



**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.

3.1 Approve the draft meeting minutes of January 9, 2025, RWA Special Board Meeting and Regular Board Meeting

Action: Approve Consent Calendar items as presented

4. RATIFY THE 2025 RWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Presenter: Brett Ewart, Chair

Action: (1) Hold an election for the vacant Executive Committee position; and (2) Ratify the 2025 RWA Executive Committee

5. INFORMATION: LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

Presenter: Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Relations

6. INFORMATION: WATER FORUM UPDATE

Presenters: Ashlee Casey, Interim Executive Director of the Water Forum and Jim Peifer, Executive Director

7. INFORMATION: ARTESIAN PROJECT UPDATE

Presenter: Michelle Banonis, Manager of Strategic Affairs

8. INFORMATION: WATERSHED RESILIENCE PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

Presenters: Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Relations and Jim Peifer, Executive Director

9. 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Approve the Strategic Plan Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025/2026

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 7, 2025



Ashley Flores, CMC, Board Secretary

RWA Board of Directors - 2025

Chair: Brett Ewart

Vice Chair: Michael Saunders

California American Water Audie Foster, General Manager Evan Jacobs, Operations Manager
Carmichael Water District Ron Greenwood, Board Member Cathy Lee, General Manager
Citrus Heights Water District Caryl Sheehan, Director Raymond Riehle, Director (alternate) Hilary Straus, General Manager Rebecca Scott, Director of Operations (alternate)
City of Folsom Barbara Leary, Councilmember Marcus Yasutake, Environmental/Water Resources Director (alternate)
City of Lincoln Whitney Eklund, Councilmember Matthew Medill, Public Works Director Chris Nelson, Environmental Services Manager (alternate)
City of Roseville Pauline Roccucci, Councilmember Sean Bigley, Director of Utilities George Hanson, Water Utilities Manager (alternate)
City of Sacramento Lisa Kaplan, Councilmember Brett Ewart, Water Policy & Regional Planning Supervising Engineer, Chair Michelle Carrey, Supervising Engineer (alternate) Anne Sanger, Policy and Legislative Specialist (alternate)
City of West Sacramento Ariana Adame, Director of Capital Projects and Interim Director of Public Works
City of Yuba City Wade Kirchner, Councilmember Benjamin Moody, Public Works & Development Services Director
Del Paso Manor Water District Gwynne Pratt, Board Member Adam Coyan, General Manager
El Dorado Irrigation District Paul Penn, Director Jon Money, Engineering Director (Alternate)
Elk Grove Water District Tom Nelson, Board Chair Bruce Kamilos, General Manager

<p>Fair Oaks Water District Randy Marx, Board Member Tom Gray, General Manager</p>
<p>Georgetown Divide Public Utility District Michael Saunders, Board Member, Vice Chair Nicholas Schneider, General Manager Adam Brown, Operations Manager (alternate)</p>
<p>Golden State Water Company Sean Twilla, General Manager and Chief Treatment Operator Paul Schubert, General Manager – Utility Solutions Team (alternate)</p>
<p>Nevada Irrigation District Ricki Heck, Board Member Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager Jennifer Hanson, General Manager (alternate)</p>
<p>Orange Vale Water Company Robert Hunter, Board Member</p>
<p>Placer County Water Agency Chris Wilson, Board Member Tony Firenzi, Director of Strategic Affairs Andy Fecko, General Manager, (alternate)</p>
<p>Rancho Murieta Community Services District John Merchant, Board Member Eric Houston, Director of Operations</p>
<p>Sacramento County Water Agency Patrick Kennedy, Supervisor Michael Grinstead, P.E. Principal Civil Engineer</p>
<p>Sacramento Suburban Water District Robert “Bob” Wichert, Board Member Dan York, General Manager Jay Boatwright, (alternate) Craig Locke, (alternate) Kevin Thomas, Board Member (alternate) Diana Lynch, Board Member (alternate)</p>
<p>San Juan Water District Dan Rich, Director Greg Zlotnick, Water Resources and Strategic Affairs Ted Costa, Board President (alternate) Paul Helliker, General Manager (alternate)</p>

* Names highlighted in red are Executive Committee members

RWA ASSOCIATES

Organization:	Representatives:
El Dorado Water Agency	Lori Parlin , Chair Rebecca Guo , General Manager
Placer County	Ken Grehm , Director Public Works and Facilities Jared Deck , Manager Environmental Engineering
Sacramento Municipal Utility District	Paul Lau , General Manager/CEO Christopher Cole , Strategic Account Advisor Chad Adair , Energy Trading and Contracts Manager John Hansen , Power Contracts Specialist
Sacramento Area Sewer District	Mike Huot , Director of Policy and Planning Jose Ramirez , Senior Civil Engineer
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	Richard Johnson , Executive Director
Yuba Water Agency	Adam Robin , Government Relations Manager Willie Whittlesey , General Manager

RWA AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Organization:	Representatives:
Black & Veatch	David Carlson , Vice president
Brown & Caldwell	Paul Selsky , Water Supply Planning, Vice president LaSandra Edwards , Civil Engineer May Huang , Engineer David Zuber , Vice President
CDM Smith	Lauren Sullivan , Client Service Leader - Water Services Brian Heywood , PE Principal Water Resources Engineer
GEI Consultants	John Woodling , Vice President, Branch Manager Chris Petersen , Principal Hydrogeologist Richard Shatz , Principal Hydrogeologist
HDR, Inc.	Jafar Faghieh , Water Resources Engineer Ed Winkler , Client Development Lead
Sacramento Association of Realtors	Jessica Coates , Chief Executive Officer Brian DeLisi , Chief Operations Officer
Stantec	Kari Shively , Vice President Vanessa Nishikawa , Principal Water Resources Engineer
West Yost Associates	Charles Duncan , President Abigail Madrone , Business Development Director Kelye McKinney , Engineering Manager I Jim Mulligan , Principal Engineer
Wood Rogers, Inc.	Kevin Gustorf , Vice President Sean Spaeth , Senior Hydrogeologist
Woodard & Curran	Ali Taghavi , Principal Jim Graydon , Senior Client Service Manager

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an information item to provide an opportunity for the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors to recognize or hear from visitors that may be attending the meeting or to allow members of the public to address the Board of Directors 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 Board of Directors 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:	Jim Peifer Executive Director
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item for the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors to review and consider approving the draft minutes of the special and regular Regional Water Authority Board Meeting of January 9, 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 actions taken 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 Board of Directors.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1- Draft Meeting Minutes of the Regional Water Authority Special Board Meeting of January 9, 2025
- Attachment 2- Draft Meeting Minutes of the Regional Water Authority Board Meeting of January 9, 2025



