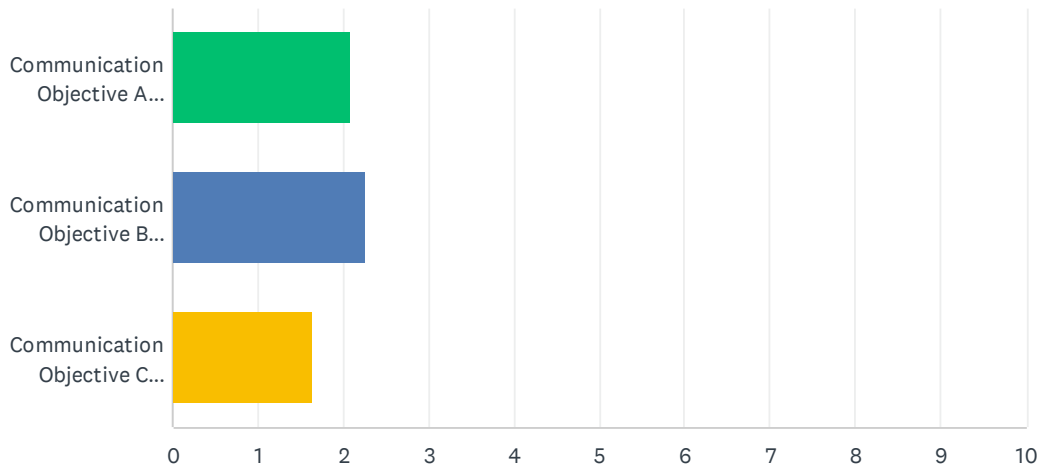
Answered: 7 Skipped: 8



	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
Implementation Objective A Support the securing of funding and assist in resourcing projects and programs that are regional priorities.	71.43% 5	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	7	2.57
Implementation Objective B. Support members' efforts to improve water reliability and resilience.	28.57% 2	57.14% 4	14.29% 1	7	2.14
Implementation Objective C. Support members' water use efficiency efforts to comply with applicable state and local requirements.	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	71.43% 5	7	1.29

Q7 The COMMUNICATION GOAL in the Strategic Plan is: Based on shared values, communicate with one voice on issues of regional significance to strengthen relationships, elevate regional visibility and influence, and advance the collective interests of the region. Please rank in order of importance the following COMMUNICATION GOAL objectives.

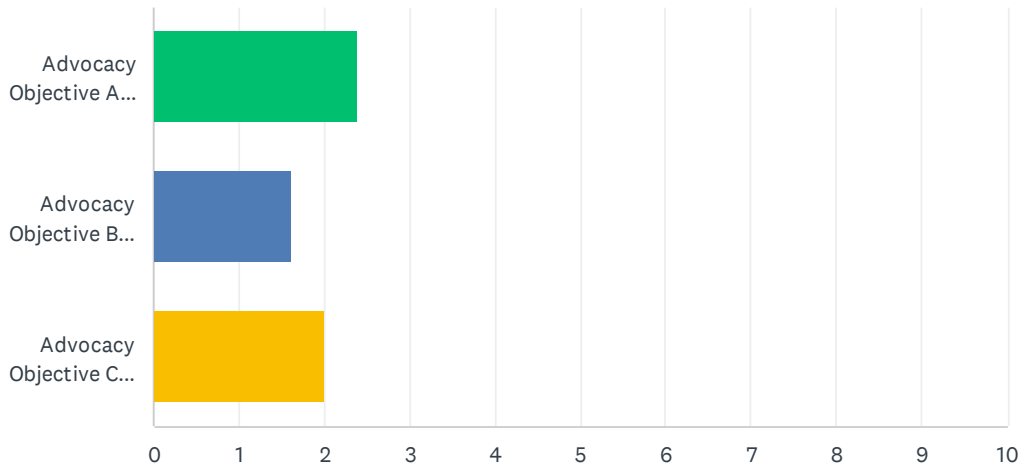
Answered: 11 Skipped: 4



	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
Communication Objective A Provide a forum for education, discussion, and outreach on water issues affecting the region.	27.27% 3	54.55% 6	18.18% 2	11	2.09
Communication Objective B With one voice, raise RWA's profile and credibility through outreach efforts to targeted audiences.	63.64% 7	0.00% 0	36.36% 4	11	2.27
Communication Objective C Cultivate relationships to advance RWA members' interests.	9.09% 1	45.45% 5	45.45% 5	11	1.64

Q8 The ADVOCACY GOAL in the Strategic Plan is: Advocate for members and the region’s needs and interests to positively influence legislative and regulatory policies and actions. Please rank in order of importance the following ADVOCACY GOAL objectives for RWA in 2024.

Answered: 8 Skipped: 7



	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
Advocacy Objective A Engage relevant local, state, and federal representatives to seek support for RWA’s legislative agenda to further the region’s collective goals and objectives.	37.50% 3	62.50% 5	0.00% 0	8	2.38
Advocacy Objective B Evaluate, comment and advocate on state and federal water regulatory issues that may impact the region and its water reliability and resilience (e.g. WQCP, PFAS, Chrome VI).	25.00% 2	12.50% 1	62.50% 5	8	1.63
Advocacy Objective C Assist in the preservation of water rights and entitlements of RWA members, maintain area of origin protections, and protect and ensure water reliability and resilience.	37.50% 3	25.00% 2	37.50% 3	8	2.00

Q9 Of all the Strategic Plan Objectives noted above, please list the top three that your organization believes should be the highest priority for RWA in 2024.

Answered: 12 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Priority Objective 1	100.00% 12
Priority Objective 2	91.67% 11
Priority Objective 3	91.67% 11

#	PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 1	DATE
1	Planning Objective A	1/23/2024 4:58 PM
2	protection of our water rights	1/22/2024 1:43 PM
3	6 -#2	1/21/2024 8:06 PM
4	all 3 advocacy objectives, speak with one voice	1/3/2024 11:37 AM
5	Planning Objective A	1/3/2024 10:33 AM
6	Securing additional funding	1/2/2024 10:32 AM
7	Implementation Objective A Support the securing of funding and assist in resourcing projects and programs that are regional priorities.	12/27/2023 9:55 AM
8	Advocacy Objective C	12/20/2023 4:41 PM
9	Planning A	12/18/2023 3:23 PM
10	Implementation Objective A. Support the securing of funding and assist in resourcing projects and programs that are regional priorities.	12/14/2023 12:54 PM
11	Advocacy Objective C	12/12/2023 4:10 PM
12	Implementation Objective A	11/28/2023 10:46 AM

#	PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 2	DATE
1	Planning Objective C	1/23/2024 4:58 PM
2	secure funding	1/22/2024 1:43 PM
3	8 -#3	1/21/2024 8:06 PM
4	Implementation Objective A	1/3/2024 10:33 AM
5	Water Bank	1/2/2024 10:32 AM
6	Communication Objective A Provide a forum for education, discussion, and outreach on water issues affecting the region.	12/27/2023 9:55 AM
7	Advocacy Objective A	12/20/2023 4:41 PM
8	Advocacy B	12/18/2023 3:23 PM
9	Planning Objective A. Complete development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank to improve water supply reliability and resilience.	12/14/2023 12:54 PM
10	Implementation Objective A	12/12/2023 4:10 PM
11	Planning Objective B	11/28/2023 10:46 AM

RWA Strategic Plan Survey 2024

#	PRIORITY OBJECTIVE 3	DATE
1	Implementation Objective A	1/23/2024 4:58 PM
2	improve reliability and resilience	1/22/2024 1:43 PM
3	8-#1	1/21/2024 8:06 PM
4	Advocacy Objective B	1/3/2024 10:33 AM
5	Infrastructure protection - upgrades	1/2/2024 10:32 AM
6	Advocacy Objective A Engage relevant local, state, and federal representatives to seek support for RWA's legislative agenda to further the region's collective goals and objectives.	12/27/2023 9:55 AM
7	Communication Objective B	12/20/2023 4:41 PM
8	Communication A	12/18/2023 3:23 PM
9	Advocacy Objective A. Engage relevant local, state, and federal representatives to seek support for RWA's legislative agenda to further the region's collective goals and objectives.	12/14/2023 12:54 PM
10	Communications Objective B	12/12/2023 4:10 PM
11	Advocacy Objective A	11/28/2023 10:46 AM

Q10 Are there any priorities your organization believes are important that are NOT in the Strategic Plan? If yes, please list them.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 5

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	no	1/22/2024 1:45 PM
2	Maintain active participation in VA process Stay aware of watershed issues	1/21/2024 8:09 PM
3	Current and potential future groundwater regulations support and funding assistance for water treatment.	1/3/2024 10:33 AM
4	Ask city staff	1/2/2024 10:32 AM
5	Foster a collaborative environment where all voices are respected, equally considered, and treated fairly. Avoiding marginalizing any members with dissenting opinions.	12/27/2023 10:04 AM
6	None.	12/20/2023 4:42 PM
7	There needs to be more engagement on regulatory issues as noted above. The current breadth of legislative engagement should be narrowed to focus on many fewer bills to allow for increased engagement on the regulatory front, along with the necessary communication and education of the membership about what is being proposed and adopted that will significantly impact costs and operations.	12/18/2023 3:24 PM
8	EGWD sees continuing the planning and implementation of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank as a major priority for the coming fiscal year. RWA has done a good job of describing the 30,000-foot look of how the Water Bank would operate. This high-level look is too abstract, however. We believe water purveyors and stakeholders around the region need concrete examples. EGWD would like RWA to describe the "nuts-and-bolts" operations of the Water Bank. How will participants in the Water Bank use the bank? For instance, the EGWD Board of Directors would like to know specifically how EGWD may participate in the Water Bank. We suggest building a set of Case Examples to help explain the nuts-and-bolts operations so that people can start to really understand how the Water Bank would work. This would go a long way in reducing any skepticism around the Water Bank.	12/14/2023 1:10 PM
9	"Evaluate RWA staffing, operations, and financing models for opportunities to improve long-term organizational sustainability." This objective should be made more specific to include a staffing projections study to align with the Strategic Plan.	12/12/2023 4:20 PM
10	Ensuring the State still sees the need for Surface water Storage	11/28/2023 10:47 AM

Q11 If you could change anything about the Strategic Plan, what would you change to benefit your organization? Please explain what and why.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 5

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	water bank benefits for all or most members	1/22/2024 1:45 PM
2	no changesY3	1/21/2024 8:09 PM
3	Readdress the analysis/discussion on a potential merger of RWA/SGA/SCGA. This would consolidate the workforce, budgets, and efficiencies of those organizations that could be in the best interest of the Sacramento Region.	1/3/2024 10:33 AM
4	Ask city staff	1/2/2024 10:32 AM
5	Facilitate increased regional planning efforts for emergency preparedness and drought resiliency. This may include a regional evaluation, or additional discussions, of interconnectivity opportunities.	12/27/2023 10:04 AM
6	NA	12/20/2023 4:42 PM
7	We would prioritize the objectives identified herein because we believe they would serve the membership best.	12/18/2023 3:24 PM
8	EGWD would like to see greater emphasis put on securing grant funding. As part of last year's Strategic Plan priority setting, 95% of the Board members ranked grant support as the number 1 or 2 priority. Jim stated that over the 22 years, RWA had secured \$120M of grant funding. (EGWD has received only \$200,000 of the grant money.) Jim went on to say that the IRWMP doesn't have the support of the state anymore and the funding landscape has changed. Jim asked how does RWA deal with this? This is a question that should be addressed this fiscal year. EGWD would like this to be a priority for the fiscal year.	12/14/2023 1:10 PM
9	None	12/12/2023 4:20 PM
10	none	11/28/2023 10:47 AM

Q12 Do you believe the RWA is adequately implementing and effectively operating in a manner that is consistent with the Strategic Plan? Please explain why.

