



Brett Ewart, Chair

Michael Saunders, Vice Chair	Chris Nelson, Director
Bruce Kamilos, Director	Robert Wichert, Director
Ron Greenwood, Director	Sean Bigley, Director
Sean Twilla, Director	Vacant, Director

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday, February 18, 2025
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.

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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 January 28, 2025 Executive Committee.

Action: Approve Consent Calendar

4. 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Recommend approval of the Strategic Plan Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 to the Board of Directors

5. FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Presenter: Tom Hoffart, Finance and Administrative Services Manager

Action: Provide Direction on key issues for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Presenter: Ryan Ojakian, Government Relations Manager

Action: Adopt Positions on Legislation

7. INFORMATION: RWA PROGRAM UPDATES

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

8. RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Approve RWA Board Meeting Agenda for March 13, 2025

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meetings:

Next RWA Board of Director's Meeting:

Regular RWA Board Meeting, March 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m. at the Sacramento Realtors

Association, 2003 Howe Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95825. The location is subject to change.

Next RWA Executive Committee Meeting:

The next RWA Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2025, 1:30 p.m. at the RWA Office located at 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 14, 2025



Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board



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

SUBMITTED BY:	Ashley Flores, CMC Secretary	PRESENTER:	Brett Ewart Chair
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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.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR



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:	Ashley Flores, CMC Secretary
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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 January 28, 2025.

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 January 28, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ewart called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order on January 28, 2025, at 1:31 p.m. at the RWA Board Room located at 2295 Gateway Oaks, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833. Seven of the Executive Committee Members were present at roll call; a quorum was established. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Executive Committee Members

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Chair
Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, Vice Chair
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company
Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Trevor Joseph, Tom Hoffart, Ryan Ojakian, Michelle Banonis, Raiyna Villasenor, Ashley Flores, Monica Garcia and Josh Horowitz, legal counsel.

Others in Attendance:

Ted Frink, DWR; Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approve draft meeting minutes of the December 17, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

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

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes. motion passed.

Ayes- 7
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 1

4. REVIEW OF POLICIES ON ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

Chair Ewart presented this information item to brief the Executive Committee on matters regarding the formation and charge of an Ad Hoc Committee to review RWA Policies 200.1 and 200.3 related to Elections and Board Vacancies.

Chair Ewart appointed Director Saunders as the Ad Hoc Chair, Director Ewart, Director Schmitz and Director Nelson to Ad Hoc Committee to review RWA Policies 200.1 and 200.3 related to Elections and Board Vacancies.

5. 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

Executive Director Peifer presented this action item for the Executive Committee to receive a report on the Strategic Plan prioritization survey data.

No action taken.

6. RWA PROGRAM UPDATES

Executive Director Peifer presented this information item for the Executive Committee to receive a report on the various programs and initiatives the RWA and SGA currently have underway. These programs and initiatives included: The Sacramento Regional Water Bank, the North American Subbasin (NASb) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) update, implementation of the current NASb GSP, the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project, the Water Forum Agreement update, the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, and the Reinitiation of Consultation for the Biological Opinions. The report included key milestones reached to date, the overall status of the programs, upcoming key milestones, and current and future anticipated resources.

No action taken.

7. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ryan Ojakian, Government Relations Manager, presented this information item for the Executive Committee to receive a update on matters that the State legislature

may consider in the upcoming year and share his insights. Bill introduction deadline is February 21, 2025.

No action taken.

8. COMMUNICATIONS ON WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

Executive Director Peifer presented this discussion item for the Executive Committee to have a discussion on what the unified message regarding the firefighting capacity of water distribution systems considering the recent fires throughout Los Angeles County.

No action taken.

9. AD HOC COMMITTEES

Chair Ewart presented this information item to brief the Executive Committee on matters regarding the formation and charge of the 2025 Ad Hoc Committees.

The following appointments were made:

Watershed Resilience Ad Hoc Committee

Tony Firenzi (Chair), carryover 2024 committee

Executive Director Performance Review (RWA Policy 400.4)

Brett Ewart (Chair), Michael Saunders, Chris Hunley, and Jay Boatwright

Revisions to Policy 200.1 and 200.3

Michael Saunders (Chair), Brett Ewart, Chris Nelson, and Kerry Schmitz

Purchasing Ad Hoc Committee

Rebecca Scott (Chair), carryover 2024 committee

Annual Awards Committee

Kerry Schmitz (Chair)

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Peifer directed the Executive Committee to his written report.

11. DIRECTORS' COMMENT

Director Saunders suggested that RWA should come up for a tour of GDPUD.

Director Kamilos reported that he has been onboarding new Boardmember Green to EGWD.

Director Wichert suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair should conduct round robin meetings with the member agencies.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ewart adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Approved by:

Brett Ewart, RWA Chair

Attested by:

Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board



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

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

PRESENTER: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item for the Executive Committee 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 2025/2026 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 1) the completion of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank; 2) assisting in obtaining funding for our member’s projects and 3) Enhance advocacy efforts to address water rights protection, regulatory overreach, and legislative challenges impacting the region. Please see Attachment 1 for a detailed summary of the feedback.

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 Water Forum American River Climate Adaption Plan.
- Support the pursuit of additional funding sources.
- 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.
- Advance or complete the monitoring plan, financial analysis study, water accounting system, and conjunctive use best management practices study.
- Complete the work necessary for recognizing previously banked water that can be incorporated into the Water Bank as a starting balance.
- 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, public outreach messaging and programmatic support to member agencies to assist with ongoing 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 Common Interest Management Services (CIMS) agreement and the development of water use related 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 Reclamation's implementation of recent Biological Opinions and any proposed modifications or adaptive management.
- Continue to advance the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program (HR&LP) process in a way that is beneficial to the participating members and our region.
- Protect members' interests related to existing and proposed Delta projects and programs.
- To build Federal Partnerships with the RWA and federal agencies including Reclamation.
- To assist the CIMS members as necessary.

- **Participation in the Water Forum**

The RWA will continue to participate in the development of the Water Forum 2.0 process and the initiatives that likely will result from the agreement including the implementation of the American River Climate Adaption Plan.

- **Legislative**

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

- Advocate on legislation related to low-income rate assistance (LIRA), Advance Clean Fleets, Water Quality, Groundwater Management, and Proposition 4 funding distribution.
- Building state partnerships including the River Arc partners.