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**RWA Special Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
January 9, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ewart called the Special meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:01 a.m. the meeting location was at The City of Roseville, Environmental Utilities Building, 2005 Hilltop Circle, Roseville, CA 95747. A quorum was established of 19 participating members present in person. Individuals who participated are listed below:

RWA Board Members

S. Audie Foster, California American Water
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln
Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City
Gwynne Pratt, Del Paso Manor Water District
Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District
Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company
Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District
Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency
Eric Houston, Rancho Murieta Community Service District
Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency
Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Ted Costa, San Juan Water District

RWA Associate Members

None

RWA Affiliate Members

Vanessa Nishikawa, Principal Water Resources Engineer, Stantec

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Trevor Joseph, Raiyna Villasenor, Ashley Flores, Monica Garcia, and Josh Horowitz, Legal Counsel

Others in Attendance

Cathy Lee, CWD; Sean Bigley and George Hanson, City of Roseville; Bruce Kamilos, EGWD; Nicholas Schneider, GDPUD; Paul Helliker, SJWD; and Kevin Thomas, SSWD.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR

Ashley Flores, Clerk of the Board, presented this action item for the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors to review and consider approving a motion to make variances in the normal RWA election process for the Chair and, if necessary, Vice-chair positions due to previously-elected Chair Bill Roberts' decision to retire from his job at the City of West Sacramento and resulting vacancy in this office.

A motion to:

- (1) Waive January 1 start of term for the incoming RWA Chair to permit the Board to fill the vacancy in this position;**
- (2) If necessary, permit a one-time change in the process for selecting the Vice-Chair and provide for election of a Vice-chair by voice nomination and vote under Agenda Item 5;**
- (3) Waive the existing process and authorize the Chair to appoint two Executive Committee members subject to ratification of those appointments at the March 2025 Board Meeting; and**
- (4) Direct the Executive Committee to prepare amendments to Policy No. 200.3 and the Board Rules for approval at a board meeting later in 2025.**

Motion/Second/Carried Director Costa moved, with a second by Director Wilson

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City; Gwynne Pratt, Del Paso Manor Water District; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District; Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency; Eric Houston, Rancho Murieta Community Service District; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passes.

Ayes	19
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	3

RWA Chair

Director Brett Ewart and Director Michael Saunders were nominated by their peers to be the 2025 RWA Board Chair.

RWA Vice Chair

Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, was asked if he still wanted to be the Vice Chair if he did not win the election of Chair. He agreed to continue to be the Vice Chair if he did not win the Chair seat. No other Directors were interested in servicing.

RWA Executive Committee

The following additional Directors were appointed by the Chair to be on the RWA Executive Committee:

- Bruce Kamilos – Elk Grove Water District
- Chris Nelson – City of Lincoln

4. ELECT A CHAIR

A roll call vote occurred with the following results:

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City; Gwynne Pratt, Del Paso Manor Water District; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; 11 voted for Director Ewart.

Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District; Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District; Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency; Eric Houston, Rancho Murieta Community Service District; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District; 8 voted for Director Saunders.

Director Ewart was elected and appointed as the incoming RWA Board Chair with an 11 - 8 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Ewart adjourned the special meeting at 9:51 a.m.

By:

RWA Chair

Attest:

Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RWA Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
January 9, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ewart called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:51 a.m. the meeting location was at The City of Roseville, Environmental Utilities Building, 2005 Hilltop Circle, Roseville, CA 95747. A quorum was established of 19 participating members present in person. Individuals who participated are listed below:

RWA Board Members

S. Audie Foster, California American Water
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln
Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City
Gwynne Pratt, Del Paso Manor Water District
Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District
Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company
Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District
Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency
Eric Houston, Rancho Murieta Community Service District
Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency
Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Ted Costa, San Juan Water District

RWA Associate Members

None

RWA Affiliate Members

Vanessa Nishikawa, Principal Water Resources Engineer, Stantec

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Trevor Joseph, Raiyna Villasenor, Ashley Flores, Monica Garcia, and Josh Horowitz, Legal Counsel

Others in Attendance

Cathy Lee, CWD; Sean Bigley and George Hanson, City of Roseville; Bruce Kamilos, EGWD; Nicholas Schneider, GDPUD; Paul Helliker, SJWD; and Kevin Thomas, SSWD.

2. APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR PRO TEMPORE

This item was pulled.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Alison Winter, Ardurra Engineering
Paul Helliker, San Juan Water District

4. 2025 RWA VICE CHAIR

During the Special Board meeting held prior to this meeting on January 9, 2025, Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, was asked if he still wanted to be the Vice Chair if he did not win the election of Chair. He agreed to continue to be the Vice Chair if he did not win the Chair seat. No other Directors were interested in servicing.

A motion was made to ratify Michael Saunders as 2025 RWA Vice Chair.

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

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City; Gwynne Pratt, Del Paso Manor Water District; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District; Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency; Eric Houston, Rancho Murieta Community Service District; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passes.

Ayes	19
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	3

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 5.1 Approve the draft meeting minutes of November 14, 2024, RWA Board Meeting
- 5.2 Accept the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 RWA Financial Audit Report
- 5.3 Approve the 2025 Policy Principles
- 5.4 Approve the 2025 Federal Affairs Platform

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

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

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City; Gwynne Pratt, Del Paso Manor Water District; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District; Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency; Eric Houston, Rancho Murieta Community Service District; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passes.

Ayes	19
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	3

6. 2025 RWA OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Ewart presented this action for the Board of Directors to approve five of the 2025 RWA Executive Committee members. The following were elected to the 2025 RWA Executive Committee: Directors Sean Bigley, Brett Ewart, Robert Wichert, Sean Twilla, and Ron Greenwood to serve on the Executive Committee (the two EC members appointed by the RWA Chair will be ratified at the March board meeting per the action at the previous special meeting).

A motion was made to approve 2025 Executive Committee Members

Motion/Second/Carried Director Sanders moved, with a second by Director Nelson

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City; Gwynne Pratt, Del Paso Manor Water District; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District; Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency; Eric Houston, Rancho Murieta Community Service District; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passes.