Answered: 11 Skipped: 4

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Yes. Staff follows the priorities as set forth by the Board and provides updates related to the work conducted to meet the various priorities.	1/23/2024 5:00 PM
2	yes	1/22/2024 1:45 PM
3	Yes. Staff has a close watch on all developments and expertise in their areas.	1/21/2024 8:09 PM
4	yes. working together for the betterment of our region.	1/3/2024 11:41 AM
5	Recommend that the RWA Executive Director report back on a consistent basis to the RWA Executive Committee/Board to receive any particular directives/guidance to ensure the SP is on track.	1/3/2024 10:33 AM
6	Yes in consideration of the challenges of having wide breadth of water agency members and a diverse region. It may be of benefit to focus on efficient use of meeting time and minimize where possible recurring discussion topics that do not have action items in an effort to be respectful of everyone's time. Sometimes meetings with extensive powerpoints can be referenced if desired, but do not necessarily need to be presented repeatedly. A few times certain points of some meetings seemed to be a repeat.	12/27/2023 10:04 AM
7	Yes. The annual exercise of checking in with board members and developing the work plan around priorities is very functional and adaptive.	12/20/2023 4:42 PM
8	Per note above, we believe too much of limited staff time and resources are spent on legislative lobbying and instead more attention needs to be paid to the regulatory arena and keeping the member agencies informed and educated.	12/18/2023 3:24 PM
9	Yes. Policy 400.4 requires RWA staff to set priorities each fiscal year. In reviewing the Strategic Plan priorities set on March 9, 2023, staff has done a good job of implementing those priorities in fiscal year 2023/24. Of the 24 priorities RWA set for FY 23/24, EGWD believes all but four (4) have been implemented.	12/14/2023 1:10 PM
10	The major concern is that RWA doesn't have enough resources (staffing & professional services) to implement its Strategic Plan. In addition, Executive Director performance evaluation should factor in the Strategic Plan implementation and progress.	12/12/2023 4:20 PM
11	yes	11/28/2023 10:47 AM

Q13 Thinking about the RWA's mission: What are the challenges your organization is experiencing in the context of the mission?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	None at the moment.	1/23/2024 5:02 PM
2	continue to seek funding for major investment in infrastructure replacement.	1/22/2024 1:47 PM
3	DPMWD is tiny. It is difficult for ratepayers to understand the importance of RWA partly due to isolation and also to fact we do not have conjunctive use.	1/21/2024 8:14 PM
4	State and Federal overregulation. RWA working hard in difficult times to preserve our water rights and maintain and enhance our water systems.	1/3/2024 11:50 AM
5	As groundwater is the main source of supply for our agency, current and upcoming water quality regulations will drastically increase the cost of providing affordable water to our customers.	1/3/2024 10:35 AM
6	Ask city staff	1/2/2024 10:33 AM
7	limited resources and mounting regulations	12/27/2023 10:07 AM
8	Legislative and regulatory threats against water rights.	12/20/2023 4:45 PM
9	RWA leadership does not do well in respecting differences of opinion and interests, too often failing to build consensus, or even trying to work toward it, and instead imposing a particular position over an objection. This type of association should value real engagement and addressing concerns of its members as collaboratively as possible. We don't think that is an RWA leadership priority, which is a challenge. Another concern we have is that the mission statement above is not consistent with the mission defined for RWA in Recital B of its Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement which is: "The mission of the Regional Authority is to serve and represent the regional water supply interests, and to assist the Members of the Regional Authority in protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources." RWA's JPA mission statement does not include any reference to "aligning" the interests of its member agencies, because it is not the role of an organization whose purpose is to be a forum for developing a common message to dictate any position that a member agency should have on any subject. It appears that this concept of "aligning" is the crux of many conflicts that exist between the Executive Director and several member agencies. RWA was not established to be the sole point of contact nor the sole "spokesagency" for its member agencies, and no such policy exists in any of its policies. This repeated pursuit of "alignment", particularly when there is none, and the related efforts to muzzle member agencies, is also a problematic challenge.	12/18/2023 3:25 PM
10	EGWD needs to figure out how it can potentially participate in the Sacramento Regional Water Bank.	12/14/2023 1:11 PM
11	State legislation, regulations and unfunded mandates (example: water conservation regulations).	12/12/2023 4:23 PM
12	water reliability is our biggest challenge	11/28/2023 10:48 AM

Q14 Thinking about the RWA's mission: What could the RWA do within its mission that would be most helpful to your organization?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	None at this moment.	1/23/2024 5:02 PM
2	same as abve	1/22/2024 1:47 PM
3	Watch for legislative issues which involve small districts as well as those in excess of 3,000 ratepayers. Continue with information on the water bank. This district has a tendency to consider it is adequately served by its own aquifers and not stay clear that all water issues are related.	1/21/2024 8:14 PM
4	Continue to represent its members with one voice.	1/3/2024 11:50 AM
5	Continue efforts with the top three priorities that we have listed in number 9 of this survey.	1/3/2024 10:35 AM
6	Ask city staff	1/2/2024 10:33 AM
7	Continue to build on templates to assist agencies in reporting and correspondence with regulatory agencies. Continue to advocate for agency members and lobby for regional funding. Continue to keep member agencies abreast of regulatory developments and other regional, state, and federal updates.	12/27/2023 10:07 AM
8	Succeed at negotiating an acceptable alternative to water right threats, particularly legislative ones, that want to abolish the current system.	12/20/2023 4:45 PM
9	Fix the "challenges" identified above.	12/18/2023 3:25 PM
10	It would be helpful if RWA would assist EGWD in setting up how it might participate in the Water Bank. This could come in the form of helping EGWD define the parameters around that and assist with discussions between EGWD and potential Water Banking partners.	12/14/2023 1:11 PM
11	Advocate for protection of water rights and sources (conjunctive use), value-added programs to take advantage of economies of scale/partnerships among member agencies.	12/12/2023 4:23 PM
12	help us to increase or water storage capacity.	11/28/2023 10:48 AM

Final
RWA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Adopted by the RWA Board Aug 7, 2020

Definitions:

Affordability: The continued delivery of high quality, reliable water service at the lowest reasonable cost. Affordability is directly related to water reliability and quality. Affordability is also affected, both positively and negatively, by legislative and regulatory policies.

Supershed: a region consisting of multiple watersheds that is actively managed to improve water resource resilience in support of a healthy community, economy and environment.

Final
RWA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Adopted by the RWA Board Aug 7, 2020

PLANNING GOAL: Continuously improve regional water management planning that is comprehensive in scope and contributes to more effective regional water resources management.

Objective A. Complete development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank to improve water supply reliability and resilience.

- 1) Establish a funding program to complete work to establish the Regional Water Bank.
- 2) Engage with state, federal, and local stakeholders to gain Regional Water Bank acceptance, approval, and support.
- 3) Engage with potential Regional Water Bank partners.
- 4) Establish governance to manage the Regional Water Bank.
- 5) Complete an environmental analysis to support Regional Water Bank operations.

Objective B. Evaluate and respond to impacts on the region's water suppliers and operations.

- 1) Continue to evaluate and plan for adapting to climate change.
- 2) Promote the application of forecast informed reservoir operations that enhance water supplies while maintaining flood protection.
- 3) Maintain a regional integrated groundwater/surface water model, in coordination with groundwater sustainability agencies, to support regional planning and groundwater management.

Objective C. Lead and support planning efforts that benefit water agencies.

- 1) Evaluate opportunities to provide coordinated responses for sections of Urban Water Management Plans on behalf of agencies.
- 2) Track next generation of regional planning requirements (e.g. Integrated Regional Water Management Plan or other requirements that may result from the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio) and respond as necessary.
- 3) Participate with other regional organizations (Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative, etc.) on planning for and responding to climate change.
- 4) Participate with the Water Forum on efforts that improve water supply reliability and ecosystem health.

Objective D. Plan for the sustainability of RWA and its members.

- 1) Evaluate RWA staffing, operations, and financing models for opportunities to improve long-term organizational sustainability.
- 2) Develop a Young Professionals Program.

Final
RWA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Adopted by the RWA Board Aug 7, 2020

IMPLEMENTATION GOAL: Lead successful water management strategies, as well as develop and undertake related beneficial programs on behalf of the region.

Objective A. Support the securing of funding and assist in resourcing projects and programs that are regional priorities.

- 1) Position, secure and manage funding for the Regional Water Reliability Plan (RWRP), Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan, Water Bank, and Water Efficiency Programs and Projects.
- 2) Support and pursue funding opportunities for members and partner agencies that benefit the region.
- 3) Support programs that benefit from economies of scale in the areas of research, studies, planning, implementation, purchasing and resource sharing (e.g. Regional Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Information Study, Meter Asset Management and Chemical Purchasing Program).
- 4) Administer funding and financing for major endeavors such as the Water Quality Control Plan, Delta Initiatives and Water Bank.
- 5) Advocate for and support the financing of regional infrastructure to improve water reliability and resilience.

Objective B. Support members' efforts to improve water reliability and resilience.

- 1) Continue to partner with the Water Forum to ensure the health of the Lower American River as a critical component to improving water supply reliability.
- 2) Maintain the Regional Water Reliability Plan (RWRP) database and update the RWRP as needed.
- 3) Maintain the American River Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) database and update the IRWMP as needed.
- 4) Support intra- and interregional water transfers.
- 5) Evaluate combining the American River Basin IRWM with appropriate portions of the Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba (CABY) IRWM.
- 6) Support the region's efforts on Delta initiatives and water supply regulatory initiatives such as the Water Quality Control Plan, Voluntary Agreements and the Biological Opinions of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.
- 7) Support compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) within the Region.
 - o Provide services and support, as needed, for planning and implementation.
 - o Facilitate collaboration between subbasins.
 - o Align interests with RWA, Sacramento Groundwater Authority, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority and others as appropriate.
- 8) Support the planning and construction of regional infrastructure to improve water reliability and resilience.

Final
RWA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Adopted by the RWA Board Aug 7, 2020

Objective C. Support members' water use efficiency efforts to comply with applicable state and local requirements.

- 1) Continue to implement a regional water efficiency program that supports member agencies' compliance with state and local water efficiency and water loss requirements through cost-effective efforts/programs/initiatives.
- 2) Participate in statewide efforts related to water efficiency legislation and regulatory requirements to maintain a positive perception of the region and protect member agency interests.
- 3) Track individual member agency water use and related metrics to communicate regional water efficiency progress to the state, other regions and interested stakeholders.

Final
RWA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Adopted by the RWA Board Aug 7, 2020

COMMUNICATIONS GOAL: Based on shared values, communicate with one voice on issues of regional significance to strengthen relationships, elevate regional visibility and influence, and advance the collective interests of the region.

Objective A. Provide a forum for education, discussion and outreach on water issues affecting the region.

- 1) Assess modes for preferred internal member communication such as meetings, in-person presentations, email updates, newsletters, blogs, social media, etc.
- 2) Distribute relevant information to members.
- 3) Create a venue for members to regularly brief each other on current and emerging issues, planned messages and responses, and coordinate on topics and issues of regional significance.
- 4) Provide educational opportunities for members through speakers and experts.
- 5) Update members regularly on the status and progress of RWA's services and programs.
- 6) Educate legislators, policy makers, and the public on the challenges to and benefits of uninterrupted high-quality water services and investments necessary for its continued delivery.

Objective B. With one voice, raise RWA's profile and credibility through outreach efforts to targeted audiences.

- 1) Be a champion for the Region by being a single, coordinated voice on regional matters.
- 2) Identify and cultivate RWA ambassadors/spokespersons to communicate significant topics and policy issues.
- 3) Inform key interested parties such as the media, federal, state and local officials, and the public about water management successes (e.g. Water reliability and resilience improvements) and key issues (e.g. regulatory, water accessibility, safety and affordability).
- 4) Foster consistent and cohesive regional messaging including:
 - a) Prioritizing anticipated issues and opportunities for target audiences, along with tools, materials and activities to help RWA members communicate with a consistent voice.
 - b) Developing talking points, position papers and outreach materials on key issues.