Agenda Item 4



- Advocate on regulatory issues including groundwater recharge, climate policies, and the balance between water supply, environmental stewardship, water quality, and affordability.

- **Sacramento Groundwater Authority**

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
 - The Water Forum’s American River Climate Adaption Program

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 2025/2026.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Strategic Plan Survey Data
- Attachment 2 - RWA Strategic Plan
- Attachment 3 – SGA 2025 Strategic Priorities

Strategic Plan Prioritization 2025
February 6, 2025

2025 RWA Strategic Plan Survey Results

Q5-8: Please rank in order of importance the following Objectives for each of the Planning, Implementation, Communication and Advocacy Goals in the Strategic Plan.

Planning Objectives:

- **Planning Objective A Complete development of the Sacramento Regional Water Bank to improve water supply reliability and resilience. (16 ranked as 1 or 2)**
- Planning Objective B Evaluate and respond to impacts on the region's water suppliers and operations. (12 ranked as 1 or 2)
- Planning Objective C Lead and support planning efforts that benefit water agencies. (4 ranked as 1 or 2)
- Planning Objective D Plan for the sustainability of RWA and its members. (5 ranked as 1 or 2)

Implementation Objectives:

- **Implementation Objective A Support the securing of funding and assist in resourcing projects and programs that are regional priorities. (18 ranked as 1 or 2)**
- Implementation Objective B. Support members' efforts to improve water reliability and resilience. (13 ranked as 1 or 2)
- Implementation Objective C. Support members' water use efficiency efforts to comply with applicable state and local requirements. (8 ranked as 1 or 2)

Communication Objectives:

- **Communication Objective A Provide a forum for education, discussion, and outreach on water issues affecting the region. (16 ranked as 1 or 2)**
- Communication Objective C Cultivate relationships to advance RWA members' interests. (13 ranked as 1 or 2)
- Communication Objective B With one voice, raise RWA's profile and credibility through outreach efforts to targeted audiences. (13 ranked as 1 or 2)

Advocacy Objectives:

- **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. (15 ranked as 1 or 2)**
- **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. (12 ranked as 1 or 2—12 ranked as #1 and 7 ranked as #3)**
- 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). (15 ranked as 1 or 2)

Q 9: 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 2025/26?

Note that the following content analysis was aided by AI.

Priority 1:

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

Summary of Priorities (from most to least mentioned):

- **Implementation Objective A:** 6 mentions
- **Planning Objective A (Water Bank):** 4 mentions
- **Planning Objective B:** 3 mentions
- **"Planning" (unspecified):** 3 mentions
- **Advocacy Objective C:** 2 mentions
- **Planning Objective D:** 1 mention

Priority 2

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

Summary of Priorities (from most to least mentioned):

- **Planning Objective A (Water Bank):** 5 mentions
- **Implementation Objective A (Funding):** 4 mentions
- **Implementation Objective B:** 3 mentions
- **Advocacy Objective C:** 2 mentions
- **Communicate: Provide a forum for education, discussion, and outreach:** 1 mention
- **Advocacy B: Evaluate, comment, and advocate on state and federal issues:** 1 mention
- **"Implementation" (unspecified):** 1 mention

Priority 3:

- 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.

Summary of Priorities (from most to least mentioned):

- **Advocacy Objective A:** 3 mentions
- **Advocacy Objective C:** 2 mentions
- **Planning Objective A:** 2 mentions
- **Communications Objective A:** 2 mentions
- **Communications Objective B:** 2 mentions
- **Implementation Objective A:** 1 mention
- **Communications Objective C (Cultivate Relationships):** 1 mention
- **"Advocacy" (unspecified):** 1 mention

Q 10: If you could change anything about the Strategic Plan, what would you change to benefit your organization? Please explain what and why.

Note that the following content analysis was aided by AI.

Summary: The main themes include:

- Updating the Strategic Plan to stay current.
- A focus on added value activities like securing funding and protecting water rights.
- Improving collaboration and reducing redundancy, especially with organizations like the Water Forum.
- Accountability and transparency in tracking progress and communicating goals.
- Refining advocacy to prioritize key issues affecting utility management and governance.
- Addressing long-term infrastructure challenges, including aging systems and the protection of water rights.
- Adding new discussions around Artesian, SGMA, and milestones post-2020.

Q 11: Do you believe the RWA is adequately implementing and effectively operating in a manner that is consistent with the Strategic Plan? Please explain why.

Note that the following content analysis was aided by AI.

Summary: The main themes include:

The majority of responses indicate that RWA is largely on track with implementing the Strategic Plan, with several noting the flexibility of the plan and the ability to "check the box" on many objectives. However, there are concerns about the lack of resources (staffing and services) to fully implement the plan and a potential bureaucratic slowdown. Some specific activities, like the watershed resilience effort, were seen as having limited impact relative to the resources required, and there is a desire for better tracking and metrics to measure success.

There are also calls for a more balanced effort across all objectives, beyond just focusing on the Water Bank. Additionally, concerns about individual members influencing the direction of the plan were raised, suggesting that stronger alignment might be necessary to ensure continued success.

Key Themes Identified:

Overall Positive Assessment: Several responses provided general affirmation that RWA is effectively implementing the Strategic Plan. These responses highlight productive years (2023 and 2024) and the ability to check off many objectives from the plan (responses 1, 2, 6, 12, 14, 15).

Resource Constraints: One concern raised was that RWA may not have enough resources, including staffing and professional services, to fully implement the plan (response 4).

Q 12: Thinking about the RWA's mission: What are the challenges your organization is experiencing in the context of the mission?

Note that the following content analysis was aided by AI.

Summary: The challenges highlighted by respondents can be categorized into several key areas:

- **Water supply reliability**, particularly in light of **climate change** and **federal operations**.
- The need for **funding large regional projects** to enhance reliability and mitigate risks.
- The ongoing pressure from **state and federal regulations**, which can lead to **regulatory overreach** and divert focus from key objectives.
- Issues related to **groundwater quality** and **surface water availability**.
- The challenge of aligning the diverse interests of **regional members**, especially between different geographical regions.
- The concern over **contamination treatment** and its impact on water quality and cost.
- The desire for increased **participation in the Regional Water Bank** to help secure a more resilient water future.