Ayes	19
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	3

No action was taken on the second recommended action consider and resolve officer and Executive Committee vacancies

7. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RWA AND CALIFORNIA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION

Executive Director Peifer presented this action item for the Board to consider and approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Regional Water Authority and the California Municipal Utilities Association.

A motion was made to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Regional Water Authority and the California Municipal Utilities Association

Motion/Second/Carried Director Jones moved, with a second by Director Nelson

S. Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Raymond Riehle, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City; Gwynne Pratt, Del Paso Manor Water District; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District; Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency; Eric Houston, Rancho Murieta Community Service District; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes. Motion passes.

Ayes	19
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	3

8. WATERSHED RESILIENCE PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Affairs provided a verbal presentation on this information item updating the Board of Directors on developments with the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project.

9. WATER FORUM AGREEMENT UPDATE

Executive Director Peifer provided a verbal presentation on this information item updating the Board of Directors on developments for the Water Forum Agreement update process.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Peifer reported that the Strategic Plan survey has been sent out to members to complete. He announced the next Coffee Chat will be on February 26 with Dr. Daniel Swain.

11. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Yasutake announced that the City of Folsom has identified their new City Manager Brian Whitemyer starting March 10, 2025.

Director Roccucci commended Director Bigley on his recent promotion as City of Roseville's Director of Environmental Utilities.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Ewart adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

By:

RWA Chair

Attest:

Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board

Topic: 2025 RWA Executive Committee Members
Type: New Business
Item For: Action; Hold an election for the vacant Executive Committee position; and Ratify the 2025 RWA Executive Committee
Purpose: Policies 100.1, 200.1, 200.3

SUBMITTED BY: Ashley Flores, CMC
Clerk of the Board

PRESENTER: Brett Ewart, RWA Chair

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This action item is for the Board of Directors hold an election for the vacancy on the Executive Committee and to ratify the three remaining positions on the 2025 RWA Executive Committee. Two of the positions were nominated by the RWA Chair at the last Board meeting (January 2025) and the third was vacated by Director Robert’s retirement.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- (1) Hold an election for the vacant Executive Committee position; and
- (2) Ratify the 2025 RWA Executive Committee

BACKGROUND

Policy 200.3 provides the process for the RWA Board of Directors to select the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Executive Committee. The process is summarized as follows:

- The membership elects the chair at the November Board meeting (Mr. William Roberts was elected chair).
- The membership votes for the vice chair and three members of the Executive Committee.
- The contracting members (investor-owned utilities) propose a member for the Executive Committee.
- The RWA Chair appoints two members to the Executive Committee.
- The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) Chair appoints a member to the Executive Committee, provided their agency is a member of the RWA.

Chair Vacancy On Executive Committee

Mr. Roberts has retired from the City of West Sacramento and thus vacated his position as incoming Chair. The special meeting that was held in January resulted in the reelection of Director Ewart as Chair and Director Saunders as Vice Chair. Another result is that the Chair elect was unable to timely make the proposed nominations of their two Executive Committee members for consideration by the Board of Directors. This last issue also was addressed at the January special meeting.

Election Results

An election by mailed ballot to the RWA members was conducted and counted on December 17, 2024, per RWA Policy 200.3. The election determined the Vice Chair and executive committee members.

The election results were:

Vice Chair: Michael Saunders (Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District)

Executive Committee:

Sean Bigley (City of Roseville),
Brett Ewart (City of Sacramento), and;
Robert Wichert (Sacramento Suburban Water District)

The Investor-Owned Utilities proposed Sean Twilla (Golden State Water Company) as their nominee for the Executive Committee.

Chris Hunley, SGA Chair, is proposed Ron Greenwood (Carmichael Water District) as his nominee to the Executive Committee.

The Board approved the above five nominees as members of the 2025 RWA Executive Committee. Per the action at the preceding special meeting, a Chair and Vice-chair were elected, and the Board approved a motion to authorize the new Chair to appoint their two preferred candidates to the Executive Committee, subject to ratification of those appointments at this board meeting.

Chair Ewart proposed Bruce Kamilos (Elk Grove Water District) and Chris Nelson (City of Lincoln) as his nominees. The two Directors that need to be ratified as the recommended action at this time. The ratification of these two members will bring the Committee’s membership to eight.

Vacancy on Executive Committee from City of West Sacramento

The City of West Sacramento was notified that they needed to provide the RWA with new appointments and if they were interested, a Director from their agency could be placed on the Executive Committee. West Sacramento’s City Manager has elected not to place their new representative, Ariana Adame, on the Executive Committee.

RWA Policy 200.3, section 4 of Article IV opens up the EC member spot that West Sacramento declined to a Board election. Subject to any applicable limitations on eligibility, the policy provides that the Board may nominate another Director by motion and for the nominee to be elected by majority vote.



Topic: Legislative Outlook
 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 information item for the Board of Directors to receive a presentation from Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Relations of major policy topics that will be taken up by the Legislature in 2025.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

The bill introduction deadline was February 21, 2025. There were approximately 2,400 bills introduced and approximately 850 of these bills are placeholder bills (Spot or intent bills). The deadline to amend a placeholder bill is the middle to end of March depending on the house the bill is in (March 17th for Assembly, March 23rd for the Senate).

The State Budget is in significant flux despite the fact that the Governor’s January budget proposal contained a very small surplus. The two biggest issues affecting the budget are the response to the Los Angeles wildfires and the uncertainty regarding receiving federal funds. Federal funds typically comprise about one third of the State budget. There is currently uncertainty over how much federal funding the state will receive.

Budget sub committees have begun meeting and have stated a departure from typical past practice that all budget items will remain open until May. This change in practice is a reflection of the uncertainty surrounding federal funding.

Listed below are a few of the important bills that RWA is tracking. It should be noted that the RWA staff is tracking more than the bills listed. Staff is tracking approximately 80 bills which cover a wide range of topics including, among other things, water rate affordability, water rights, water quality, emergency response, and groundwater management.