Objective C. Cultivate relationships to advance RWA members' interests.

- 1) Work with other organizations with water interests (e.g. Northern California Water Association, Association of California Water Agencies, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and land use agencies).
- 2) Coordinate and partner with water suppliers and other stakeholders to further leverage advocacy, research initiatives and/or economies of scale related to water management.
- 3) Work with business organizations (e.g. Metro Chamber and local chambers.)
- 4) Work with state and federal agencies that influence or manage resources related to regional water reliability and resilience (e.g. United States Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, State Water Resource Control Board, and other resource agencies.)
- 5) Work with the Water Forum Successor Effort on behalf of the member agencies that are signatory to the Water Forum Agreement. Support includes:

Final
RWA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Adopted by the RWA Board Aug 7, 2020

- a) Ensuring RWA member interests are represented in the re-negotiation process including governance and succession planning.
- b) Ensuring RWA member interests are represented in the Water Forum Successor Effort.
- c) Participating in the Coordinating Committee and Water Caucus.

Final
RWA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Adopted by the RWA Board Aug 7, 2020

ADVOCACY GOAL: Advocate for members and the region’s needs and interests to positively influence legislative and regulatory policies and actions.

Objective A. Engage relevant local, state and federal representatives, to seek support for RWA’s legislative agenda to further the region’s collective goals and objectives.

- 1) Annually update RWA policy principles and federal legislative platforms to effectively advocate for the region.
- 2) Maintain and track significant water-related state and federal legislation on important policies and funding opportunities and make the information regularly and readily available electronically to members.
- 3) Advocate for positions on state and federal legislation and programs consistent with the adopted RWA policy principles and platforms.
- 4) Monitor and actively engage on actions of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) State Legislative and Federal Affairs Committees and coordinate with other organizations.
- 5) Protect member agencies’ interests and work with state and federal organizations on the development of policies related to the equitable access to water.
- 6) Coordinate with external organizations, as appropriate, including but not limited to, American Water Works Association (AWWA), Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), Northern California Water Association (NCWA), National Water Resources Association (NWRA), California Water Foundation, California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), and the Metro Chamber, and California Water Association (CWA).
- 7) Coordinate and partner with environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and environmental justice NGOs throughout the state to advance RWA’s interests.
- 8) Present regular updates from RWA lobbyist efforts and recalibrate priorities as necessary.
- 9) Maintain a volunteer standing committee as a forum for coordination, collaboration, education and vetting on federal policy areas of regional interest and evaluate the effectiveness of the standing committee in FY2021/2022.

Objective B. Evaluate, comment and advocate on state and federal water regulatory issues that may impact the region and its water reliability and resilience (e.g. WQCP, PFAS, Chrome VI).

- 1) Track, evaluate and respond to water quality, water conservation and efficiency, water affordability, resilience, SGMA and other regulatory issues that may affect members.
- 2) Lead and participate in efforts with other organizations aligned with RWA positions and interests as appropriate.

Objective C. Assist in the preservation of water rights and entitlements of RWA members, maintain area of origin protections, and protect and ensure water reliability and resilience.

- 1) Educate the public and decision makers and promote our region’s contribution to the Delta.
- 2) Advocate to maintain the water rights priority system.

Final
RWA STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Adopted by the RWA Board Aug 7, 2020

- 3) Continue to support efforts for expanding conjunctive use operations as a means of protecting water rights (e.g., exercising more surface water rights and contracts in wetter years).
- 4) Support a Water Forum lower American River Modified Flow Management Standard that is consistent with the Water Forum co-equal goals.
- 5) Leverage proximity to the Capitol to engage and be a resource to legislators on issues important to the region and promote RWA's reliability and resilience successes.
- 6) Work with the State to help implement the portions of the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio where it aligns with and benefits our region's interest.
- 7) Promote the region's collaborative efforts to comprehensively manage its water resources through an innovative *Supershed* approach to be resilient to fire, flood, and drought, and which serves our region and creates value to the state.

1) Manage and implement activities in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) within the North American Subbasin (NASb or Subbasin).

- Manage the North Area Groundwater Basin in compliance with SGMA through the following actions:
 - Continue to manage the use of groundwater in the NASb to support the long-term sustainable groundwater yield of the Subbasin;
 - Continue long-term implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Subbasin through management and support of identified project and management actions; and
 - Continue to manage and implement activities identified in the GSP through the following activities:
 - Monitoring - Groundwater elevation monitoring, groundwater quality monitoring, subsidence monitoring, and other monitoring.
 - Data Management - Upload groundwater elevation and water quality data to applicable State SGMA database and update NASb Data Management System.
 - Data Analysis - Sustainability indicators, annual report, and CoSANA Groundwater Model.
 - Coordination and Outreach - Quarterly North American Subbasin (NASb) Groundwater Sustainability Agency [GSA] meetings, Annual Report updates, 5-year GSP updates; and other management activities such as fill in data gaps noted in the monitoring well network, track implementation of urban area conjunctive use programs, work with the Regional Water Authority in its development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, track progress of supplemental projects, technical work on well construction practices, shallow/domestic well analysis and groundwater dependent ecosystem assessment management and annual monitoring.

2) Lead and support successful Conjunctive Water Management, as well as assess and respond to impacts on water resources within the SGA area and in partnership with others in the NASb Subbasin.

- Manage the use of groundwater in the NASb and facilitate implementation of Conjunctive Use program(s) by water purveyors.

- Preserve and protect the water supplies of the NASb for present and future uses in the Sacramento region.
- Devise and implement strategies and projects (e.g., groundwater substitution transfers, water bank project, Natomas Cross Canal, etc) to provide benefits to water users within the Subbasin.

3) Promote successful protection and enhancement of the reliability, availability, and quality of groundwater resources by engaging with relevant internal and external agencies, organizations with water interests, members of the public, and other beneficial users of groundwater within the NASb Subbasin.

- Through education, discussions, and target outreach with stakeholders and interested parties promote the objectives of the SGA. Internal and external interested parties include but are not limited to Association of California Water Agencies, Groundwater Resources Association, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority Northern California Water Association, local, state, and federal agencies, the public and other beneficial users of groundwater.
- Continue activities such as the Regional Contamination Issues Committee to promote coordination and engagement throughout the Subbasin.
- Support and protect the most sensitive beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the NASb by collaborating with local permitting agencies on well construction practices.
- Facilitate collaboration between subbasins and adjacent GSAs to support SGMA compliance.
- Monitor the development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, receive regular briefings on progress, and weigh in when appropriate and necessary with policy direction consistent with SGA's authorities and responsibilities.

4) Engage relevant Federal, State and Local Agencies that influence or manage resources related to support successful management of the NASb Subbasin.

- Facilitate and lead State and Federal regulatory agencies, local water agencies, responsible parties and members of the public to support successful management of the Subbasin.

5) Continuously monitor, collect, track, and analyze water levels, quantity, and quality within the Subbasin to comply with SGMA requirements and support the development and implementation of strategies to safeguard groundwater within the NASb Subbasin.

- Continue to monitor, collect, manage and analyze data such as groundwater elevation, water level, water quality and shallow water quality to comply with SGMA requirements and that benefit other SGA and RWA projects and programs in the Subbasin.

SGA Strategic Priorities for 2024

Adopted by the SGA Board of Directors on February 8, 2024

- Continue to lead quarterly Regional Contamination Issues Committee meetings that provide groundwater quality knowledge transfer and information sharing between regulatory and local agencies.

6) Maintain funding solvency through thorough administrative and project management services.

- Evaluate, support and strategically pursue funding opportunities for members and partner agencies that benefit the NASb and water users within the region.
- Administer funding and financing to implement projects and program activities in accordance with fiscal rules and available budget through industry standard project management processes and adaptive management.



Topic: Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Overview
Type: New Business
Item For: Action
Purpose: Policy 500.11

SUBMITTED BY:	Tom Hoffart Finance and Administrative Services Manager	PRESENTER:	Tom Hoffart Finance and Administrative Services Manager
---------------	---	------------	---

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an information item to brief the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee on the policies and considerations in developing the RWA budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discuss and provide direction for the FY 2024/2025 budget.

BACKGROUND

Staff are beginning the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 RWA budget. This item includes a brief status update of the current year-end forecast and future budget outlook as well as reviewing the fees calculation methodology, RWA budget policies, last year’s budget assumptions and outlining the budget schedule.



Topic: Revisions to Policy 400.1 (Personnel Rules) and Policy 400.2 (Compensation Policy)
Type: New Business
Item For: Information/Discussion
Purpose: Policy 400.1 and Policy 400.2

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

PRESENTER: Brett Ewart
Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is for the Chair to brief the Executive Committee on the progress of updating Policy 400.1 and Policy 400.1

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information only.



Topic: Review and Discussion of Policy 500.16 (Allocating Liabilities to Withdrawing Members)
Type: New Business
Item For: Action
Purpose: Policy 500.16

SUBMITTED BY:	Jim Peifer Executive Director	PRESENTER:	Jim Peifer Executive Director
---------------	----------------------------------	------------	----------------------------------

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an item to discuss Policy 500.16 (Allocating Liabilities to Withdrawing Members) and address ambiguities within the policy.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide direction to staff.

BACKGROUND

RWA Policy 500.16 was created by the RWA in 2018 to allocate a portion of the liabilities to withdrawing members. Staff has identified some ambiguity in the potential application of the policy and requests the Executive Committee provide direction to staff on potential revisions. The policy directs a withdrawing member to pay their portion of unfunded pension liabilities (UPL), but the language in the policy is unclear. Step 4 of the policy provides directions on how to calculate the portion of the UPL and it directs that a higher discount rate be used (of two potential discount rates). It is not clear when reading the policy if this was the intent of the original drafter.

This policy needs to be revisited to ensure that the result is fair to a withdrawing member, to the remaining members, and to the present and past RWA employees.

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Policy Type : Fiscal Management
Policy Title : Allocating Liabilities to Withdrawing Members
Policy Number : 500.16
Date Adopted : March 8, 2018

ALLOCATING LIABILITIES TO WITHDRAWING MEMBERS

Background

Members of RWA operate under a joint exercise of powers agreement that outlines powers and responsibilities of RWA and of members. The Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement of the Regional Water Authority, dated October 8, 2013, provides for the voluntary withdrawal from membership subsequent to 90 days' notice. Such withdrawal is subject to the provision that the withdrawing member "shall remain responsible for any indebtedness incurred by the Member under any Project or Program Agreement to which the Member is a party, and further provided that the withdrawing Member pays or agrees to pay its share of debts, liabilities and obligations of the Regional Water Authority incurred by the Member under this Agreement prior to the effective date of such withdrawal."

Most of RWA's obligations are budgeted for on an annual basis and incorporated into the annual budget. Some obligations are incurred during the membership, but the payment is made over several future periods. Examples of these types of delayed payments for past services include unfunded pension and other post-employment benefit ("OPEB") liabilities. Required payments of these future obligations based upon prior and current service are dependent upon estimates since investment performance and experience may be different than forecasted.

This policy outlines the framework to allocate debts, liabilities and obligations of the Regional Water Authority.

Unfunded Pension Liabilities

RWA provides defined pension benefits for plan participants that meet the vesting criteria as established by CalPERS, the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA)¹. The fundamental financial objective of an employee defined

¹ Any current or future changes to the pension laws will dictate available benefits to employees or retirees.

benefit pension plan is to fund the long-term costs of benefits promised to the plan participants. In a defined benefit plan, an employer has promised a benefit and must make contributions to the plan in order to meet the promised benefit². In order to assure the pension benefits will remain sustainable, RWA should accumulate adequate resources for future benefit payments in a systematic and disciplined manner during the active service life of the benefitting employees.