These challenges reflect both external factors, such as regulations and climate change, and internal factors, like aligning member interests and ensuring adequate funding for large-scale projects.

Key Themes Identified:

Water Supply Reliability and Climate Change: Several responses highlight challenges related to securing reliable water supplies, especially under the pressures of climate change, regulatory changes, and evolving federal operations. This includes issues with **Reclamation's operations** affecting water supply reliability and availability, especially for agencies reliant on federal reservoirs (response 1), and the challenges in ensuring reliability under various future scenarios (response 6, 9).

Funding for Regional Reliability Projects: The need for adequate **funding for large regional reliability projects** like RiverArc and Folsom Reservoir mitigation projects is a recurring challenge. Respondents believe RWA can play a key role in helping secure this funding (responses 3, 13).

Regulatory and Legislative Pressures: There is concern over **state and federal regulations** that divert resources away from core objectives, adding burdens to organizations and affecting affordability. Specific issues mentioned include **state-imposed conservation mandates**, regulatory overreach, and the challenge of dealing with **Water Use Efficiency regulations** and other state proposals (responses 4, 8, 10, 15).

Q 13: Please list any priorities your agency feels are important that are not in the strategic plan (if any)? The RWA's mission is: To serve and represent the interests of regional water providers and stakeholders for the purpose of improving water supply reliability, availability, quality and affordability.

Note that the following content analysis was aided by AI.

Summary: The additional priorities mentioned by respondents include:

- **Supporting both RiverArc and the Water Bank** in parity to enhance both projects' success.
- **Contamination treatment** and efforts related to water quality.
- An evaluation of **RWA's staffing, operations, and sustainability**, including conducting a **staffing projections study**.
- A focus on **workforce development** and fostering **local educational opportunities** to support future workforce needs.

- Emphasis on the health of **upper watersheds** due to climate change and the potential for reduced snowpack.
- Advocacy for **fluoridation** regulation changes to improve **regional water system efficiency**.

These themes suggest areas where RWA could expand its focus, including workforce development, regulatory advocacy, and supporting critical regional projects like RiverArc and the Water Bank. Additionally, there is a call for better internal assessments to ensure long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

General Sentiment: Several respondents felt the strategic plan broadly covers most priorities and had nothing additional to add.

Q 14: What services can RWA provide to assist your agency with implementation of the conservation regulation over the next three years?

- Expansion and development of regional water efficiency programs to meet regulation requirements (example: commercial, industrial, and institutional outreach and rebate programs) (16 yes)
- Expanded public outreach messaging and school education programs (15 yes)
- State Water Board/DWR regulation reporting support (13 yes)
- Technical support and training for water efficiency staff (12 yes)
- Regional master services contracts for consultant and vendor support for programs and data procurement (example: landscape area measurement data, mixed use meter conversion/in lieu). (11 yes)
- Water loss standard and leak detection/repair support (10 yes)
- Water savings analysis of supplier meter data for water efficiency programs (8 yes)

OVERALL: Summary of Top Three Themes and Action Items for RWA in 2025:

Note that the following content analysis was aided by AI.

1. Prioritizing Water Supply Reliability and Infrastructure Projects

- Top Theme: RWA must continue to focus on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank and RiverArc projects, as they have emerged as critical priorities for regional water reliability. Many respondents highlighted the importance of supporting both projects in parity to significantly enhance their potential success. The Water Bank specifically was mentioned frequently as vital to improving water supply resilience and reliability (Planning Objective A).
- Action Item: RWA should prioritize completing and implementing the Water Bank while working in tandem with RiverArc initiatives. Ensuring that both projects receive balanced support will position RWA for success in securing long-term water reliability and resilience for the region.

2. Securing Funding for Regional Projects and Member Support

- Top Theme: There is a clear need for securing funding for large-scale regional reliability projects and helping members with specific infrastructure needs, such as groundwater management, water quality, and contamination treatment. Implementation Objective A (securing funding)

received the highest number of mentions across multiple surveys, reinforcing the importance of financial support for critical projects.

- Action Item: RWA should focus on actively seeking state and federal funding, expanding its role in helping member agencies access financial resources for both large infrastructure projects (like RiverArc) and smaller, local needs (such as contamination treatment and water efficiency efforts). Additionally, RWA could expand its support for workforce development, helping members adapt to evolving regulatory challenges by preparing a skilled workforce.

3. Enhancing Advocacy and Legislative Engagement

- Top Theme: Advocacy Objective A (engaging local, state, and federal representatives to support RWA's legislative agenda) is another key theme. Respondents stressed the importance of a more focused and strategic approach to advocacy, particularly concerning water rights, regulatory overreach, and state-imposed mandates. Advocacy efforts for protecting local water rights and addressing regulatory issues like fluoridation requirements and water use efficiency regulations are critical to RWA's mission.
- Action Item: RWA should strengthen its advocacy efforts by focusing on key legislative and regulatory issues, such as advocating for the elimination of unnecessary fluoridation requirements, pushing back on regulatory overreach, and supporting the preservation of water rights. Additionally, RWA should ensure it has a streamlined process for tracking and responding to legislative changes that could impact the region's water resources.

Conclusion:

The primary action items for RWA in 2025 are:

1. Complete and support the Sacramento Regional Water Bank and RiverArc projects for long-term water supply resilience.
2. Focus on securing funding for both regional projects and member agency needs, including workforce development.
3. Enhance advocacy efforts to address water rights protection, regulatory overreach, and legislative challenges impacting the region.

These action items align with the strategic objectives while responding to member feedback, particularly regarding the importance of ensuring sustainable water resources, financial support, and effective legislative engagement.

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.

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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.
 - Provide services and support, as needed, for planning and implementation.
 - Facilitate collaboration between subbasins.
 - 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.

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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.

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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:

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- 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.

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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.

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- 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.

- 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 2025/2026 Budget Overview
Type: New Business
Item For: Information
Purpose: Policy 500.11

SUBMITTED BY:	Tom Hoffart Finance and Administrative Services Manager	PRESENTER:	Tom Hoffart Finance and Administrative Services Manager
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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 2025/2026 Budget.

BACKGROUND

Staff are beginning the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 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: Legislative and Regulatory Update
 Type: Legislative Matter
 Item For: Information
 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
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item to take positions on state legislation and an information item providing legislative and regulatory update for the Executive Committee. Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Relations, will provide an oral report.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt positions on Legislation.