Topic	Bill Number and Author
Water Rights	AB 263 Rodgers (D- Santa Rosa) AB 362 Ramos (D- Highland)
Water Affordability	AB 532 Ransom (D-Tracy) SB 350 Durazo (D- Los Angeles)
Water Quality	AB 794 Gabriel (D- Encino) SB 454 McNerney (D- Stockton) SB 601 Allen (D- Santa Monica)
Emergency Response	AB 367 Bennett (D- Ventura)
Groundwater	AB 295 Macedo (R- Visalia) AB 1102 Borner (D- Solano Beach) SB 599 Caballero (D- Modesto)
Advanced Clean Fleets	SB 496 Hurtado (D- Hanford)

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

Agenda Item 6

Topic: Water Forum Update
Type: Old Business
Item For: Information
Purpose: [Strategic Plan Planning Objective C, 4](#)
[Strategic Plan Implementation Objective B, 1](#)
[Strategic Plan Communication Objective C, 5](#)
[Strategic Plan Advocacy Objective C, 4](#)

SUBMITTED BY:	Jim Peifer Executive Director	PRESENTER:	Jim Peifer, Executive Director & Ashlee Casey, Water Forum, Interim Executive Director
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This information item is to update the Board of Directors on developments with the Water Forum.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

Ashlee Casey, Water Forum Interim Executive Director and Jim Peifer, RWA Executive Director, will provide an oral report on developments for the Water Forum update process.

The Water Forum has been trying to complete an agreement by the middle part of this year. An important part of the agreement will be the American River Climate Adaption Program (ARCAP). ARCAP will be part of the briefing from Ms. Casey and Mr. Peifer.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1- Draft American River Climate Adaption Program (ARCAP) Framework Dated February 7, 2025

Attachment 2- Draft American River Climate Adaption Program (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.¹
- 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.

- 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 or other conditions.
- 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 fully 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.
7. ARCAP questions and issues related to conjunctive use (and possibly the Water Bank) will be addressed in a partnership between the WF and RWA.
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**
Several issues must be resolved before the ARCAP can come to fruition. This Program Element is intended to provide a process for identifying and analyzing issues required for the ARCAP implementation. 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 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 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.
- 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.

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.

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: Update on ARTESIAN Grant and Next Steps
Type: New Business
Item For: Information
Purpose: Strategic Plan Objective B - Implementation

SUBMITTED BY: Michelle Banonis,
Manager of Strategic Affairs

PRESENTER: Michelle Banonis,
Manager of Strategic Affairs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an information item for the Board of Directors to receive an update and discuss the status of the ARTESIAN (American River Terms for Ecosystem Support and Infrastructure Assistance Needs) Project Agreement and associated projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

RWA executed an agreement with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 21, 2023 (State Agreement). This agreement provided \$55 million in funding to the region for groundwater infrastructure projects. In order to govern administration of state funds provided to RWA, RWA and anticipated funding recipients developed a program agreement, the ARTESIAN, which was approved by the Executive Committee on September 14, 2023. ARTESIAN signatories have been submitting invoices and progress on their respective projects, with West Yost and RWA preparing and submitting this information to DWR.

DISCUSSION

The presentation will focus on the progress made for ARTESIAN participants, progress remaining for completion, and an overview of what next steps are required until the close of and after the reimbursement period.



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

SUBMITTED BY:	Ryan Ojakian Manager of Government Affairs	PRESENTER:	Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Affairs & Jim Peifer, Executive Director
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This information item is to update the Board of Directors on developments with the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Affairs and Jim Peifer, Executive Director will provide an oral report on recent updates for the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project.

On February 10, RWA and Jacobs held its first Watershed Network Meeting virtually. Updates on technical work, next steps, and development of the Watershed Resilience Vision were discussed.

We sent out a survey to our Advisory Committee to provide feedback on the draft vision statement. A meeting for the Advisory Committee is in development and will be scheduled for later this month.

Jacobs, RWA’s consultant on the project is preparing a water budget for the American River basin and a memo to document assumptions and data sources.



Topic: RWA Strategic Plan Priorities
Type: Unfinished; Old Business
Item For: Action; Approve the Strategic Plan Priorities for FY 2025/26
Impact: Fiscal/Budget

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

PRESENTER: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item for the Board of Directors to consider and approve Strategic Plan Priorities recommended by the Executive Committee for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the Strategic Plan Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025/2026

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) completing the Sacramento Regional Water Bank; 2) assisting in obtaining funding for our member’s projects and 3) enhancing 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:

- Support the development and success of the Water Bank: Educate stakeholders and the public on the critical role of the Water Bank in providing long-term water reliability for the region. This includes engaging stakeholders in the development of the Water Bank and the environmental process. Communication efforts may include media advocacy, tours, briefings, social media, digital advertising, and other avenues.
- Support efforts to secure funding: Advocate for investments in groundwater recharge, watershed resilience, and forest health, with a focus on securing funding for the Water Bank. Key strategies include strategic messaging, outreach to local legislators, media advocacy, and collaboration with stakeholders to emphasize the region's readiness to implement high-impact projects and its eligibility for funding, particularly through Proposition 4.
- Provide a forum for members: Offer ongoing opportunities for education and discussion on water issues affecting the region through preferred member communication such as the monthly E-Alert and Coffee & Conversation events.
- Support RWA’s involvement in the Water Forum 2.0 process: Support the Water Forum 2.0 Agreement negotiation process and the inclusion of the American River Climate Adaptation Plan (ARCAP) as a critical component to enhancing water management and improving environmental outcomes. Communication efforts may include messaging, communication tools, and other support.
- Coalition for regional advocacy: Engage and expand a Regional Coalition of Business Leaders, focusing on those who heavily rely on uninterrupted water supply. Support coalition-building efforts by facilitating meetings, providing communication tools, and developing relationships to amplify the region’s advocacy efforts.

- **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 Strategic Plan survey asked members about services that RWA could provide to assist with the implementation of conservation regulations over the next three years. Responses indicated a need for the expansion and development of regional water efficiency programs to meet regulatory requirements, such as outreach and rebate programs for the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors. Additionally, members expressed a desire for expanded public outreach messaging and school education programs. 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.
- 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

Attachment 4- 2024 Advocacy Program Highlights

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.

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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.

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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.

Advancing Water Resilience for the Sacramento Region



2024 was a transformative year for the Regional Water Authority (RWA). Despite significant challenges, we secured funding for critical projects, protected member interests, and positioned the Sacramento region for long-term water resilience.

The passage of Proposition 4, the \$10 billion Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act, was one of the biggest wins of the year. The RWA played a key role in helping to shape and advocate for this measure, which dedicates \$386 million to groundwater management and recharge, and \$100 million to watershed resilience.

This funding will play a critical role in ensuring a reliable water supply for the Sacramento region, including supporting the Sacramento Regional Water Bank, as we face the growing challenges of climate change. The passage of Proposition 4 marked a significant milestone, not just for the region, but for the future of California's water management strategy.