These pension plan obligations are accumulated over the life time of employee service. RWA's pension plan payments have been based upon CalPERS Annual Valuation reports which specify the amount of payments RWA is required to make to fund these pension plan obligations. RWA has paid 100% of the annual required contributions towards the pension plan. However, due to amortization policies³ of the CalPERS pension plan that account for differences between actuarial assumptions and actual results, RWA's actuarially determined pension liabilities for prior employee service has not yet been fully funded. Because RWA's membership is voluntary, RWA has adopted Policy 500.15 Defined Benefit Pension Plan Funding Policy. The goal of Policy 500.15 is to accelerate additional payments towards the unfunded pension liability over a period of four years so as to achieve a 100% funded ratio. A 100% funded ratio is calculated by comparing the allocated market value of pension assets compared to the actuarial accrued liability for RWA's plan. However, since every year new liabilities can be created when actual pension plan results don't match the actuarial assumptions or assumptions change, new additional unfunded liabilities can be created.

Since RWA membership is voluntary, it is important that the pension costs for employee services incurred while serving active members is adequately and timely funded by these RWA members as they receive these services so as to achieve intergenerational equity. The unfunded liability represents pension costs associated with past service of employees that have been received by RWA members. These past services have contributed to the current influence and success of RWA as a regional water advocate.

RWA's unfunded pension liability is considered incurred by the member for services received during membership. This liability shall be calculated and allocated to members who withdraw based upon the following framework:

1. Determine the withdrawing member's proportion of annual dues for all years of membership.
2. Determine total RWA membership dues since organization inception in July 2001 for all remaining members, including the withdrawing member.
3. Calculate an allocation percentage for the withdrawing member by taking the dues in step one divided by the dues in step two.

² The required contributions are typically variable in nature due to variable market performance and changing assumptions.

³ CalPERS has amortization policies that typically amortize these differences over 30 years with a five-year ramp up of amortization costs.

4. Obtain the unfunded hypothetical termination liability (“UHTL”) as prepared by the latest available CalPERS annual valuation report using the highest discount rate available as calculated for the UHTL. The hypothetical termination liability assumes that once the termination liability is “paid” by the employer, the pension plan will no longer continue to receive employer funds and therefore must be self-sustaining to pay for legal pension obligations. A lower discount rate is assumed for this calculation to mitigate the risk of funds being insufficient to pay for pension obligations due to changes in assumptions. Even if RWA has fully paid its unfunded liability as determined by CalPERS using funding discount rates,⁴ RWA can still have an unfunded hypothetical termination liability since lower discount rates are used.
5. The members’ allocation percentage as calculated in step 3 multiplied by the UHTL in step 4 will result in a pension liability payment due from the withdrawing member.

Any funds received by RWA specifically for the pension plan obligations as calculated above will be remitted to CalPERS pension plan as part of the annual additional lump sum payment(s) made by RWA in excess of the required annual contributions. Based upon staff recommendations, the Board may exercise discretion in regards to the timing of the payment to CalPERS for these type of payments.

Unfunded Other Post-Employment Liabilities (“OPEB”)

Bi-annually, RWA has an actuary calculate the unfunded OPEB. Beginning in fiscal year 2017, the unfunded liability includes two components – an explicit and implicit liability. RWA has been funding both portions of this liability since fiscal year 2017. The annual required contribution for OPEB pays for the current year employees OPEB benefits and for the prior year unfunded benefits. In determining the portion to allocate to a withdrawing member, the unfunded actuarial accrued liability as determined by the latest actuary report, including both the explicit and implicit liability, will be the liability basis used to allocate to the member. This unfunded actuarial accrued liability allocation will be determined in the same manner as the unfunded pension liability allocation.

Dues Surcharges

From time to time, RWA may incur obligations that benefit members but may be paid for over a period of several years, such as the Powerhouse Science center project. RWA may make one-time or multi-year special assessments to fund these opportunities. Withdrawing members will be responsible for the allocated obligation of these special assessments, including any future unpaid multi-year assessments. These obligations due from the withdrawing member will be calculated using the same allocation basis to derive the special assessments.

⁴ The discount rates for funding have varied over the years. Historically, the discount rate was 7.75% and is expected to decrease to at least 7.0 and perhaps further in future years.

Project or Program Management Liabilities

These specific liabilities are based upon project management agreements between various members, depending upon the project. As stated in the joint powers agreement, the withdrawing member shall be obligated to pay its portion of liabilities as agreed to according to the project or program management agreement and approved by the Project Committee as of the date of withdrawal.

Leases

If leases represent use of space or equipment on a prospective or ongoing use basis, these obligations are accounted for in current dues and would typically not be allocated to withdrawing members.

Payment to RWA

Payment for these obligations and liabilities are payable to RWA within 90 days of invoice.

Agenda Item 9



Topic: Legislative and Regulatory Update
Type: New Business
Item For: Action
Purpose: Policy 100.5 and Strategic Plan Priority- Advocacy Objective A

SUBMITTED BY:	Ryan Ojakian Manager of Government Relations	PRESENTER:	Ryan Ojakian Manager of Government Relations
			And Jim Peifer Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action/information item for the Executive Committee on State and Federal legislation. Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Relations, will provide an oral report on state legislative actions and Jim Peifer, Executive Director, will provide an oral report on federal legislation for the Executive Committee to consider.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Action: Take positions on state legislation: Sponsor SB 1110 (Ashby) which specifies Water Board enforcement in water efficiency requirements.

Action: Take positions on Federal Legislation: Support Senator Padilla’s bill titled “Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act”

BACKGROUND

SB 1110

Following the December 2023 direction of the Executive Committee, the RWA staff has worked to have legislation introduced to provide for flexibility in enforcement of water efficiency requirements. Senator Ashby introduced SB 1110 on February 13th which accomplishes the outcome directed by the Executive Committee. SB 1110 would specify that the Water Board can forgo strict enforcement of water efficiency requirements if there are lower cost water supply options. RWA has established a strong working relationship with Senator Ashby and it is recommended that RWA sponsor this legislation.

State Legislation

Agenda Item 9

The bill introduction deadline in the State Legislature was February 16, 2023. At the time of this writing there had been approximately 1,300 bills introduced and it is estimated an additional 1,000 bills will be introduced before the deadline passes. Because this was written before the bill introduction deadline, there is not ability to brief the executive committee on all bills coming forward in 2023. However, the topics of water efficiency, water rights, groundwater management, water quality, and water affordability will all be touched on in bills.

Federal Legislation

Senator Padilla is requesting support for a bill that he is introducing to Congress titled: “Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act”. Staff recommends the Executive Committee take a support position on the bill.

FINDING/CONCLUSION

This information/discussion is consistent with Policy Principles adopted as part of RWA policy 100.5 and Strategic Plan Priority- Advocacy Objective A

Attachments:

1. Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act
2. Section by section description of the LIHWAP Establishment Act
3. SB 1110

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PADILLA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Low-Income Household Water Assistance
Program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Low-Income House-
5 hold Water Assistance Program Establishment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
2 seq.);

3 (iv) payments under—

4 (I) section 1315, 1521, 1541, or
5 1542 of title 38, United States Code;
6 or

7 (II) section 306 of the Veterans'
8 and Survivors' Pension Improvement
9 Act of 1978 (38 U.S.C. 1521 note;
10 Public Law 95–588); or

11 (v) assistance under the Low-Income
12 Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981; or

13 (B) that has an income that, as deter-
14 mined by the State or Indian tribe, does not ex-
15 ceed the greater of—

16 (i) an amount equal to 150 percent of
17 the poverty level;

18 (ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of
19 the State median income for that State or
20 the State in which the Indian tribe is pri-
21 marily located; or

22 (iii) an amount equal to 60 percent of
23 the area median income for the area in
24 which the household is located.

1 (5) POVERTY LEVEL.—The term “poverty
2 level” means the poverty line determined pursuant
3 to section 673 of the Community Services Block
4 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902).

5 (6) PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.—The term “public
6 water system” has the meaning given the term in
7 section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
8 U.S.C. 300f).

9 (7) QUALIFIED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—
10 The term “qualified nonprofit organization” includes
11 a nonprofit organization described in section
12 680(a)(3)(B) of the Community Services Block
13 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9921(a)(3)(B)).

14 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

16 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
17 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
18 monwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States
19 Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Common-
20 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

21 (10) TREATMENT WORKS.—The term “treat-
22 ment works” has the meaning given the term in sec-
23 tion 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
24 (33 U.S.C. 1292).

25 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
2 tion with the Administrator, shall establish the Low-
3 Income Household Water Assistance Program to
4 award grants, in accordance with paragraph (2), to
5 eligible entities to provide funds to owners and oper-
6 ators of public water systems or treatment works to
7 assist low-income households in paying arrearages
8 and other rates charged to such households for
9 drinking water or wastewater services.

10 (2) FORMULA.—In awarding grants under this
11 subsection to eligible entities, the Secretary shall—

12 (A) allot amounts made available for
13 grants under this subsection to an eligible enti-
14 ty that is a State or Indian tribe based on—

15 (i) the percentage of households in the
16 State, or under the jurisdiction of the In-
17 dian tribe, with income equal to or less
18 than 150 percent of the poverty level; or

19 (ii) the percentage of households in
20 the State, or under the jurisdiction of the
21 Indian tribe, that spend more than 30 per-
22 cent of monthly income on housing; and

23 (B) reserve up to 3 percent of amounts
24 made available for grants under this subsection
25 to eligible entities that are Indian tribes.

1 (c) RURAL, UNDERSERVED, AND INDIAN TRIBE AC-
2 CESS GRANTS.—The Secretary shall provide grants to
3 qualified nonprofit organizations to assist owners or oper-
4 ators of public water systems or treatment works, in rural
5 or underserved areas or in the jurisdiction of an Indian
6 tribe, in accessing funds through the Low-Income House-
7 hold Water Assistance Program.

8 (d) APPLICATIONS.—Each eligible entity seeking a
9 grant under subsection (b), and each qualified nonprofit
10 organization seeking a grant under subsection (c), shall
11 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
12 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
13 retary shall require.

14 (e) LIMITATIONS.—A recipient of a grant under sub-
15 section (b) or (c)—

16 (1) shall not use the funds from the grant to
17 supplant any other funds for any program that as-
18 sists low-income households in maintaining access to
19 affordable drinking water or wastewater services;
20 and

21 (2) may use the funds from the grant to supple-
22 ment or otherwise enhance any such program that
23 satisfies the requirements under this section.

24 (f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELIGIBILITY RE-
25 QUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall provide technical as-

1 sistance to eligible entities receiving a grant under sub-
2 section (b) for such eligible entities to establish data shar-
3 ing agreements to streamline categorical eligibility re-
4 quirements for low-income households.

5 (g) TRANSFER TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTEC-
6 TION AGENCY.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the
8 final report described in section 50109(d) of the In-
9 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C.
10 300j–19a note; Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 1148)
11 is submitted to Congress under such section, the
12 Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator,
13 shall transfer the Low-Income Household Water As-
14 sistance Program established under this section to
15 the Environmental Protection Agency for adminis-
16 tration of such program by the Administrator in ac-
17 cordance with this section.

18 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date
20 described in paragraph (1)—

21 (i) the Administrator shall carry out
22 all functions of the Secretary under this
23 section; and

24 (ii) for purposes of administering the
25 program established under this section,

1 each reference in subsection (b)(2), (c),
2 (d), and (f) to the Secretary shall be
3 deemed a reference to the Administrator.

4 (B) GRANTS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED.—
5 Notwithstanding paragraph (1) and subpara-
6 graph (A), the Secretary shall continue, after
7 the transfer under paragraph (1), administering
8 each grant awarded under this section prior to
9 such transfer until the expiration of the term of
10 such grant.

11 (3) UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.—On the date de-
12 scribed in paragraph (1) and subject to section 1531
13 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall
14 transfer all unobligated balances of appropriations,
15 authorizations, allocations, or other funds available
16 to the Low-Income Household Water Assistance
17 Program established under this section (except for
18 any such balances related to grants awarded prior to
19 the transfer under paragraph (1)) to the Adminis-
20 trator. The amounts of any such unobligated bal-
21 ances so transferred shall be used only for the pur-
22 poses for which the amounts were originally author-
23 ized and appropriated.