BACKGROUND

The bill introduction deadline is February 21, 2025. There have been a number of bills introduced, but the scope of bills to come forward is still coming into focus. However, there are some bills that the executive committee should consider at this early stage.

AB 263 Rodgers (D- Santa Rosa), would provide that emergency regulations adopted by the Water Board for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds shall remain in effect until permanent rules establishing and implementing long-term instream flow requirements are adopted.

Recommendation: Oppose

AB 362 Ramos (D- Highland), would broadly include tribal water uses into water quality requirements. Recommendation: Oppose unless amended

AB 532 Ransom (D-Tracy), would clarify the ability for water agencies to have low-income rate assistance programs and specify that the state must fund low-income rate assistance programs in small agencies and agencies with larger disadvantaged populations. Recommendation: Support

SB 72 Caballero (D- Merced) would amend The California Water Plan to, among other things, update the interim planning target for 2050. Recommendation: Support

SB 350 Durazo (D- Los Angeles) would establish a water rate assistance program in the Water Board that would require actions by water agencies. Recommendation: Watch

Additionally, the budget process is beginning in February and March. The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) recently released a report on Proposition 4 spending. Staff will be engaging with stakeholders and the Legislature on a sensible approach to Prop 4 appropriations.

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



Topic: RWA Program Update
Type: New Business
Item For: Discussion
Purpose: Policy 200.2

SUBMITTED BY:	Jim Peifer Executive Director	PRESENTER:	Jim Peifer Executive Director
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an information/discussion item for the Executive Committee to receive a report from the Executive Director on the various programs and initiatives the RWA and SGA currently have underway.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information/discussion only.

BACKGROUND

The RWA and SGA have a number of programs underway, the Executive Director will brief the Executive Committee on the status of many of those programs and initiatives. These programs and initiatives include but are not limited to:

- The Sacramento Regional Water Bank
- The North American Subbasin (NASb) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) update,
- The implementation of the current NASb GSP
- The Watershed Resilience Pilot Project
- The Water Forum Agreement update
- The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program
- The Reinitiation of Consultation for the Biological Opinions.

The report will include key milestones reached to date, the overall status of the programs, upcoming key milestones, and current and future anticipated resources.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1- Draft ARCAP Framework Document dated February 7, 2025

Attachment 2- Draft ARCAP Workplan dated February 10, 2025

American River Climate Adaptation Program (ARCAP)

Intent

Water Forum members recognize that climate change presents the most significant threat to achieving the coequal objectives of water supply reliability and environmental stewardship of the lower American River. Climate change has the potential to adversely impact the region in many ways, including those listed below:

- Accelerated decline of salmonids, recreation, and water quality due to decreased flows and increased river temperatures in the lower American River (LAR).¹
- Decreased reliability of the region's urban water supply due to changes in hydrology, and increased strain on statewide water project operations.
- Increased threat of external claims for American River water due to water-shortage pressure elsewhere in the state.
- Increased drying of soils and plants due to higher temperatures.
- Increased need for overall regional water resilience due to evolving regulatory requirements.

These extreme threats demand the timely and substantial watershed resilience measures of the American River Climate Adaptation Program (ARCAP), a multi-caucus problem-solving program to contribute tangible volumes of water toward Water Forum coequal objectives.

The intent of the ARCAP is to make measurable quantities of water available to provide demonstrable benefits to both of the Water Forum's coequal objectives. Collectively, these water quantities will be referred to as *ARCAP Water* and can be thought of as an insurance policy against the challenges described above. ARCAP Water may include contractual or set-aside supply, or stored water that is managed by one or more entities. *ARCAP Water* could be provided from multiple sources, including:

- Regional conjunctive use operations – water stored in the groundwater basin through in lieu or other recharge and recovery methods. The WF with key partners will explore the nexus with these activities and the planned Sacramento Regional Water Bank.
- River Arc – this project is planned to relocate the source of water supply from and American River diversion to a Sacramento River diversion for some agencies.

¹ The Water Forum Ad Hoc Technical Team report of 2022 highlighted significant challenges that will result from climate change, including:

- The region will experience more frequent and more severe droughts and flood events. This pattern will challenge the capability of water storage infrastructure, particularly Folsom Reservoir's ability to provide flood protection and reliable water supplies.
- Salmon and steelhead populations in the lower American River will face significant threats due to suboptimal flows and temperature conditions and poor genetic diversity.
- ~~Folsom storage is projected to be at critically-low levels more often due to climate change, creating a substantial risk to regional water supply reliability. "Dead pool" conditions at Folsom Reservoir, where water levels are too low to meet supply needs, will become much more frequent.~~

- Reservoir reoperation – this could include operational changes to provide *ARCAP Water* and enhance coldwater pool conditions in Folsom Reservoir and seek benefits from Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO), or potentially through other Central Valley Project (CVP) operational changes.
- Capture, storage, and use of un-storable water – this could include recharge of excess water during flood operations when releases are well above optimal riverine ecological levels.
- Freeport / Vineyard expansion – there may be additional capacity available in the Freeport diversion on the Sacramento River which can be used if the Vineyard Treatment Plant were expanded.
- Sacramento Water Treatment Plant expansion – the City of Sacramento may increase the capacity of this plant, making additional Sacramento River water available.
- Water Conservation actions – these actions are expected to reduce water demand and diversions, potentially making water available for ARCAP.
- Other sources may be identified.

ARCAP Water could offer the following benefits for the American River region:

- Additional supplies for water agencies serving communities in the Sacramento Region that are facing significant water shortages during droughts and/or other times-of-shortageconditions.
- Augmented storage in Folsom Reservoir to enhance the coldwater pool and reduce river temperatures to benefit fish.
- Augmented flows in the lower American River to benefit fish.
- Increased operational flexibility to benefit CVP operations.
- Increased capture, use, and storage of un-storable and excess flood waters.
- Increased groundwater stored regionally to enhance conjunctive use and support Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems.
- Demonstration of our region’s commitment to proactively addressing climate issues and maintaining a sustainable American River watershed.
- Demonstration to Reclamation of our region’s commitment towards Folsom Reservoir storage during dry and critical times.