The year also brought changes in legislative leadership. Senator Christopher Cabaldon and Assemblywoman Maggy Krell joined the ranks, bringing fresh perspectives to water management. Alongside Senator Angelique Ashby, their leadership strengthens the region's ability to secure resources and advance water priorities. We have already met with our newest legislators and look forward to working with them in the year to come.

In addition, the RWA successfully safeguarded \$55 million for the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, preserving essential funding amidst a historic \$46.8 billion state budget deficit. These funds, initially awarded in 2023, are critical to advancing projects that promote ecosystem health and water sustainability.

As we look ahead to 2025, our focus remains steadfast: advancing water sustainability and advocating for our members' interests. With the support of our new legislative partners and the potential for Proposition 4 funding, we are well-positioned to advance our water priorities and further strengthen the resilience of our water systems.

James Peifer





2024 LEGISLATIVE RECAP

2024 saw the continuation of the 2023-24 legislative session, with the RWA actively advocating for member interests in critical areas such as water conservation, water rights, groundwater management, water quality, water affordability, and the advancement of a 2024 water and climate resilience bond. Amid a \$68 billion state budget deficit, RWA also worked diligently to protect funding for vital water resilience projects.

In 2024, 61 new bills were introduced and tracked by RWA, alongside 7 carryover bills from 2023, which continued to progress through the legislative process well into the year.

A SNAPSHOT OF 2024 LEGISLATION:

Bill – Author	Bill Title & Description	RWA Position	Outcome
SB 867 Allen D- Santa Monica	The bill passed and the voters approved Prop 4 which, among other things, provided for \$386 million for groundwater recharge and \$100 million for watershed resilience.	Supported	Passed
SB 1255 Durazo D- Los Angeles	This bill would have created a mandatory water rate assistance program that for most agencies would have cost significantly more to administer than the benefit it would have provided.	Opposed	Died
AB 2079 Bennett D- Ventura	This bill sought to regulate the permitting of large-diameter, high-capacity water wells in California. The bill aimed to impose additional requirements on local enforcement agencies before approving permits for such wells, including public notifications and consultations with groundwater sustainability agencies.	Opposed	Died
SB 1110 Ashby D- Sacramento	This bill aimed to adjust the timelines for the State Water Resources Control Board’s authority to issue informational orders, written notices, and conservation orders to urban retail water suppliers not meeting their urban water use objectives. The bill proposed delaying these enforcement actions by two years, allowing suppliers additional time to comply with water use efficiency standards.	Sponsored	Died
AB 1337 Wicks D- Oakland	This bill sought to enhance the State Water Resources Control Board’s authority to curtail water diversions during shortages, regardless of the basis of water rights.	Opposed	Died
AB 460 Bauer-Kahan D- Orinda	Originally, this bill enhances the enforcement capabilities of the State Water Resources Control Board regarding water rights and usage. It increases civil penalties for unauthorized water diversions and mandates annual adjustments for inflation to these penalties, beginning January 1, 2026. The bill also strengthens the board’s authority to issue cease and desist orders and seek injunctive relief for violations related to water use. This bill was chaptered on September 22, 2024.	Maintained Watch	Chaptered

2024 REGULATORY ADVOCACY

Shaping Conservation Regulations

In 2024, the Regional Water Authority actively advocated for its members to influence the development of the Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life regulation, which were adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board in July 2024. The RWA’s efforts included engagement with the legislature, participation in stakeholder meetings, and outreach through the news media to address critical concerns, such as the feasibility of outdoor water use standards and the protection of urban tree canopies.

- **Legislative Advocacy:** The Regional Water Authority (RWA) sponsored Senate Bill 1110, authored by Senator Angelique Ashby, to introduce flexibility in enforcing water use standards. The bill sought to allow lower-cost supply alternatives to meet regulatory requirements. Although SB 1110 was held in committee and did not advance, RWA continues to explore strategies to address technical challenges in the adopted regulations. Senator Ashby reaffirmed her commitment to advocating for the region’s water interests.
- **Engagement with State Entities:** RWA engaged proactively with the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) prior to its January report to the Legislature. The report incorporated critiques of the proposed regulations, reflecting several key concerns raised by RWA. Additionally, RWA’s legal counsel and staff worked directly with the State Water Resources Control Board, advocating for revisions to the regulations. These efforts emphasized the need for realistic outdoor water standards and support for healthy landscapes, including maintaining urban tree canopies.
- **Media Outreach:** RWA leveraged media platforms to amplify its concerns. Executive Director Jim Peifer co-authored an op-ed in the Sacramento Bee, warning about the potential impacts of outdoor water use standards on urban tree canopies. Furthermore, Amy Talbot, RWA’s Water Efficiency Program Manager, participated in public discussions and contributed to a POLITICO article, highlighting the implications of the regulations for tree health.

Advocacy in Regulatory Processes

The RWA actively represented member interests in three critical water management initiatives in 2024: the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (Agreements), the Bay-Delta Plan Update, and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Long-Term Operations (LTO) and Biological Opinions (BiOps) for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

- **Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes:** RWA staff and member agencies developed key draft agreements and procedures, including the Enforcement Agreement, Implementation Agreement, and Flow Accounting Procedures for the American River tributary. RWA collaborated with other Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta tributaries to host a workshop in April, focusing on flow measures, enforcement, and program progress. RWA also engaged with the State Water Board to influence the draft implementation plan for the Agreements.
- **Bay-Delta Plan Update:** Collaborating with the Water Forum, the RWA reviewed and submitted comments on the extensive 6,000+ page draft staff report for the Bay-Delta Plan update. RWA’s feedback focused on concerns about the cold-water pool in Folsom Reservoir and its effects on fish in the Lower American River.
- **EIS for Long-Term Operations and BiOps:** RWA provided input to the Bureau of Reclamation on the Environmental Impact Statement for the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Recommendations for improving conditions in the Lower American River were included in the final document. Additionally, RWA tracked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s biological opinion, which analyzed the operational impact of these projects on listed species and critical habitats.

2024 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH, TOURS AND ADVOCACY

The RWA hosted a tour of the American River in January for new NOAA West Coast Regional Administrator Jennifer Quan and other NOAA staff members. The tour, which made stops at PCWA's American River Pump Station, Roseville's new Solaire ASR wells and the Water Forum's 2023 Habitat Project, aimed to showcase the region's "supershed" approach and open a dialogue about issues such as the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes.



Photo courtesy of PCWA.