1 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
3 necessary to carry out this section.

“Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act”
Section by Section
December 2023

Section 1. Short Title

This Act may be cited as the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act.

Section 2. Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program

Definitions

“Eligible Entity” means a State, or Indian tribe, that is eligible to receive or previously received a grant under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981.

“Low-income household” means a household—

- A) In which 1 or more individuals are receiving assistance under the following programs—
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
 - Means-tested Veterans Programs
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- B) That has an income that, as determined by the State or Indian tribe, does not exceed the greater of—
- (i) an amount equal to 150 percent of the poverty level;
 - (ii) an amount equal to 60 percent of the State median income for that State or the State in which the Indian tribe is primarily located; or
 - (iii) an amount equal to 60 percent of the Area Median Income for the area in which the household is located.

Establishment of the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program to award grants to eligible entities to provide funds to owners and operators of public water systems or treatment works to assist low-income households in paying arrearages and other rates charged to such households for drinking water or wastewater services.

Eligible entities may also use up to fifteen percent of funds to offset the cost of administering, determining eligibility of, and conducting outreach to low-income households.

Formula

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States or Tribes based on the percentage of households in the State or Tribe with income equal to or less than 150 percent of the poverty level or that spend more than 30 percent of monthly income on housing.

Sets aside three percent of award funding to provide grants to nonprofits in rural or underserved areas or for Tribes.

Applications

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish application requirements for all eligible entities to apply for program funds and submit to the Agency.

Limitations

Restricts the use of funds for the purpose of reimbursing awarded entities for any other program that assists low-income households maintain access to affordable drinking water or wastewater services.

Technical Assistance

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide technical assistance to award recipients in order for those recipients to establish data sharing agreements that streamline eligibility requirements for low-income households.

Transfer Authority

Establishes that upon the completion of the Environmental Protection Agency report on the results of the "RURAL AND LOW-INCOME WATER ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM," as directed by the *Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act*, the Secretary of Health and Human Services must transfer the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program authority to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Administration

Establishes that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency will carry out all functions of the Secretary of Health and Human Services for purposes of administering the program.

Clarifies that all grants previously awarded by the Secretary of Health and Human Services must still be administered by the Secretary but that all other unobligated balances will be transferred to authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Appropriations

Authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

Introduced by Senator AshbyFebruary 13, 2024

An act to amend Section 10609.26 of the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1110, as introduced, Ashby. Urban retail water suppliers: informational order: conservation order.

Existing law authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board, on and after January 1, 2024, to issue informational orders pertaining to water production, water use, and water conservation to an urban retail water supplier that does not meet its urban water use objective. Existing law requires the board to consider certain information in determining whether to issue an informational order.

This bill would require the board to additionally consider lower cost actions the water supplier has implemented or will implement in order to help the water supplier achieve overall water supply resiliency in determining whether to issue an informational order.

Existing law authorizes the board, on and after January 1, 2026, to issue a conservation order to an urban retail water supplier that does not meet its urban water use objective.

This bill would authorize the board to consider the water supplier's overall water supply management portfolio, including lower cost actions the water supplier has implemented or will implement in order to help the water supplier achieve overall water supply resiliency in deciding whether to issue a conservation order.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 10609.26 of the Water Code is amended
2 to read:

3 10609.26. (a) (1) On and after January 1, 2024, the board may
4 issue informational orders pertaining to water production, water
5 use, and water conservation to an urban retail water supplier that
6 does not meet its urban water use objective required by this chapter.
7 Informational orders are intended to obtain information on supplier
8 activities, water production, and conservation efforts in order to
9 identify technical assistance needs and assist urban water suppliers
10 in meeting their urban water use objectives.

11 (2) In determining whether to issue an informational order, the
12 board shall consider the degree to which the urban retail water
13 supplier is not meeting its urban water use objective, information
14 provided in the report required by Section 10609.24, ~~and~~ actions
15 the urban retail water supplier has implemented or will implement
16 in order to help meet the urban water use ~~objective~~. *objective, and*
17 *lower cost actions the water supplier has implemented or will*
18 *implement in order to help the water supplier achieve overall water*
19 *supply resiliency.*

20 (3) The board shall share information received pursuant to this
21 subdivision with the department.

22 (4) An urban water supplier may request technical assistance
23 from the department. The technical assistance may, to the extent
24 available, include guidance documents, tools, and data.

25 (b) On and after January 1, 2025, the board may issue a written
26 notice to an urban retail water supplier that does not meet its urban
27 water use objective required by this chapter. The written notice
28 may warn the urban retail water supplier that it is not meeting its
29 urban water use objective described in Section 10609.20 and is
30 not making adequate progress in meeting the urban water use
31 objective, and may request that the urban retail water supplier
32 address areas of concern in its next annual report required by
33 Section 10609.24. In deciding whether to issue a written notice,
34 the board may consider whether the urban retail water supplier has
35 received an informational order, the degree to which the urban
36 retail water supplier is not meeting its urban water use objective,
37 information provided in the report required by Section 10609.24,

1 and actions the urban retail water supplier has implemented or will
2 implement in order to help meet its urban water use objective.

3 (c) (1) On and after January 1, 2026, the board may issue a
4 conservation order to an urban retail water supplier that does not
5 meet its urban water use objective. A conservation order may
6 consist of, but is not limited to, referral to the department for
7 technical assistance, requirements for education and outreach,
8 requirements for local enforcement, and other efforts to assist
9 urban retail water suppliers in meeting their urban water use
10 objective. *In deciding whether to issue a conservation order, the*
11 *board may consider the water supplier's overall water supply*
12 *management portfolio, including lower cost actions the water*
13 *supplier has implemented or will implement in order to help the*
14 *water supplier achieve overall water supply resiliency.*

15 (2) In issuing a conservation order, the board shall identify
16 specific deficiencies in an urban retail water supplier's progress
17 towards meeting its urban water use objective, and identify specific
18 actions to address the deficiencies.

19 (3) The board may request that the department provide an urban
20 retail water supplier with technical assistance to support the urban
21 retail water supplier's actions to remedy the deficiencies.

22 (d) A conservation order issued in accordance with this chapter
23 may include requiring actions intended to increase water-use
24 efficiency, but shall not curtail or otherwise limit the exercise of
25 a water right, nor shall it require the imposition of civil liability
26 pursuant to Section 377.



Topic: Watershed Resilience Pilot Project
Type: New Business
Item For: Information
Purpose: Strategic Plan Planning Objective C

SUBMITTED BY:	Trevor Joseph Manager of Technical Services	PRESENTER:	Trevor Joseph Manager of Technical Services
---------------	---	------------	---

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is for the Mr. Joseph to brief the Executive Committee on the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is an information item. No action.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Award Letter from DWR
- Attachment 2 - Chapter 5 of the DWR Water Plan

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



February 14, 2024

James Peifer
Executive Director
Regional Water Authority
5620 Birdcage St, STE 180
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Award Notification for Watershed Resilience Grant Program

Dear James Peifer:

Congratulations! We are pleased to inform you that the Regional Water Authority has been selected and awarded **\$2,000,000** grant funds by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) through the Watershed Resilience Grant Program. Costs incurred after February 13, 2024 will be eligible for grant reimbursement. The purpose of this grant award is to assess local climate variability and risks while developing strategies to adapt to climate change and weather whiplash. This award is conditioned upon the execution of a Grant Agreement between DWR and your agency. Please see the agreement template for your reference. Please note funding will expire on June 30, 2026; and thus all tasks and deliverables included the agreement must be completed and paid out by April of 2026.

Your timely attention is directed to the following requirements:

Within 14 calendar days of the date of this award letter:

Award Acceptance - Please submit a letter or e-mail signed by the authorized representative (agreement signatory) confirming your agency as the Grantee to accept the grant award in the amount of \$2,000,000. This letter/e-mail should also confirm the proper billing address for your organization (where reimbursement checks will be sent).

Electronic Signatures - DWR uses DocuSign to process signatures electronically to expedite all grant-related documents requiring a signature. In order for DWR to send documents to you via DocuSign, we need your permission and consent. If you consent to the use of DocuSign, please send DWR a letter on official letterhead signed by the authorized representative, consenting to the use of DocuSign for **all transactions** related to this award (see attached sample). If you prefer **not** to use electronic signatures, DWR can send documents for original (wet) signatures via email or mail, but this can delay the process significantly, especially during situations such as the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Within 30 calendar days of the date of this award letter:

Authorizing Resolution – Please submit an authorizing resolution for this agreement within the next 30 days of this letter (see attached sample language).

Self-Certification – Please submit a completed self-certification form within the next 30 days of this letter (see attached sample language).

Draft Agreement – A draft agreement is attached to this letter. Please revise and edit the first draft of the agreement within the next 30 days for review by DWR. DWR will then work with you to finalize the agreement.

Your timely attention to these requirements is critical to execute the Grant Agreement; failure to do so may result in DWR revoking the grant award. Please submit the required information in the time periods specified to ashley.gilreath@water.ca.gov. The subject line of the email should include “<applicant name> ANL Items”. Please contact Ashley Gilreath at ashley.gilreath@water.ca.gov or (916) 326-9993 if you have questions.

Again, congratulations to you on this grant award. We look forward to working with you to build watershed resilience in your communities.

Sincerely,

Zaffar Eusuff, Ph.D., P.E.

Carmel Brown
Manager, Financial Assistance Branch
Division of Regional Assistance

Chapter 5. Focus on Supporting Watershed Resilience

Previous chapters demonstrated how all water-related sectors are at risk and becoming more vulnerable with climate change. The State is responding to the climate crisis with plans and actions by multiple agencies, departments, commissions, councils, and boards toward increasing climate resilience.

This chapter describes the need for climate resilience planning at the watershed scale and implementation through regional cross-sector initiatives. It highlights State and local efforts that have advanced regional resilience and introduces a watershed resilience program administered by DWR. The program will build on existing collaborative relationships, planning, and investments to improve regional climate resilience and invest in natural and built backbone infrastructure.

A Statewide Vision for Watershed Resilience

Watersheds throughout the state support multiple water sectors that allow California's communities, economies, and ecosystems to thrive. These watersheds provide water supply, flood management, ecosystem, hydropower, recreation, and other benefits to those within and connected to them. These same watersheds are also at the forefront of the impacts of climate change. Each watershed is experiencing effects of climate change unique to its geography, hydrology, socioeconomics, land use patterns, and built infrastructure. As such, effective climate adaptation strategies will vary between watersheds. Past Water Plan updates, as well as the *Water Resilience Portfolio* and *Water Supply Strategy* acknowledge this diversity, highlighting the importance of State incentives for local collaborative water resources management at regional and watershed scales.

Water management in California occurs at many different scales, from individual residences and communities (e.g., water use efficiency standards and drinking water regulations) to interregional infrastructure, such as the State Water Project and the Los Angeles Aqueduct. While there are critically important ongoing efforts and new opportunities to address these challenges at each scale, the watershed scale continues to emerge as an important focal point for water resilience planning.

Update 2023 underscores the importance of supporting programs to incentivize robust watershed-specific climate vulnerability analyses and adaptation plans,

followed by investments in multi-sector collaborations and solutions at the watershed- and regional-scale. Complementing ongoing regulatory frameworks and program approaches, this expanded watershed-scale focus is intended to empower communities with the data, technical expertise, and financial resources to build water solutions resilient to climate change and other uncertainties that lie ahead.

The State of California has made resilience to climate change a priority. As shown in Chapter 4, The State Legislature and the administration have developed many programs that help regions improve their climate resilience. A few examples include the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, Office of Planning and Research’s Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program, and Department of Fish and Wildlife’s programs for landscape conservation planning, as well as the overall mission of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. These programs and initiatives demonstrate the State’s focus and role in promoting local collaboration at regional scales to respond to climate change risks.