The ARCAP is ambitious, and several important issues need to be addressed before this program is operational. Because many outstanding questions will be unanswered during the WF 2.0 negotiations, the ARCAP includes elements focused on technical analysis and resolution of important issues. These technical and stakeholder processes will rely on the technical coordination and cooperation of the Regional Water Authority (RWA) (see Program Elements) and consultation with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs).

There is a precedent for such an ambitious initiative by the Water Forum. The Flow Management Standard (FMS), for example, became a major focus of the Water Forum’s activities and deliberations over the last two decades and ultimately led to changes in CVP operations on the LAR. Like the ARCAP, the process for developing and implementing the FMS was not full defined until after the original Water Forum Agreement was signed.

Guiding Principles

The ARCAP activities will support the Water Forum's coequal objectives by aligning with the guiding principles below:

1. *ARCAP Water* will provide water supply and ecosystem benefits and will strive to provide multiple benefits whenever possible.
2. *ARCAP Water* will be created by using existing or planned regional water sources.
3. Program design and implementation will be conducted openly with all caucuses.
4. Developing and implementing the ARCAP will be a long-term endeavor, but it will progress incrementally to build confidence and support with early implementation resulting in collective successes.
5. The role of the Water Forum staff in ARCAP development and implementation will focus on coordination with WF members, conducting analyses, advocating for programs and funding, and tracking progress.
6. The WF 2.0 Agreement will describe sufficient technical and member engagement/coordination processes to assure caucuses that important issues will be resolved and questions answered in a timely manner. Appendix __ provides a workplan and budget for the first 2 years of ARCAP development and implementation to define the resources and processes required. **[Note: A draft workplan is in development and will provide more detail on process.]**
7. ARCAP ~~technical~~ questions and issues related to conjunctive use (and possibly the Water Bank) will be addressed in a partnership between the WF and RWA. **[Note: the role of RWA and regional GSAs in joint ARCAP technical work will be defined soon and in a way that provides assurances to all caucuses that RWA can provide a sustained effort in the ARCAP technical work. These descriptions will be included in the Workplan.]**
8. The ARCAP will work in concert with the FMS and other WF elements to support the coequal objectives.
9. ARCAP Water will not be used to meet the minimum flow requirements as defined by the Flow Management Standard (as those are expected to be met per existing regulations and operations).
10. The use of a WF members' facilities and water supplies for the ARCAP should provide a benefit to those organizations.

Program Elements

To implement the ARCAP Principles listed above, the Water Forum will commit to the programs, actions, and activities below. These actions are designed to support the Water Forum's coequal objectives through implementation of the ARCAP.

1. **Technical, Operational, Regulatory, and Legal Issues Analysis and Modeling**
Several ~~technical~~ issues must be resolved before the ARCAP ~~is functional~~ can come to ~~fruition~~. This Program Element is intended to provide a process for ~~resolving technical issues~~ identifying and analyzing issues required for the ARCAP implementation. ~~Outstanding technical~~ These issues include:
 1. What are the sources of water for the ARCAP?

2. Who will own and manage *ARCAP Water*?
3. How, where, and when will *ARCAP Water* be stored?
4. What will be the target volume (if any) of *ARCAP Water*?
5. Where and when will *ARCAP Water* be used?
6. How will Water Forum ~~members~~ track the sources and destinations of *ARCAP water*?
7. How will the *ARCAP* perform under various climate scenarios including multi-year droughts, critically low storage (aka deadpool), and water supply curtailments?
8. What additional infrastructure will be needed to implement the *ARCAP*?
9. What will be technical and physical limitations of the *ARCAP*?
10. What is the potential maximum volume of water that could be developed through the *ARCAP*?
11. How much groundwater recharge and recovery are possible in the region?
12. How much groundwater recharge and recovery are needed in the region?
13. Could modified timing of released *ARCAP Water* enhance LAR temperature conditions?
14. How can changes in the point of diversion (e.g. from Folsom Reservoir or the LAR to Freeport) provide additional water storage or flow for the LAR?
15. What is the expected increase in un-storable water in the American River system, and what would be necessary to capture and store that water under the *ARCAP*?
16. Could Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) increase *ARCAP Water* supplies, and if so, how much?
17. What opportunities exist to create and track *ARCAP Water* within regional demand management and conservation actions?
18. How will inter-agency commitments to the *ARCAP* be recognized and how will their operations be counted?

Appendix __ will outline the first two years of the technical, operational, regulatory, and legal analyses ~~work designed~~ necessary to begin answering these questions and will indicate the roles and responsibilities for the Water Forum and key partners (RWA, GSAs, etc.) in the completion of the various analyses.

2. External Engagement Strategy

The *ARCAP* will require partners beyond the signatories to the Water Forum Agreement to be successful. This element describes proposed sustained efforts to communicate with potential partners to maximize the probability of success. Some of the entities identified for outreach include:

- a. *Reclamation* – Changes in CVP operations may be sought to help establish or store *ARCAP Water*. This will require a strategy for engagement with Reclamation that is ongoing, consistent among members, and flexible in approach. The Water Forum will strive to communicate to Reclamation that *ARCAP* actions help support their goals of delivering water with minimal shortages and maintaining operational flexibility. **[Note: this section will be reconciled with other WFA 2.0 sections describing Reclamation engagement.]**

- b. *DWR* – has a regional watershed planning initiative (which RWA is piloting for this region) and is likely to continue to be a source of funding for water infrastructure and climate resiliency actions. As such, DWR should be kept informed of the ARCAP effort and successes.
- c. *SWRCB* – would be involved with any transfers of water supplies that use post-1914 water rights, or modification of existing water rights to add new points of diversion.
- d. Fisheries agencies – including National Marine Fisheries Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service who are likely to have valuable information on employing ARCAP Water to benefit the aquatic ecosystem.
- e. *Other* entities, such as the California Legislature, and Congress, will likely have a keen interest in the ARCAP efforts, and the WF should strive to provide them with progress updates.

4. Coordination, Management, and Implementation of *ARCAP Water*

The implementation and management of *ARCAP Water* will be coordinated with regional and external partners. It is expected that the Water Forum will partner on technical analyses to inform development and deployment of *ARCAP Water*, will coordinate among members as ARCAP is implemented, and will track development. In addition, the Water Forum will advocate for programs and funding as appropriate.