RWA and member agencies on April 5 hosted a discussion with state and local water leaders to explore strategies for increasing climate change resiliency on a watershed level. Representatives from the Department of Conservation, Department of Water Resources, and Wildlife Conservation Board heard from local water managers and environmentalists about their holistic approach to water management on a "supershed" level.



RECLAMATION

- The RWA team met with Reclamation's new Regional Director for the California-Great Basin Region Karl Stock to discuss the American River region's priorities and foster ongoing collaboration. Stock succeeded Ernest Conant, who assumed the role of senior advisor to the Deputy Commissioner for Operations.
- RWA staff and members attended the Mid-Pacific Region Water Users Conference in Reno, Nevada, from January 24-26. Multiple meetings occurred, including a discussion on operations under the proposed "Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes," formerly called Voluntary Agreements.

NATIONAL PANEL

RWA Manager of Strategic Affairs Michelle Banonis served on a February 28 panel at the request of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to discuss the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. She presented information about how to inject the best science into the operations of the American River Division of the Central Valley Project.

SGMA 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The RWA was a key participant in the SGMA 10-Year Anniversary Event on November 18 hosted by the California Department of Water Resources. RWA Executive Director Jim Peifer appears in a commemorative video reflecting on SGMA's role in sustainable water management in the Sacramento region. Additionally, RWA's Manager of Technical Services, Trevor Joseph, joined a panel discussion at the event.

ADVANCING THE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL WATER BANK

In 2024, the Sacramento Regional Water Bank achieved significant milestones toward advancing sustainable water management in the region, reaching the halfway point of its four-year development timeline. Efforts focused on finalizing key frameworks, including the Water Accounting System (WAS), the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), and scientific groundwater modeling.

Water Accounting System (WAS): Substantial progress was made and a WAS concept paper is nearing public release. The WAS consisting of a concept paper and ultimately an accounting tool is a critical component of the project for managing water deposits, withdrawals, and storage losses within underground aquifers. The WAS is designed to ensure basin sustainability and will be implemented across the North and South American Subbasins. It incorporates detailed principles and tools for effective water banking.

Environmental Review Process: The RWA advanced the PEIR under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), incorporating updates to the Project Description and reissuing a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to include out-of-basin transfers of up to 35,000 acre-feet per year.

Groundwater Modeling: State-of-the-art modeling, combining the CalSim 3 surface water model with the locally developed CoSANA groundwater model, provided a framework for analyzing surface and groundwater interactions. A Water Management Operations Pilot explored various water banking scenarios, aligning regional data for accurate simulations of Water Bank activities.

Community Outreach: The Water Bank enhanced outreach efforts with new educational materials, including a video on in-lieu recharge, a process vital to groundwater replenishment. These resources were showcased at conferences and published in key industry platforms. The Q&A Connect series addressed stakeholder questions, while Spanish-language materials expanded accessibility for diverse community members.



IN THE NEWS

RWA leveraged media to spotlight regional water initiatives:

- KCRA 3 and ABC 10 highlighted how 12.3 billion gallons of water were stored in the Water Bank during 2023's historic storms.
- Fox 40 News and CBS 13 featured groundwater recharge efforts and stormwater capture for underground storage.
- Maven's Notebook published an RWA-sponsored blog post on wildfire risk reduction by Placer County Water Agency and Yuba Water Agency.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF STATE FUNDING

In 2024, RWA was awarded a \$2 million grant from the California Department of Water Resources to lead a Watershed Resilience Pilot Project, aimed at shaping water management planning and funding in California. This initiative addresses local climate risks and adaptation strategies across regional watersheds, including the American, Bear, Cosumnes, and Sacramento Rivers.

Key achievements included forming a Watershed Resilience Ad Hoc Committee and a Watershed Network of agencies, tribal representatives, and non-governmental organizations. Collaborative efforts with stakeholders and DWR focused on watershed budgets, tools, and a comprehensive climate vulnerability assessment. This assessment will guide detailed implementation plans to strengthen regional water management.

SHAPING THE CONVERSATION IN 2024

RWA engaged stakeholders and highlighted the Sacramento Regional Water Bank through key events and discussions:

COFFEE & CONVERSATION SERIES

RWA hosted discussions on pivotal water issues:

- **Jennifer Quan** (NOAA Fisheries) shared insights on salmon restoration and the regulatory challenges posed by climate change.
- **Pablo Garza** (Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife) offered post-election perspectives and advocacy strategies for water providers navigating the California Legislature.

WATER BANK PRESENTATIONS

RWA showcased the Water Bank's critical role in sustainable water management:

- **Jim Peifer** delivered the keynote at the Ken Kerri Endowment Fund Luncheon (Sacramento State), emphasizing the Water Bank's role in regional water sustainability.
- **Trevor Joseph** highlighted the Water Bank at an ACWA Regions 3 and 4 event in Roseville, including a tour of an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) well.
- **Jim Peifer** presented at the Water Forum plenary, focusing on the Water Bank's infrastructure and its importance in achieving coequal goals of water supply reliability and environmental stewardship. The event also featured the River Arc Project as a regional solution.
- **RWA** promoted the Water Bank at the California Building Industry Association Legislative Advocacy Conference, emphasizing its importance to homebuilding and development industry leaders.



WELCOMING A NEW AFFILIATE

RWA welcomed CDM Smith as a new Affiliate Member. The global environmental engineering firm specializes in water quality, supply, flood control, and resource management, with over 40 professionals in its Sacramento office.

Thank you to our members and partners for their continued support in advancing regional water resilience!

CONTACT INFORMATION

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

2295 Gateway Oaks Drive, #100 | Sacramento, CA 95833 | www.rwah2o.org | 916.967.7692



Topic: Executive Director’s 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 agenda item is a standing item to provide an opportunity for the Executive Director to report to the Board of Directors on important activities, reports, communications, advocacy, and other updates.

Letter Regarding Reclamation Employees – Please see the attached letter sent to Secretary Doug Burgum and Acting Commissioner David Palumbo regarding staffing cuts at Reclamation.

Ms. Banonis and Mr. Peifer attended a meeting with the Acting Commissioner on March 5th to discuss the implementation of the President’s Executive Order on Water and the staffing cuts.

Quarterly General Managers and Utility Directors Luncheon – is scheduled for **March 26 from 11:30am-1:30pm**. The luncheon will be hosted by the City of Folsom. Agenda will be forthcoming. The meeting will be capped at 25, please RSVP to Ashley at aflores@rwah2o.org

FBI Workshop - On February 21st, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and RWA held "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 was hosted by the City of Roseville.