Watershed Resilience Principles

Strong approaches to watershed resilience incorporate fundamental principles of integrated watershed management (State Water Resources Control Board 2002; California Department of Water Resources 2023; Pegram et al. 2013; Public Policy Institute of California 2019). These principles encourage robust planning and implementation in the face of uncertainty and recognize that water supports, and is managed for many interdependent resources:

1. **Promote Multi-Sectoral, Multi-Benefit Resilience Strategies:** Seek coordinated resilience solutions that provide multiple benefits to multiple water-related sectors, the environment, and communities.
2. **Integrate and Prioritize Equity and Inclusiveness:** Promote equity and inclusiveness as integral parts of the planning and implementation process.
3. **Focus on Watersheds and Interdependencies of Natural Resource and Engineered Systems:** Watersheds are an appropriate scale for adopting a holistic systems-focused approach for organizing multi-sector resilience planning that includes nature-based and engineered solutions.
4. **Build and Strengthen Watershed Networks:** Promote collaboration, relationships, and trust among a wide diversity of participants and engagement with those historically excluded from water management decisions.

5. **Apply Best Available Science and Promote Best Practices, Approaches, and Tools for Climate Resilience Planning:** Apply best available science and provide recognized and defensible approaches to inform planning.
6. **Build a Robust Understanding of Climate Risks and Embrace Uncertainty:** Ensure that system risk resulting from climate change is understood and that a range of plausible future conditions and uncertainty is considered.
7. **Promote Outcomes-Based Management:** Manage watersheds for outcomes with performance indicators and metrics to assess climate risk and track the effectiveness of adaptations.
8. **Move the Needle:** Focus on implementing on-the-ground, measurable, and complementary resilience actions through coordinated and sustained investments.

The principles of the watershed resilience approach support Newsom administration policies and priorities, including the governor's *Water Supply Strategy* and *Water Resilience Portfolio*, focusing on climate urgency, building regional resilience through multi-benefit projects, integrated resource management, nature-based solutions – all with a strong focus on resilience and equity.

Implementation of these watershed resilience principles would result in robust multi-sector vulnerability and risk assessments, water budgets on a watershed scale, watershed climate resilience plans, multi-benefit adaptation strategies and projects, and tracking of watershed outcomes over time.

It should be noted that water and other natural resources are managed across many jurisdictional levels and scales that do not always align with watersheds. Issues and project actions occur at a wide variety of scales. The watershed resilience planning efforts do not assume all water management issues can be resolved at a watershed scale. Local, State, federal, and Tribal governments and agencies and other partners will need to continue working across a variety of scales and jurisdictions to address complex, multi-faceted water issues. Nonetheless, the State views watersheds as an appropriate scale for forming regional networks to collaborate across water-related sectors, conduct multi-sector climate vulnerability assessments, formulate multi-benefit adaptation strategies, and track and report on system-scale outcomes.

Watershed Resilience Planning Case Studies

The following watershed resilience case studies demonstrate multi-sector, climate resilience planning at the watershed scale from a wide variety of regions throughout

the state. Each case study highlights where local agencies and their partners have built regional or watershed-scale efforts around at least some of the principles noted above. These include science-driven climate vulnerability assessments, inclusive networks, collaboration across multiple water-related sectors, and forward-looking management of backbone infrastructure which represent many best practices that can be applied in other parts of the state.

Case Study Highlight: Merced Flood-Mar Reconnaissance Study

Watershed: Merced River

Partners Involved: Merced Irrigation District, DWR

Key Watershed Resilience Principles:

- Apply Best Available Science and Promote Best Practices, Approaches, and Tools for Climate Resilience Planning and Analysis.
- Build a Robust Understanding of Climate Risks and Embrace Uncertainty.
- Focus on Watersheds and Interdependencies of Natural and Engineered Systems.
- Promote Multi-Sectoral, Multi-Benefit Resilience Strategies.

Summary of Planning Effort: DWR, in partnership with Merced Irrigation District, is studying the climate change vulnerability and use of floodwaters for managed aquifer recharge (also known as flood-managed aquifer recharge [Flood-MAR]) that can support climate change adaptation and reduce flood risk, increase supply reliability, support groundwater sustainability, and enhance ecosystems in the Merced River Basin. The Merced study uses a watershed vulnerability and adaptation assessment approach, first assessing climate change vulnerabilities in flood management, water supply, ecosystems, and groundwater sustainability. Performance of Flood-MAR and other adaptations are then evaluated with potential climate change futures.

The Merced study found that analyzing a wide range of water sector vulnerabilities in a watershed helps to balance tradeoffs and identify new opportunities for multi-sector climate adaptation. Study results indicate that even low levels of Flood-MAR implementation achieve benefits in all sectors. The benefits substantially increase with an increase in scale (i.e., land area) of implementation, including the addition of reservoir reoperation concepts and new infrastructure. With a combination of Flood-MAR and reservoir reoperation, study results show climate change-induced peak flood flows in the Merced River were reduced by 65 to 85 percent. Multi-sector headwater to groundwater adaptation measures can significantly reduce vulnerabilities for communities and ecosystems.

The Merced Flood-MAR watershed study is an illustration of how climate change causes region-specific impacts and the need to better understand climate vulnerabilities across water supply, groundwater, flood management, and ecosystem sectors at a watershed scale. Findings from this watershed-scale vulnerability assessment informed development of Executive Order N-4-23 to use floodwater to recharge and store groundwater statewide.

Case Study Highlight: Sonoma Water Climate Adaptation Plan

Watershed: Russian River

Partners Involved: Sonoma Water, County of Sonoma, Santa Rosa Water, Valley of the Moon Water District, City of Petaluma, City of Sonoma, North Marin Water District, and Marin Water

Key Watershed Resilience Principles:

- Apply Best Available Science and Promote Best Practices, Approaches, and Tools for Climate Resilience Planning and Analysis.
- Build a Robust Understanding of Climate Risks and Embrace Uncertainty.
- Promote Multi-Sectoral, Multi-Benefit Resilience Strategies.

Summary of Planning Effort: Sonoma Water and partners developed a comprehensive climate adaptation plan that seeks to improve resilience across the integrated water, flood, and sanitation management sectors in Sonoma, Marin, and Mendocino counties. The climate adaptation plan, completed in late 2021, includes an assessment of climate risks to water supply, sanitation, and flood management infrastructure and operations, and serves as a guide for achieving climate resilience across Sonoma Water’s systems.

The climate adaptation plan utilized a robust science-based approach to regional climate change, including evaluation of historical climate trends and a range of future climate projections to develop scenarios of climate threats in the region. Climate threats to Sonoma Water’s water systems were comprehensively assessed and included extreme precipitation, severe droughts, wildfire, and water quality changes. Climate change downscaling for the region was conducted, followed by water supply and flood modeling on the Russian River and Santa Rosa Creek. Major water facilities were studied and assessed for vulnerabilities to future climate change. Vulnerability and risk assessments were conducted for all major components of the systems.

A wide range of adaptation concepts and strategies to improve resilience were identified through a series of interactive workshops. Approximately 80 adaptation concepts were evaluated according to more than a dozen criteria covering economic, environmental, and social elements. Several common, integrated concepts were identified, and some are in process of being implemented. A regional water supply resilience study is following the climate adaptation plan to investigate risks beyond climate change and identify integrated regional solutions to the water supply sector challenges.

Case Study Highlight: American River Basin Study

Watershed: American River

Partners Involved: Regional Water Authority, Placer County Water Agency, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, City of Roseville, City of Sacramento, El Dorado County Water Agency, City of Folsom, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

Key Watershed Resilience Principles:

- Apply Best Available Science and Promote Best Practices, Approaches, and Tools for Climate Resilience Planning and Analysis.
- Build a Robust Understanding of Climate Risks and Embrace Uncertainty.
- Focus on Watersheds and Interdependencies of Natural and Engineered Systems.
- Promote Multi-Sectoral, Multi-Benefit Resilience Strategies.

Summary of Planning Effort: The *American River Basin Study* is a comprehensive watershed-level look at projected climate change impacts on the Sacramento region. The study identifies future climate and hydrology projections and outlines gaps between water supplies, projected urban and agricultural demands, water quality, and critical habitat in the American River Basin. The study, which was developed in partnership with local water providers, including the Regional Water Authority, describes regional vulnerabilities and strategies for adaptation designed to address climate vulnerabilities in the American River watershed, which stretches from Sacramento to the Sierra foothills. The study partners evaluated potential strategies to address climate challenges, improve water supply reliability, and enhance the Bureau of Reclamation's flexibility in operating Folsom Reservoir to meet flow and water quality standards in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and ensure environmental protection. Each strategy addresses different sets of climate impacts in the watershed because no one adaptation portfolio can address all the identified vulnerabilities.

The project realized several successes, including expanding from the Lower American River and three counties to include the entire system ("supershed") for their region's water supply. This encompassed the entire American River watershed, portions of Bear and Consumnes watersheds, and two groundwater basins. The effort recognized the need to work on all the components of water resources in an integrated fashion, change the perspective of floods from nuisance to resource, and move from brick-and-mortar improvements to operational improvements.

Case Study Highlight: Ventura River

Watershed: Ventura River

Partners Involved: Ventura County, Ventura County Resource Conservation District, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, Ventura County Watershed Protection District

Key Watershed Resilience Principles:

- Integration of multiple water-related sectors.
- Focus on Watersheds and Interdependencies of Natural and Engineered Systems.
- Promote Multi-Sectoral, Multi-Benefit Resilience Strategies.
- Watershed-scale planning.

Summary of Planning Effort: The Ventura River watershed has become increasingly vulnerable to accelerating climate changes, such as recurring and ever-more severe droughts. There have been a number of important collaborative efforts and planning studies conducted in the watershed in recent years.

- In 2011 The Department of Conservation awarded a three-year Watershed Coordinator grant to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy for development of the Ventura River Watershed Management Plan.
- The Wildlife Conservation Board has funded special planning studies in this watershed focused on development of an Instream Flow Framework managed by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District.
- The State Water Resources Control Board is developing a model to better understand the relationship between groundwater and surface water flows in the watershed.

The County of Ventura conducted the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project designed to integrate and evaluate water supply reliability, groundwater recharge, habitat restoration, water quality, recreation, and flood management under a single watershed-wide plan framework. This project, led by the County's Watershed Protection District, first brought together diverse groups within the watershed such as wholesale water providers, retail water suppliers, environmental organizations, groundwater management agencies, cities, the County of Ventura, special districts, unincorporated communities, and community members.

Case Study Highlight: Chollas Creek in the Pueblo San Diego Watershed

Watershed: Chollas Creek in the Pueblo San Diego Watershed

Partners Involved: San Diego IRWM Program, GroundWork San Diego, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, San Diego Coastkeeper, City of San Diego, Encanto Planning Group, Urban Corps, Jackie Robinson YMCA, U.S. Green Building Council San Diego, San Diego Sustainable Living Institute, San Diego Unified School District, Civic Communities, and Chollas Creek Coalition.

Key Watershed Resilience Principles:

- Integrate and Prioritize Equity and Inclusiveness.
- Inclusive regional planning networks that prioritize equity considerations.

Summary of Planning Effort: The SDIRWM Program funded four integrated projects that address high priority needs in the Chollas Creek watershed, which is in an urban disadvantaged community (DAC) in San Diego County. Water management challenges in the watershed included impaired water quality, aging and undersized infrastructure, channelized creeks and erosion, invasive species, flooding, and illegal dumping.

The San Diego IRWM Program has prioritized involvement from disadvantaged and tribal communities since its inception. A series of workshops were held along with outreach surveys distributed to individuals and organizations within DAC communities. The outcomes of these outreach activities were incorporated into the 2013 and 2019 IRWM Plan Updates. In addition, the San Diego Funding Area conducted a Water Needs Assessment in 2019 to increase DAC participation in the IRWM planning process and better identify and characterize water-related issues. Distinct needs were identified for urban DACs that focused on community development and surface water quality. Priority projects identified by DAC residents included de-channelization, hydromodification, and low impact development projects. Regional prioritization criteria were used by a diverse advisory workgroup that included DAC and tribal representatives.