[Note: The roles and responsibilities for management and implementation will (partially) depend on the findings of the technical analyses, in particular the identified water sources and key partners. The WF 2.0 agreement will clearly define initial roles and responsibilities for the ARCAP program within the Workplan and will include a process to update roles and responsibilities as the program advances.]

5. Program Review and Refinement

It will be necessary to periodically evaluate and refine the ARCAP given its scope and complexity. A work group composed of Water Forum and RWA members/staff will be established to oversee and guide the scope of work developed for ARCAP. A scope of work for the ARCAP, including a two-year budget and workplan, are included in Appendix __ to the WF 2.0 agreement. The ARCAP workplan and budget will be reviewed and updated annually.

The ARCAP review will analyze the program successes, challenges, and barriers. A summary of the ARCAP review will be included in the Water Forum State of the River report (or other periodic Water Forum publication) and will include specific agreed to reporting metrics. **[Note: A metrics proposal will be developed as part of the ongoing WF Metrics process and a draft will be presented to the caucuses in February.]**

The ARCAP review will, as appropriate, guide changes to the program to ensure long-term success.

Assurances

The following list of assurances are intended to make certain that the Water Forum develops and implements the ARCAP through a concerted and good-faith effort that supports the coequal objectives and embodies the Water Forum way.

1. The ARCAP will be developed and implemented with opportunities for open cross-caucus discussions and guidance, and using the Water Forum's decision processes. This applies to technical processes as well as member deliberations.
2. The Water Forum will work jointly with RWA to resolve technical issues during ARCAP development and implementation. RWA staff and Water Forum staff will work together in a collaborative relationship to support this initiative.
3. The ARCAP approach will strive to add value and avoid creating added costs, duplicative processes, and bureaucracy.
4. The ability of Water Forum members to identify and employ ARCAP Water does not imply that the American River is in excess conditions.
5. ARCAP implementation will complement and support other Water Forum programs (e.g. FMS).
6. The Water Forum will review the successes and challenges of the ARCAP and refine the program as needed and agreed on by all caucuses.
7. ARCAP assets (e.g. water rights and contracts, wells, diversion works) will remain under control of the owner agencies.
8. The role of the WF (including staff and members) will be to coordinate ARCAP actions, complete agreed upon technical analyses and studies, advocate for programs and funding, and track and review program status.
9. The Water Forum and RWA will respect the operational authority and third-party agreements of its members necessary for their contributions of *ARCAP Water*.
10. No part of the ARCAP will abridge the authorities, entitlements, or agreements of Water Forum members.

American River Climate Adaptation Program Workplan

Scope of Work

This workplan describes the intended activities related to the Water Forum American River Climate Adaptation Program (ARCAP) for the first two years of implementation. The focus for the first two years will include confirming the priority issues for resolution, establishing data, tools, and methods for evaluation, conducting analyses, and is also expected to include trial operations. The work will be phased to align with the approved Water Forum budget for the 2026 Fiscal Year (FY) and includes a Progress Report and an opportunity for workplan refinement after the first year. The budget presented within this workplan only includes the activities identified for the first year.

ARCAP Tasks

The Work of ARCAP will be organized into the following tasks. Some of these tasks will take place simultaneously and are not necessarily sequential.

Task 1: Water Forum Member Coordination (ongoing)

An ARCAP Working Group will be created to inform and guide the activities of the ARCAP. The Working Group will be co-convened with the WF and RWA and include two members from each caucus as primaries and will be open to all Water Forum members. The primaries will commit to making reasonable efforts to attend all working group meetings, and to review related materials prior to the meetings. The primaries will also be expected to act as representatives of their caucuses by reporting ARCAP progress to the caucus and providing caucus feedback to the Working Group. The ARCAP working group will be tasked with:

- Reviewing and commenting on work products
- Providing input on program direction, scope, and pace
- Deliberating, refining, and providing answers to ARCAP Questions
- Others?

Meetings will be held monthly and supported by facilitation staff, with the option of additional meetings as necessary.

The Working Group decisions (including answers to ARCAP Questions) will be made by consensus and will be presented to the Plenary as recommendations. This process is consistent with the decision process as defined in WF Agreement 2.0,

Task 2: Refine and Focus ARCAP Questions

An initial list of questions associated with the ARCAP program was identified in the Water Forum 2.0 negotiations. The list is extensive and reflects the broad interests of the Water Forum Members. The key questions to be addressed within the first two years of ARCAP implementation will be refined and agreed upon by the ARCAP Working Group within the first three months of this

two-year workplan. It is acknowledged that as ARCAP is implemented, the questions to be answered will evolve and be refined and re-prioritized as necessary.

Deliverable: *Refined list of questions to be addressed within the two-year workplan.*

Target Schedule for Completion: *Late Fall 2025*

Task 3: Regional Data Collection and Synthesis

Water Forum staff and consultants will coordinate with regional purveyors to identify operational scenarios that address various questions defined in Task 2. The information to be collected about these scenarios will include specific types of transactions that could be implemented to provide measurable quantities of water that could meet the program objectives. The information will be synthesized to provide a regional perspective to best illustrate opportunities for ARCAP Water to be generated and tracked.

This activity is expected to be done in an iterative manner. Initially the information collection will focus on identifying operational opportunities and constraints for potential ARCAP actions. Later information collection activities will involve more quantitative information on facility capacities, water demands, and available supplies. This information will be used to refine and answer ARCAP Questions related to the potential performance of the program and rules or structure.

Data synthesis will involve summarizing and packaging the information into regional overviews highlighting and illustrating potential ARCAP opportunities. In many cases, WF staff will prepare draft syntheses for consideration and deliberation by the ARCAP Working Group.

Deliverable: *Regional Supply and Operations Synthesis Report*

Target Schedule for Completion: *Late Spring 2026*

Task 4: Technical Analyses

This task may include the following activities and will depend on the outcomes of Tasks 2 and 3, and ultimately, the extent of further analysis that is recommended by the working group and approved by the Plenary. The list below is a preliminary outline of how the work may be organized but will be refined by the working group.