Coffee and Conversation with Dr. Daniel Swain - On Wednesday, February 26, 2025 RWA held its first *Coffee & Conversation* of the year with climate scientist [Dr. Daniel Swain](#). You can find the link to the interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juUXKGx7RC8>

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, March 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information about the Water Bank, contact Trevor Joseph at tjoseph@rwah2o.org.

Staff anticipate releasing the Water Accounting System document soon. That document is nearly complete. The Water Bank monitoring plan will be developed next. The Water Bank Starting Balance work is beginning.

Financial

Unaudited RWA financial reports including income statement and quarterly balance through December 2024 are attached.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Letter to the Secretary of the Interior and to the Acting Reclamation Commissioner
- Attachment 2 – Financial Reports



February 24, 2025

Brett Ewart, Chair
Michael Saunders, Vice Chair

The Honorable Douglas Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Members

California American Water
Carmichael Water District
Citrus Heights Water District
Del Paso Manor Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District
Elk Grove Water District
Fair Oaks Water District
Folsom, City of
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
Golden State Water Company
Lincoln, City of
Nevada Irrigation District
Orange Vale Water Company
Placer County Water Agency
Rancho Murieta Community Services District
Roseville, City of
Sacramento, City of
Sacramento County Water Agency
Sacramento Suburban Water District
San Juan Water District
West Sacramento, City of
Yuba City, City of

David Palumbo
Acting Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Secretary Burgum and Acting Commissioner Palumbo:

On behalf of the Regional Water Authority (RWA), I write to express my concern that large reductions in force of Reclamation staff would impair the agency's ability to meet its critical mission to serve, operate, and maintain the important public works that make up the Central Valley Project (CVP).

Many of our water purveyor members are contractors of and collaborators with Reclamation's CVP, a complex, multi-purpose network of more than 20 dams and reservoirs, hydroelectric powerplants, canals and other facilities that extend more than 400 miles through central California. The mission of Reclamation is *to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public*. Reclamation is predominantly funded not by taxpayers, but by its water and power customers.

The risks to public safety and national security impacts to our food supply from a reduction of force are consequential. Specifically, the flood control element of public safety and the disruption to the nation's food supply should be considered. One of the key public safety missions of the CVP is to provide flood control. Folsom Reservoir, a part of the CVP was initially authorized and still remains as a flood control facility protecting the greater Sacramento area. This year alone, the CVP has protected our region from the potential of dangerous flooding.

Associates

County of Placer
El Dorado County Water Agency
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Yuba Water Agency

With respect to national security interests, the CVP delivers and manages water for the Central Valley which is America's Breadbasket. Additionally, the operation of the CVP takes into account the fisheries that the West Coast commercial fishing fleet rely upon. The Central Valley in California produces over 250 different crops, contributing roughly 25% of the nation's food supply, with a value estimated at around \$17 billion annually. The Central Valley supplies approximately one quarter of the nation's fruits, nuts, and table foods, despite using less than 1% of U.S. farmland. Important to the Nation's food supply is California's commercial fishing fleet, which has historically landed 374 million pounds of fish annually. Key to maintaining public safety and

Mr. Secretary Burgum and Acting Commissioner Palumbo
Subject: Reclamation Employees
February 24, 2025
Page 2 of 2

national security interests associated with this important economic influx for the country is the staff at Reclamation's California-Great Basin region.

In our experience, the vast majority of staff throughout Reclamation's California-Great Basin region are comprised of dedicated, talented federal employees, possessing specialized skills, knowledge, and the relevant and specific experience necessary to safely and efficiently manage, operate and maintain one of the largest, most complex water projects in the world. Moreover, the proper, safe, and efficient operations of the CVP are critical to the Central Valley. It is no secret that our water supply infrastructure is badly outdated and in need of upgrading. Reclamation's employees in this region have critical knowledge of the many critical needs of our aged infrastructure. This knowledge is absolutely essential to assuring the continued safe delivery of water – and allowing Reclamation to fulfill its fundamental mission to the people. The highly specialized skill sets held by these experienced Reclamation employees cannot be easily replaced.

Nor would elimination of these staff achieve significant cost savings for the American people. Reclamation is a service organization, predominantly funded not by the taxpayers, but instead by its water and power customers. Pursuant to federal statutes, including the Reclamation Reform Act signed into law by President Reagan in 1986, the water and power contractors pay into the Treasury to fund the benefits they receive. Eliminating Reclamation's staff thus would compromise its ability to fulfill its mission of delivering water and power to us without significantly increasing the federal coffers.

A reduction in force that eliminates Reclamation employees with the specialized knowledge needed to move water through our aging infrastructure could cripple our water delivery system and create a significant safety risk. It is my assessment that the organization is already extremely lean on staffing, and further workforce cuts would jeopardize its mission and place the American people, who live in or near key federal water facilities such as dams, in danger. I encourage you to factor in these considerations above as you proceed to undertake your work related to Reclamation in a thoughtful and strategic manner. Simply put, it is critical that Reclamation retains sufficient experienced staff to continue fulfilling its mission - and its contractual obligations - of delivering reliable water and power supplies to its paying contractors.

In closing, we appreciate the Administration's goals of reducing inflation and building the economy. The knowledgeable and highly essential staff at Reclamation will be needed to meet those goals. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We invite you to consider becoming an associate member of the RWA and look forward to any questions you may have about us. Please do not hesitate to call me directly (916) 847-7589.