Chollas Creek projects included habitat restoration, realignment and de-channelization, added recreational spaces, and improved water use efficiency. From planning to implementation, the Chollas Creek projects help support revitalization of the neighboring community while improving water quality and protecting against future climate change impacts. These projects leveraged partnerships across local and State agencies as well as nonprofit organizations and educational institutions.

Watershed Resilience Program

Inspired by these and many other examples of locally led inclusive and science-driven efforts, DWR is developing important and timely updates to its Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program with existing resources. The IRWM Program has been one of DWR's flagship local assistance programs over the past 20 years, in which more than \$2 billion in voter-approved bond funds have made possible nearly 1,500 projects by local agencies, leveraging an additional \$5 billion in local contributions. The IRWM Program has incentivized local collaboration, trust-building, creative water management strategies, and inclusive decision-making between local water managers, Tribes, and non-profit organizations, touching more than 90 percent of California's population and land area.

The Budget Act of 2021 and 2022 provided funding for DWR to begin implementing elements of a new Watershed Resilience Program. The budget authorized \$161 million over four years for watershed climate resilience to be provided as grants for drought resilience and identification and assessment of climate risks on a watershed basis." The funds are to be prioritized and allocated "in areas with greatest risk or potential to reduce environmental conflicts." DWR will administer the Watershed Resilience Program to incentivize the implementation of watershed resilience plans and projects throughout the state.

Initially, several pilot watersheds will be selected based on the degree of climate vulnerabilities, potential to address environmental conflicts, and preparedness for success. Selected watersheds will receive guidance and funding from DWR to convene inclusive watershed networks, conduct comprehensive watershed climate resilience planning through a collaborative process, quantify vulnerabilities across sectors, develop adaptation strategies, and identify adaptation pathways. Given the availability of funding, DWR may fund the implementation of adaptation strategies identified through plans.

Watershed Networks

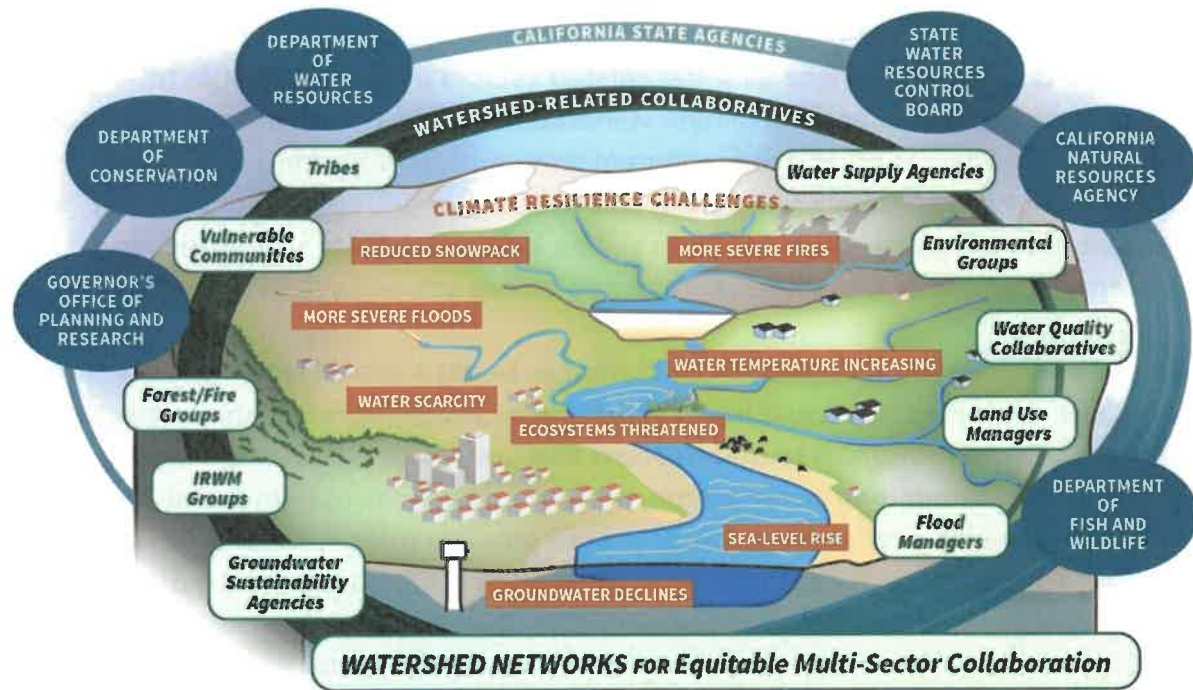
In support of the Watershed Resilience Program, DWR envisions the formation of local watershed networks built around commitments to inclusive governance and decision-making, cutting edge climate science, and planning at appropriate watershed scales. In some regions, these networks may be new entities formed where there are currently gaps in watershed-scale collaboration. In other regions, networks could be built off existing governance and regional planning efforts, such as IRWM groups, groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), regional flood management

planning groups, regional forest and fire capacity groups, water quality collaboratives, sewershed networks, and other regional and Tribal planning efforts.

Watershed networks provide all water-related sectors a seat at the table to collaborate on understanding climate vulnerabilities and system function, formulating multi-benefit adaptation and management strategies, and tracking watershed outcomes for transparency and accountability (California Department of Water Resources 2023). Watershed networks will be locally led, State supported, and centered in equity so that underrepresented voices can engage as equals.

Because DWR envisions equity and inclusion as being a critical focus for watershed networks, the networks should have broad and inclusive representation. They will provide enhanced support to underserved and underrepresented communities and Tribes by facilitating their participation, promoting capacity building, and assuring equitable benefits and impacts. Tribes should play key roles in watershed networks, utilizing Traditional or Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and practices of watershed-scale management to adapt to climate impacts. Beginning with equity in mind provides underserved communities a genuine seat at the table, ensuring them the opportunity to offer input and shape actions. Efforts to increase equity and inclusion can build off the work of the Roundtable of Regions Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Workgroup (Roundtable of Regions 2023).

Figure 5-1 Networks are an Integral Part of Supporting Watershed Resilience



Guidance and Technical Support

To the extent funding is available, DWR, in collaboration with other State agencies, will provide technical support to watershed networks, recognizing that each region will be starting from a unique level of climate vulnerability and preparedness and will have different technical capabilities and expertise in conducting resilience assessments. DWR will provide watershed networks technical assistance to evaluate climate vulnerabilities and risks, consider uncertainty in the development of adaptation strategies, and establish watershed resilience indicators. Additional assistance may include:

- **Funding Support:** Existing and future DWR financial assistance funding will utilize Watershed Resilience Program funding to support early action toward resilience planning and implementation.
- **Watershed Network Support:** DWR will support expansion and formation of watershed networks with funding, facilitation, collaboration training, and by participating and contributing technical support where appropriate.
- **Watershed Resilience Framework, Toolkit, and Resources:** DWR will disseminate a Watershed Resilience Planning Framework, toolkit, and case studies to support local development of watershed resilience plans.

- **Technical Support:** DWR will provide common climate scenarios; historical and future water budgets; water accounting tools, data, and guidance; case studies; and locally led vulnerability and risk assessments. It also will develop an adaptation strategy database and synthesize regional vulnerabilities to better understand statewide priorities.
- **Regulatory and Policy Support:** DWR will seek permitting and regulatory assistance and support cross-jurisdictional partnering and alignment.
- **Outcome-Based Metrics and Tools:** DWR will develop and maintain a watershed hub for performance tracking and reporting on resilience performance.

Watershed Resilience Planning Framework

To support DWR's Watershed Resilience Program, the State is preparing planning and implementation resources to support water managers in addressing climate change threats by using an equitable, outcomes-based approach. The State is orienting data and analytics, technical support, and outcomes tracking with a focus on watersheds. To be a successful partner with local agencies, Tribes, and other partners, the State must adapt a watershed-by-watershed approach to meet the unique needs of each watershed.

Effective watershed resilience planning requires local and State agencies to effectively work together with clear roles and a shared framework. Update 2023 puts forth a robust and flexible Watershed Resilience Planning Framework (Framework) for watershed networks to conduct watershed resilience planning, evaluate climate vulnerability and risk, evaluate and prioritize adaptation strategies, and track progress toward climate change adaptation for water-related sectors. The Framework draws from the best practices and innovations currently being implemented around the state to understand climate risk and develop resilient solutions. The Framework consists of five main steps (Figure 5-2).

1. **Set the Stage:** Convene broad-based watershed network; set vision and goals of resilience planning effort; and identify components, interdependencies, and bounds of the planning effort.
2. **Explore Hazards:** Understand the current state of the system, historical climate influences on the system, future projections, and uncertainty.
3. **Assess Vulnerabilities and Risks:** Identify indicators for various watershed resource areas, assess the vulnerability of watershed systems to current climate

conditions and a range of plausible future climate conditions, and use the risk analysis to identify high-priority focus areas.

4. **Develop Adaptation Strategies:** Identify and evaluate a wide spectrum of adaptation options for priority focus areas, consider sustainability principles, and recommend no- or low-regret strategies while considering uncertainty.
5. **Implement and Monitor:** Develop a timeline and triggers for implementing selected strategies through on-the-ground actions; fund, implement, and monitor the performance of actions; and adapt strategies as needed.

Figure 5-2 Watershed Resilience Planning Framework Provides a Shared Process

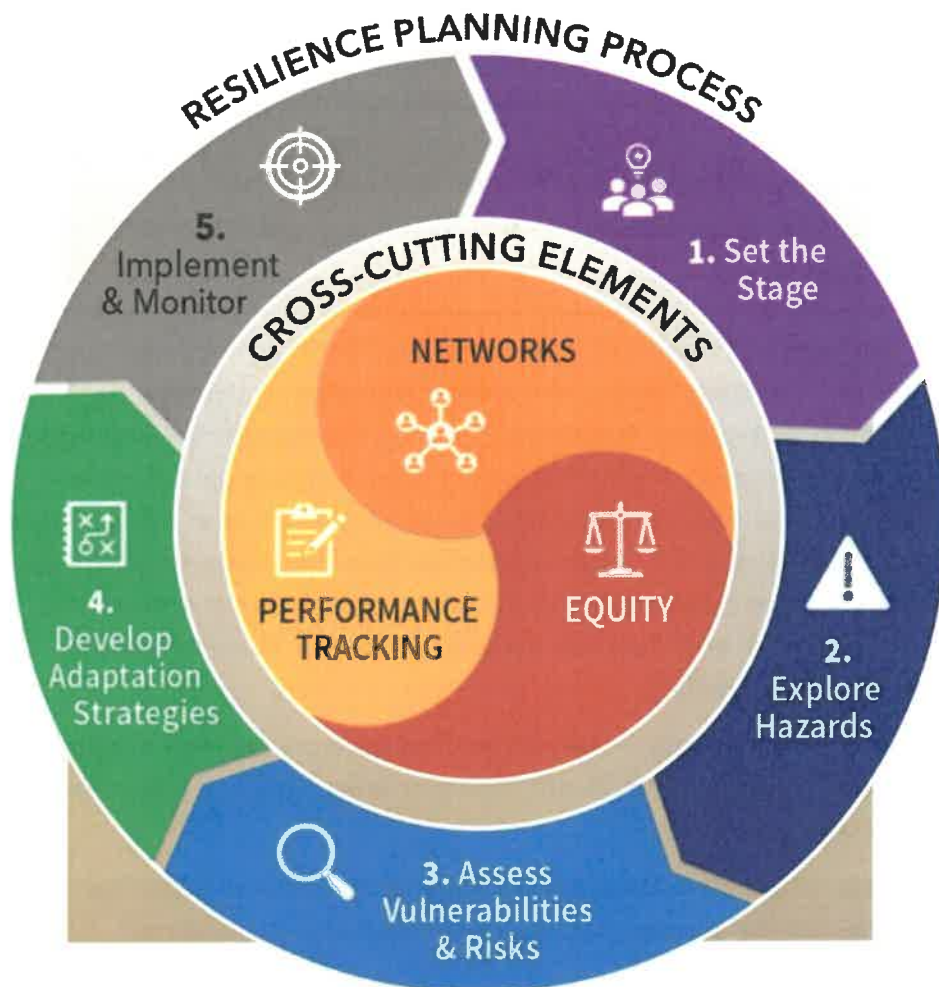


Figure 5-2 Note: A Watershed Resilience Framework document, including guidance, case studies, and an interactive toolkit, is being prepared to support watersheds in achieving robust resilience.