- Identify operational scenarios for evaluation.
 - To be informed by the outcomes from Task 3 (*Regional Data Collection and Synthesis*) and will be confirmed in the ARCAP Working Group.
- Identify hydrologic scenarios for evaluation.
 - Will be informed by relevant regional and statewide climate modeling and will be confirmed by the ARCAP Working Group.
- Assess the adequacy of existing analyses and information.
 - Consideration will be given to opportunities to align analyses with other regional efforts, including efforts by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and the Regional Water Authority (RWA).
- Identify and prepare tools.

- Tools considered for further evaluation will include those capable of analyzing trends and conditions for surface water, groundwater, water temperatures, water distribution analyses, etc.
- Selection of tools will be confirmed by the ARCAP Working Group.
- Conduct Analyses
 - Operational and hydrologic scenarios will be analyzed, and results will be reviewed and discussed with the ARCAP Working Group at various stages.

Deliverable: ARCAP Technical Analysis Report(s)

Schedule for Completion: TBD

Task 5: Trial Operations and Tracking

It is expected that there may be opportunities to implement certain ARCAP operation scenarios over the first two-years of implementation, potentially while technical analyses are still pending. Within Water Forum 2.0, it is acknowledged that sources for ARCAP Water will include existing sources and may include operations that are currently being conducted. The ARCAP will provide a mechanism to account for and track the outcomes of these regional activities. Based on the findings of Task 3 (*Regional Data Collection and Synthesis*), opportunities for early trial runs will be identified and considered by the ARCAP Working Group.

As trial runs are performed, individual reporting will be completed on the outcomes of the specific activities.

Deliverable: Memo(s) reporting results of early trial runs

Schedule for Completion: TBD

Task 6: Synthesis and Documentation

This task will include the synthesis and documentation of all the ARCAP activities and analyses. Key reporting is listed below, other documentation may be identified after the first-year progress report.

Year One Documentation

- Year One Progress Report
 - Summarize all activities completed and outcomes for the first year
 - Identify areas for refinement for the second year

Year Two Documentation (tentative)

- ARCAP Technical Analysis Report(s)
 - Document the inputs, methods, tools, and results from Task 4
- Early Trial Runs Reporting
 - Summarize each action taken and the outcomes
- Two Year Report and Recommendations
 - Summarize all activities completed and outcomes
 - Recommend next steps and activities for the ARCAP program. These recommendations will be developed with the ARCAP Working Group.

Task 7: Engagement with Partners (ongoing)

Engagement with ARCAP partners will be ongoing during the entire two-year work plan. Engagement will include regular meetings, coordination, and strategic messaging based on the status of ARCAP activities and the specific partner. Engagement will be guided by input from the ARCAP Working Group. Expected ARCAP partners are listed below.

- Regional Water Authority
- Regional Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Schedule

Pending: To be added and will reflect the schedule described in the Tasks above.

Year One Budget

The budget below reflects the expected costs for the first-year activities of this workplan in the form of consultants (hours and estimated costs) and indicates the expected level of effort for Water Forum staff (hours and percentage of time for one full-time employee [FTE]). Note, year two costs will be developed as part of the Year One Progress Report.

ARCAP Workplan - Year One Budget

	WF Staff (1 FTE)		Consultants			
			Technical		Facilitation	
	Hours	% Time for Year One	Hours	\$	Hours	\$
Task 1: Water Forum Member Coordination	72	3.5%	90	\$27,000	84	\$21,000
Task 2: Refine and Focus ARCAP Questions	20	1.0%	5	\$1,500	10	\$2,500
Task 3: Regional Data Collection and Synthesis	120	5.8%	120	\$36,000	0	\$0
Task 4: Technical Analyses ^a	--	--	--	--	--	--
Task 5: Trial Operations and Tracking ^a	--	--	--	--	--	--
Task 6: Synthesis and Documentation	40	1.9%	15	\$4,500	0	\$0
Task 7: Engagement with Partners	50	2.4%	20	\$6,000	0	\$0
Total	302	14.5%	250	\$75,000	94	\$23,500

a. Task 4 and 5 are expected to be initiated in year two of ARCAP implementation and costs will be developed as specifics for the associated activities are refined



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

SUBMITTED BY:	Ashley Flores, CMC Secretary	PRESENTER:	Jim Peifer Executive Director
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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 13, 2025.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

A motion to approve RWA Board of Directors Agenda for March 13, 2025, 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 13, 2025 will be held at the Sacramento Association of Realtors, 2003 Howe Avenue, Sacramento CA, 95825.

FINDING/CONCLUSION

The Executive Director has prepared the draft Agenda for the RWA Board of Directors Meeting March 13, 2025 for the RWA’s Executive Committee’s consideration and approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1- Draft RWA Board of Directors Agenda for March 13, 2025 Board Meeting



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

Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**Sacramento Association of Realtors
2003 Howe Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
(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/83939679186>

or dial 1 669-444-9171

Meeting ID: 839 3967 9186

If we experience technical difficulties and the Zoom link drops and you are no longer able to connect to the Board meeting, please dial 877-654-0338 – Guest Code 198

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.

5.1 Approve the draft meeting minutes of January 9, 2025, RWA Board Meeting

Action: Approve Consent Calendar items as presented

4. **RATIFY THE 2025 RWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
Presenter: Brett Ewart, Chair
Action: Ratify the 2025 RWA Executive Committee
5. **2025 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES**
Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director
Action: Approve the Strategic Plan Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025/2026
6. **INFORMATION: ARTESIAN PROJECT UPDATE**
Presenter: Michelle Banonis, Manager of Strategic Affairs
7. **INFORMATION: LEGISLATIVE REPORT**
Presenter: Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Relations
8. **INFORMATION: WATERSHED RESILIENCE PILOT PROJECT UPDATE**
Presenter: Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Relations
9. **INFORMATION: WATER FORUM AGREEMENT UPDATE**
Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

11. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next RWA Board of Director's Meeting:

May 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m. at Fair Oaks Water District, 10326 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. The location is subject to change.

Next RWA Executive Committee Meeting:

March 25, 2025, 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 6, 2025

Ashley Flores, CMC, Board Secretary

DRAFT



Topic: Executive Directors' Report
Type: New Business
Item For: Information
Purpose: General

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

PRESENTER: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an information item for the Executive Director to provide a briefing on important activities, reports, communications, advocacy, and other updates.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information/discussion only.

BACKGROUND

This report is intended to provide an opportunity for the Executive Director to report to the Executive Committee on important activities, reports, communications, advocacy, and other updates.