Sincerely,



Jim Peifer
RWA Executive Director

California State Treasurer
Fiona Ma, CPA



Local Agency Investment Fund
 P.O. Box 942809
 Sacramento, CA 94209-0001
 (916) 653-3001

January 24, 2025

[LAIF Home](#)
[PMIA Average Monthly Yields](#)

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

FINANCE MANAGER
 2295 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95833

[Tran Type Definitions](#)

Account Number: 90-34-019

December 2024 Statement

Effective Date	Transaction Date	Tran Type	Confirm Number	Web Confirm Number	Authorized Caller	Amount
12/3/2024	11/27/2024	RW	1763991	1724529	THOMAS HOFFART	-150,000.00
12/20/2024	12/19/2024	RW	1764636	1725167	THOMAS HOFFART	-250,000.00
12/31/2024	12/30/2024	RW	1764913	1725461	THOMAS HOFFART	-100,000.00

Account Summary

Total Deposit:	0.00	Beginning Balance:	2,630,418.47
Total Withdrawal:	-500,000.00	Ending Balance:	2,130,418.47



Market Value Summary:

	QTD Current Period	Fiscal Year to Date
Beginning Balance	\$1,733,605.89	\$1,603,258.31
Contribution	0.00	0.00
Disbursement	0.00	0.00
Transfer In	0.00	0.00
Transfer Out	0.00	0.00
Investment Earnings	(61,410.16)	69,292.94
Administrative Expenses	(116.20)	(320.92)
Investment Expense	(185.00)	(335.80)
Other	0.00	0.00
Ending Balance	\$1,671,894.53	\$1,671,894.53
FY End Contrib per GASB 74 Para 22	0.00	0.00
FY End Disbursement Accrual	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	\$1,671,894.53	\$1,671,894.53

Unit Value Summary:

	QTD Current Period	Fiscal Year to Date
Beginning Units	70,638.447	70,638.447
Unit Purchases from Contributions	0.000	0.000
Unit Sales for Withdrawals	0.000	0.000
Unit Transfer In	0.000	0.000
Unit Transfer Out	0.000	0.000
Ending Units	70,638.447	70,638.447
Period Beginning Unit Value	24.541958	22.696679
Period Ending Unit Value	23.668336	23.668336

Please note the Grand Total is your actual fund account balance at the end of the period, including all contributions per GASB 74 paragraph 22 and accrued disbursements. Please review your statement promptly. All information contained in your statement will be considered true and accurate unless you contact us within 30 days of receipt of this statement. If you have questions about the validity of this information, please contact CERBT4U@calpers.ca.gov.

Statement of Transaction Detail for the Quarter Ending 12/31/2024

Regional Water Authority

Entity #: SKB0-6065061198



Date	Description	Amount	Unit Value	Units	Check/Wire	Notes
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Client Contact:
CERBT4U@CalPERS.ca.gov



Per California Government Code 6505.5 (e), RWA reports the following unaudited information:

For the period ending December 31, 2024

Cash in checking account:	\$	187,691
LAIF balance:	\$	2,130,418

For the period of October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Total cash receipts for the period:	\$	5,554,376
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Total cash disbursements for the period:	\$	5,985,013
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REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

Income Statement

Year-to-Date Performance, December 2024 - 3 months back, Consolidated
by account

	6 Months Ended December 31, 2024	Annual Budget	Unused	% Used
REVENUES				
Core Revenues				
Annual Assessments	1,145,186	1,145,183	(3)	100.0 %
Affiliate Members Annual	8,000	7,200	(800)	111.1 %
Associate Membership Annual	74,922	74,922	0	100.0 %
SGA Service Agreement Fees	215,179	0	(215,179)	
Miscellaneous Revenue	3,023	7,000	3,977	43.2 %
Interest on S/T Investments	30,609	80,000	49,391	38.3 %
TOTAL Core Revenues	1,476,919	1,314,305	(162,614)	112.4 %
Grant and Program Revenues				
Program Revenues	1,332,005	0	(1,332,005)	
Miscellaneous Revenue	40	0	(40)	
State Revenues	4,442,044	0	(4,442,044)	
WEP Revenues	541,121	0	(541,121)	
TOTAL Grant and Program Revenues	6,315,210	0	(6,315,210)	
TOTAL REVENUES	7,792,129	1,314,305	(6,477,824)	592.9 %
TOTAL REVENUE	7,792,129	1,314,305	(6,477,824)	592.9 %
GROSS PROFIT	7,792,129	1,314,305	(6,477,824)	592.9 %
OPERATING EXPENDITURES				
Staff Expenses				
General Salaries	755,551	1,631,312	875,761	46.3 %
Benefits/Taxes	246,392	741,160	494,768	33.2 %
Payroll Clearing	3,685	0	(3,685)	
Travel / Meals	20,985	45,000	24,015	46.6 %
Professional Development	2,490	14,000	11,510	17.8 %
TOTAL Staff Expenses	1,029,103	2,431,472	1,402,369	42.3 %
Office Expenses				
Rent & Utilities	43,411	75,000	31,589	57.9 %
Insurance	73,467	52,000	(21,467)	141.3 %
Office Maintenance	990	2,200	1,210	45.0 %
Telephone	936	10,000	9,064	9.4 %
Dues and Subscription	26,643	30,000	3,357	88.8 %

	<i>6 Months Ended December 31, 2024</i>	<i>Annual Budget</i>	<i>Unused</i>	<i>% Used</i>
Printing & Supplies	2,991	25,000	22,009	12.0 %
Postage	1,010	4,200	3,190	24.0 %
Meetings	3,571	6,000	2,429	59.5 %
Events	9,668	24,000	14,332	40.3 %
Computer Equipment/Support	19,203	44,000	24,797	43.6 %
TOTAL Office Expenses	181,890	272,400	90,510	66.8 %
Professional Fees				
ADP / Banking Charges	2,051	3,600	1,549	57.0 %
Audit Fees	32,900	35,000	2,100	94.0 %
Legal Fees	25,409	90,000	64,591	28.2 %
GASB 68 reporting fee	700	0	(700)	
Consulting Expenses - General	92,736	309,000	216,264	30.0 %
Miscellaneous Expense	113	0	(113)	
Powerhouse Science Center Payments	0	25,000	25,000	
TOTAL Professional Fees	153,909	462,600	308,691	33.3 %
SGA and Program Admin Exp Reimbursement				
SGA Service Agreement Fee	(195,150)	0	195,150	
TOTAL SGA and Program Admin Exp Reimbursen	(195,150)	0	195,150	
Grant and Program Expenses				
Grant Expenses - Direct and PT	5,786,222	0	(5,786,222)	
Program Expenses - Direct	400,072	0	(400,072)	
TOTAL Grant and Program Expenses	6,186,294	0	(6,186,294)	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	7,356,046	3,166,472	(4,189,574)	232.3 %
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	436,083	(1,852,167)	(2,288,250)	-23.5 %
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	436,083	(1,852,167)	(2,288,250)	-23.5 %
NET INCOME (LOSS) NET OF PROGRAM	436,083	(1,852,167)	(2,288,250)	-23.5 %



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

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

This is an information item to provide an opportunity for the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors 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 agenda item is a standing item to provide an opportunity to report on any updates from their agency, comments, request future agenda items, recommendations, and questions.