Integral to the Framework are three cross-cutting elements: watershed networks, equity, and performance tracking. These three elements integrate across all steps of the Framework and are considered foundational to the success of any watershed resilience planning effort. The Framework has the flexibility to be customized and used in California's diverse watersheds. Each region may choose to focus on different steps within the framework based on their unique needs, capabilities, and leveraging of previous work.

To accompany the Framework, DWR is developing an online, interactive toolkit that will support watershed networks in conducting resilience planning through guidance, tools, and best practices. The guidance and toolkit will serve as a template for watershed networks to conduct resilience planning and develop and customize their own adaptation strategies. The guidance and tools are aligned with best practices in State and national climate resiliency efforts.

Outcome-Based Metrics and Tools

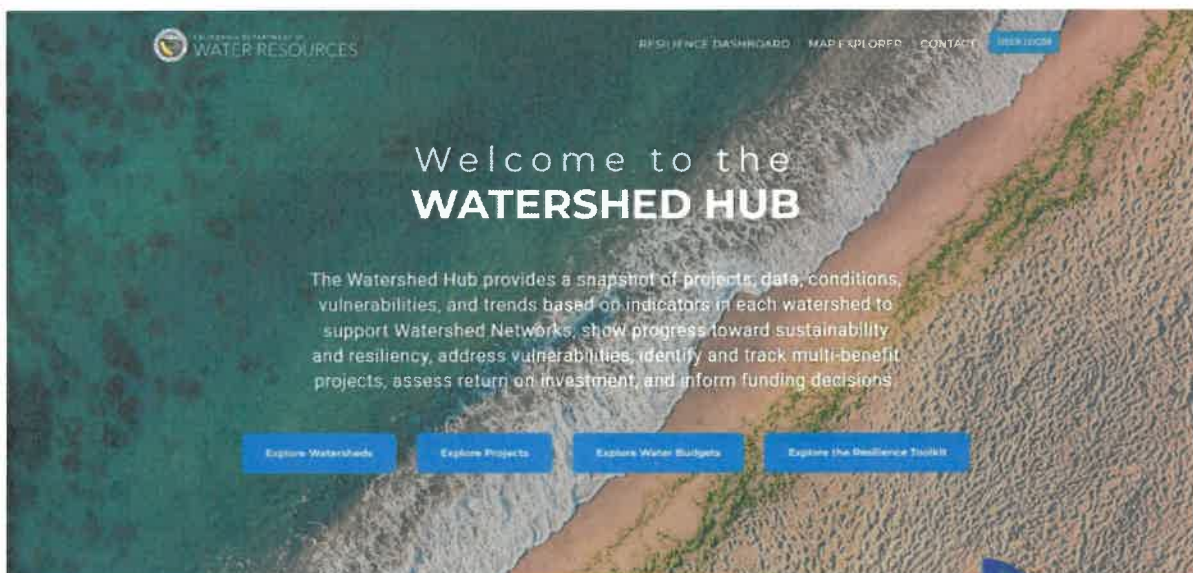
To achieve resiliency and sustainability at the watershed scale, desired outcomes need to be established and progress toward those outcomes needs to be measured over time. The goal of performance tracking is to know whether watershed resilience vital signs are trending in the right direction.

Building from efforts in *California Water Plan Update 2018* and advanced in the *Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) Update 2022*, DWR has developed over 20 indicators to help measure performance across seven water resource categories: water supply, water quality, groundwater, flood management, ecosystem, recreation, and hydropower. These indicators and metrics were expanded from an initial set identified in the Sustainability Outlook (California Department of Water Resources 2018) and refined based on review of related performance tracking efforts in the CVFPP, Delta Adapts (Delta Stewardship Council 2021), Resilient California Adaptation Planning Map (Office of Policy and Research 2022), CalEnviroScreen (Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 2020), Healthy Watersheds Partnership Assessment (California Water Quality Monitoring Council 2023), and other programs.

DWR is developing, as part of the Watershed Resilience Program, a Watershed Hub performance tracking tool (Figure 5-3). The Watershed Hub will track indicators and metrics across water sectors by watershed. It will allow users to see the current risks and vulnerabilities within each watershed and track how adaptation strategies are improving resilience at the watershed scale across the state. Future releases of the

Watershed Hub will provide watershed networks with the ability to upload their unique watershed data, including specific metrics and indicators, project data, and other useful information for their networks.

Figure 5-3 The Watershed Hub



State Agency Alignment and Assistance

State government has a critical role in setting goals and standards and assisting local water resource managers to meet them with technical, financial, facilitation, and regulatory assistance. This State support includes the provision of the latest climate change science, technical and logistical support to conduct watershed resilience planning, and funding and regulatory assistance to implement adaptation strategies. A strong State role in supporting regional climate resilience and collaboration across watersheds is described in Governor Newsom's *Water Supply Strategy*.

State agency alignment with support for, and participation in, watershed networks is critical for their success. Investment in these networks throughout California would serve to reinvest in the social infrastructure of relationships and trust that are essential to effectively adapt to climate change throughout a watershed. Coordinating State efforts around watersheds will help align State agency policies, plans, programs, regulations, and investments with what will be needed for watershed networks to function optimally and succeed in their efforts.

Watershed networks can also serve as a forum to achieve the State's regulatory and policy goals. As articulated in the *Water Resilience Portfolio* and *Water Supply*

Strategy, the State “must modernize regulatory structures and expand staff capacity so that State agencies can assess, permit, fund and implement projects at the pace this climate emergency warrants” (California Natural Resources Agency 2022).

State agencies administering regional- or watershed-scale programs should incorporate the watershed resilience principles in Update 2023 to facilitate more consistent and equitable approaches to climate vulnerability and adaptation planning and project implementation.

Strategies and Recommendations for Moving Forward

This chapter describes the need for climate resilience planning at the watershed scale. It features case studies of watershed-based multi-sector collaboration throughout the State. It also describes a Watershed Resilience Program as an evolution of DWR’s IRWM Program that would complement other climate resilience efforts from other State agencies. Achieving resilience in each of the state’s diverse watersheds and investing in natural and built backbone infrastructure is essential to collectively build resilience for all of California. This focus on watershed resilience not only seeks to address climate urgency with multi-sector collaboration but also incorporates equity in promoting regional resilience through watershed networks. Objectives, recommendations, and actions related to watershed resilience are presented in Chapter 8, “Roadmap to Resilience.”



Topic: Ad Hoc Committee Update
Type: New Business
Item For: Information
Purpose: Policy 200.1 (Rules for Proceedings of the Board of Directors)

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

PRESENTER: Brett Ewart
Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is for Chair Ewart to brief the Executive Committee on the formation and charge of Ad Hoc Committees.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is an information item. No action.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Watershed Resilience Ad Hoc Committee
Chair: Tony Firenzi

Executive Director Performance Review (RWA Policy 400.4)
Chair: Brett Ewart

Revisions to Policy 400.1 and Policy 400.2
Chair: Brett Ewart

Purchasing Ad Hoc Committee
Chair: Rebecca Scott

Awards Committee
Chair: TBD

**Watershed Resilience Program
Ad Hoc Committee and
Organizational Structure**

Chair Tony Firenzi has created a Watershed Resilience Program Ad Hoc Committee to create an organizational structure and steering committee for cooperative program with the Department of Water Resources for watershed planning.

Steering Committee

Desired outcome: To assemble a steering committee of representatives from the Yuba River, Bear River, American River and Cosumnes River Supershed that can make policy decisions while channeling the needs of the broader water user region.

Ten-member steering committee (including two environmental NGO reps):

- Headwaters: Rebecca Guo (EDWA)
- American River Watershed: Tony Firenzi (PCWA)
- Yuba & Bear River Watersheds: Greg Jones (NID)
- Cosumnes River Watershed: Austin Miller (Sac. Co. Water Agency)
- Fisheries: Mike Tognolini, or designee (East Bay Municipal Utilities District)
- Env. NGO Representative (two): Clyde MacDonald (SARA) and Ted Rauh (ECOS)
- Groundwater: Brett Ewart (City of Sacramento)
- Flood Control: Gary Bardini (SAFCA)
- Water Quality: Sean Bigley (City of Roseville)

Committee staff:

Trevor Joseph (lead)
Jim Peifer
Ryan Ojakian
Michelle Banonis

Water Forum Liaison: Jessica Law, or designee



Topic: RWA Board of Directors Agenda
Type: New Business
Item For: Action; Motion to Approve
Purpose: [Policy 200.2](#)

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

PRESENTER: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item for the Executive Committee to review and consider approving the draft Agenda of the Regular Regional Water Authority (RWA) Board of Directors Meeting of March 14, 2024.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

A motion to approve RWA Board of Directors Agenda for March 14, 2024, Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND

Per RWA Policy 200.0, the Executive Committee will be authorized to prepare and approve agendas for meetings of the RWA Board of Directors.

Please be aware that the regularly scheduled Board meeting for March 14, 2024, will be held at Sacramento Suburban Water District’s Antelope Facility training room.

FINDING/CONCLUSION

The Executive Director has prepared the draft Agenda for the RWA Board of Directors Meeting March 14, 2024 for the RWA’s Executive Committee’s consideration and approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1- Draft RWA Board of Directors Agenda for January 18, 2024 Board Meeting



**REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**Sacramento Suburban Water District
7800 Antelope North Rd, Antelope, CA 95843
(916) 967-7692**

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING VIRTUAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Regional Water Authority currently provides in person as well as virtual public participation via the Zoom link below until further notice. The public shall have the opportunity to directly address the Board on any item of interest before or during the Board's consideration of that item. Public comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Board is welcomed, subject to reasonable time limitations for each speaker.

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89073814270>

Meeting ID: 890 7381 4270

Dial by your location

- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection in the customer service area of the Authority's Administrative Office at the address listed above.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Executive Director of the Authority at (916) 967-7692. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. The Board of Directors may consider any agenda item at any time during the meeting.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public who wish to address the Board may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR: All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered and acted upon by one motion. Board Members may request an item be removed for separate consideration.

3.1 Approve the draft meeting minutes of January 18, 2024, RWA Board Meeting.

3.2 Receive Memorandum on Proposed Practices to Address the Improvement of Internal Controls

3.3 Approve Revisions to Policy 500.8 (Purchasing Card Policy) and Policy 500.13 (Business Expense Reimbursement Policy)

3.4 Approve Resolution No. 2024-01 approving the DWR Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Agreement

Action: Approve Consent Calendar items as presented

4. FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Approve 2024/2025 Strategic Plan Priorities

5. WATERSHED RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM

Presenter: Trevor Joseph, Manager of Technical Services

6. SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WATER BANK UPDATE

Presenter: Trevor Joseph, Manager of Technical Services

7. REVISIONS TO POLICY 400.1 (PERSONNEL RULES) AND POLICY 400.2 (COMPENSATION POLICY)

Presenter: Brett Ewart, Chair

Action: Approve Revisions to Policy 400.1 and Policy 400.2

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next RWA Board of Director's Meeting:

May 16, 2024, 9:00 a.m. at a location to be determined. The location is subject to change.

Next RWA Executive Committee Meeting:

March 26, 2024, 1:30 p.m. at the RWA Office, 2295 Gateway Oaks, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833.

Notification will be emailed when the RWA electronic packet is complete and posted on
the RWA website at: <https://www.rwah2o.org/meetings/board-meetings/>.

Posted on March 8, 2024

James Peifer, Executive Director