WATER BANK

Sacramento Regional Water Bank's fourth Stakeholder Forum was held on February 4 at 6 p.m. During this session, staff highlighted Sacramento Regional Water Bank activities from this past year and detail what's ahead for 2025.

The next meeting of the Water Bank Program Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information about the Water Bank, contact Trevor Joseph at tjoseph@rwah2o.org.

OUTREACH & NETWORKING

Join the FBI and RWA for "You Operate It, You Break It: Discovering vulnerabilities in water systems," an interactive workshop for water system professionals, focusing on risk identification and mitigation. The event will take place on February 21, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the City of Roseville Corporation Yard 2005 Hilltop Circle, Roseville, CA 95747. Register at: [FBI Workshop Registration](#).

Wednesday, February 26, at 9 a.m. or RWA's first *Coffee & Conversation* of the year with climate scientist [Dr. Daniel Swain](#). Explore his insights on extreme weather and how they connect to RWA's initiatives, particularly the impacts of climate change on California's water management strategies. Register today [here](#).

ACTUARY SERVICES PROCUREMENT

The Executive Director will be utilizing the services of MacLeod Watts for actuarial services over the next two years. Please see the attached agreement for the services.

CONFERENCES

Conferences which the RWA staff will be seeking reimbursement for costs in 2025 include:

- ACWA Spring and Fall Conferences
- City Clerks Association of California – Annual Conference
- Bureau of Reclamation Mid Pacific Water Users Conference
- Metro Chamber Cap to Cap program
- California Water Efficiency Partnership Peer to Peer Conference and Plenaries
- WaterSmart Innovations Conference
- Water Conservation Showcase
- Alliance for Water Efficiency Symposium
- CA NV AWWA Conference
- Groundwater Resources Association Annual Conference and Water Summit
- ESRI GIS Conference

UPCOMING RWA BOARD MEETINGS

March 13, 2025 – Sacramento Realtors Association

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1- Agreement with MacLeod Watts for Actuary Services

MacLeod Watts

January 28, 2025

Mr. Tom Hoffart
Finance and Administrative Services Manager
Regional Water Authority
5620 Birdcage Street, Suite 180
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Re: Engagement Letter - OPEB Actuarial Valuation Services

Dear Mr. Hoffart,

This letter serves as MacLeod Watts' proposal to prepare an updated actuarial valuation of other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liabilities for the Regional Water Authority. This valuation will assist with upcoming contribution levels and accounting requirements.

Although GASB 75 requires that updated calculations be prepared after the close of every fiscal year end, each valuation may generally be used for two years in the development of your plan accounting under GASB 75. We propose the following projects to assist the Authority:

1. Prepare a new biennial actuarial valuation and report as of June 30, 2025.
2. Develop Actuarially Determined Contributions (ADCs) for plan funding through June 30, 2028
3. Prepare the FYE 2026 GASB 75 information/report (measurement date June 30, 2025)
4. Prepare required CERBT valuation renewal forms
5. Prepare the FYE 2027 GASB 75 information/report (measurement date June 30, 2026)

The **data request** for the June 30, 2025, valuation will include a file for gathering the employee data, a questionnaire about benefit eligibility and amounts, trust information, recent benefits paid and other documentation. **Benefits to be valued** will be based on the Authority's current plan provisions. *If there have been benefit changes since the prior actuarial report, please let us know.*

Timing and fees: This proposal covers more than one project. The full 2025 valuation is expected to take 30-40 days to complete. The year-end GASB 75 reports should be completed within 20 days after receiving all requested data. The **fees** for each project are shown on the next page.

If you are comfortable with the project as outlined and the fees quoted, please return a signed copy to us by email. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Authority on this assignment.

Cordially,



Catherine L. MacLeod, FSA, FCA, EA, MAAA
Principal & Consulting Actuary



Proposed Projects and Fees

**June 30, 2025, Biennial Actuarial Valuation, Development of ADCs,
and FYE 2026 GASB 75 Report** **\$5,725**
1,700

(Measurement Date: 6/30/2025; Val Date 6/30/2025)

A new biennial valuation will be prepared to remeasure plan liabilities as of June 30, 2025, with results reconciled to the prior valuation. A single report will include the GASB 75 accounting information for fiscal year end June 30, 2026, and provide Actuarially Determined Contribution levels (ADCs) through the Authority's fiscal year end June 30, 2028. This fee includes preparation of the CERBT actuarial forms and conference calls, as needed, to review valuation results with the Authority. The fee also includes an exhibit showing the OPEB liability by individual member for internal allocation back to participating member agencies.

We've assumed no changes to benefits provided since the prior actuarial report and that Authority intends to contribute 100% of each year's ADC. If there have been changes, please let us know.

FYE June 30, 2027, GASB 75 Report **\$2,225**

(Measurement Date: 6/30/2026; Val Date 6/30/2025)

The report will be issued after June 30, 2027, when all the information needed will be available. If there are material changes in plan population, benefits, then a new valuation may be required in lieu of a roll forward of results from the 2025 valuation.

Out-of-Scope Services: The following are examples of work beyond the actuarial valuation and GASB 75 reports that we would consider out-of-scope and may result in additional fees:

- 1) breakout of results by subgroups other than as noted above;
- 2) required data analysis in excess of 6 hours;
- 3) material changes to benefits or eligible members;
- 4) in person meetings;
- 5) auditor assistance in excess of 2 hours;
- 6) consulting or actuarial projections relating to possible plan redesign, experience studies or long-term forecasting.

Our hourly rates for out-of-scope services are:

Consultant	2025 Hourly Rate
Senior Actuarial Consultants	\$ 480
Actuarial Consultants	380-445
Actuarial Analysts	205-345
Administrative Staff	135-170

If the fees and terms described above for this project(s) are acceptable, please sign and date below.

Accepted: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____



Topic: Directors' Comments
Type: New Business
Item For: Information
Purpose: Routine

SUBMITTED BY:	Jim Peifer Executive Director	PRESENTER:	Brett Ewart Chair
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an information item to provide an opportunity for the RWA Executive Committee to report on any updates from their agency, comments, request future agenda items, recommendations, and questions.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

This report is intended to provide an opportunity for the Board of Directors to report on any updates from their agency, comments, request future agenda items, recommendations, and questions.