



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**RWA Board Meeting
FINAL Minutes
November 14, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ewart called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:10 a.m. the meeting location was at The Sacramento Association of Realtors, 2003 Howe Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825. A quorum was established of 15 participating members present in person. Individuals who participated are listed below:

RWA Board Members

S. Audie Foster, California American Water
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District
YK Chalamcherla, City of Folsom
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln
Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Jay Boatwright, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

RWA Associate Members

None

RWA Affiliate Members

Vanessa Nishikawa, Principal Water Resources Engineer, Stantec

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Tom Hoffart, Trevor Joseph, Amy Talbot, Raiyna Villasenor, Ashley Flores, Michelle Banonis, and Josh Horowitz, Legal Counsel

Others in Attendance

Cathy Lee, CWD; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Sean Bigley and George Hanson, City of Roseville; Bruce Kamilos, EGWD; Nicholas Schneider, GDPUD; Paul Helliker, SJWD; Rebecca Scott, CHWD; Kevin Thomas, SSWD; Anne Sanger, City of Sacramento; Ted Rauh, ECOS; and Ashlee Casey, Water Forum

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1 Approve the draft meeting minutes of September 12, 2024 RWA Board Meeting
- 3.2 Approve updates to RWA Policy 300.4 (Record Retention) and adopt Resolution 2024-06
- 3.3 Approve the 2025 Board of Directors and Executive Committee meeting schedule
- 3.4 Adopt Resolution 2024-07 United States Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants FY 2025 application
- 3.5 Approve Amendment #1 to Professional Services Agreement with Richardson & Company, LLP. for an additional amount of \$13,050
- 3.6 Approve Task Order #3 with Khadam Consulting Inc. for an additional amount not to exceed \$88,000

A motion to approve the Consent Calendar items as presented.

Motion/Second/Carried Director Roccucci moved, with a second by Director Chalamcherla

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; YK Chalamcherla, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Jay Boatwright, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passes.

Ayes	15
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	7

4. 2025 RWA BOARD ELECTIONS OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Peifer, Executive Director, presented this action item for the Board of Directors to elect the 2025 Chair; and to identify candidates for Vice Chair and the Executive Committee.

Chair Ewart nominated William Roberts as the incoming RWA Board Chair

A motion to elect William Roberts as 2025 RWA Board Chair.

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

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; YK Chalamcherla, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento

County Water Agency; Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Jay Boatwright, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passes.

Ayes	15
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	7

The following Directors requested to be placed on the ballot and provided a statement of interest to be the RWA Vice Chair:

Michael Saunders – Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

The following Directors requested to be placed on the ballot and provided a statement of interest to be on the RWA Executive Committee:

Sean Bigley – City of Roseville
Robert “Bob” Wichert – Sacramento Suburban Water District
Ron Greenwood – Carmichael Water District
Brett Ewart – City of Sacramento
Sean Twilla – Golden State Water District (IOU)
Chris Nelson – City of Lincoln

A motion to accept the slate of candidates for the election of RWA Vice Chair and Executive committee.

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

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; YK Chalamcherla, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Jay Boatwright, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passes.

Ayes	15
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	7

5. PARTICIPATION IN THE WATER FORUM AGREEMENT UPDATE

Jim Peifer, Executive Director presented this action item for the Board of Directors to review and consider authorizing the Regional Water Authority and its Executive Director to formally participate in the Water Forum Agreement update process. This process is also known as the Water Forum 2.0 process.

A motion to Authorize the Regional Water Authority and its Executive Director to formally participate in the Water Forum Agreement Update process consistent with Policy 100.1.

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

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District; YK Chalamcherla, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Jay Boatwright, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes. Motion passes.

Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District; voted no. Motion passes

Ayes	14
Noes	1
Abstained	0
Absent	7

6. INFORMATION: UPCOMING ACTIONS FOR HEALTHY RIVERS AND LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

Michelle Banonis, Manager of Strategic Affairs presented this information item for the Board of Directors to receive a presentation of an overview of the current process for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program (HR&LP), formerly known as Voluntary Agreements. Along with a regulatory pathway, the HR&LP is presented as an option to meet objectives in the State Water Resources Control Board’s (State Board’s) October 2024 Draft Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed. Upcoming anticipated actions by the State Board will warrant future actions by the RWA Board – likely including several agreements that will be necessary to implement HR&LP terms.

7. INFORMATION: UPDATE ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONSULTATION FOR STATE AND FEDERAL WATER PROJECTS

Michelle Banonis, Manager of Strategic Affairs presented this information item for the Board of Directors to receive to receive a presentation from Michelle Banonis, Manager of Strategic Affairs on Endangered Species Act Consultation for State and Federal Water Projects.

In 2021, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) reinitiated Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation on the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOps) on the Long-Term Operation (LTO) of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Reclamation’s Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in support of the new BiOps is anticipated to be released very soon to the public, possibly as early as November 15, 2024. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) final BiOp is anticipated in December 2024.

8. INFORMATION: WATERSHED RESILIENCE PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Relations, presented this information item for the Board of Directors to receive update on Watershed Resilience Pilot Project. The project's initial work includes establishing watershed boundaries, and planning for the initial watershed network meeting. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has hosted or will host several workshops on the watershed resilience framework and toolkit, establishing water budgets, and equity resources.

Since the Board authorized the Executive Director to engage in a grant agreement with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) the following has occurred: Jacobs was brought on as the consultant for the project with Valley Vision and Khadam consulting as subs; Project study area that includes the Bear, American, and Cosumnes watersheds was advanced; A structure for convening the watershed network and decision making has been developed; RWA received approval from DWR to provide stipends for participants that request assistance; RWA participated in a DWR lead meeting with all the other pilot project awardees; Significant work on gap analysis has occurred; and RWA hosted a tribal and frontline community kick off meeting.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Peifer provided a brief update on important activities, reports, communications, advocacy, and other updates.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Chalamcherla reported that this was his last RWA Board meeting representing the City of Folsom. He thanked everyone for the opportunity.


Director Nelson reported that City of Lincoln's Bill Larson has passed away. Memorial service information will be forthcoming.

Director Saunders reported that Georgetown Divide PUD received the Transparency Award from California Special District Association after completing their SDLF transparency program.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Ewart adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

By:



Brett Ewart
RWA Chair

Attest:



Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board