

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ewart called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order on December 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at the RWA Board Room located at 2295 Gateway Oaks, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833. Seven of the Executive Committee Members were present at roll call; a quorum was established. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Executive Committee Members

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento, Chair
Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, Vice Chair
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville – Entered at 1:35 p.m.
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency
Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Tom Hoffart, Ryan Ojakian, Trevor Joseph, Amy Talbot, Monica Garcia, Ashley Flores and Josh Horowitz.

Others in Attendance:

Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Director Kamilos requested that Consent Calendar Item 3.1 be amended in his Director’s comments to state Board of Directors not City Council.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1 Approve draft meeting minutes of October 28, 2025 Executive Committee meeting
- 3.2 Approve the RWA draft Board Agenda for January 8, 2026
- 3.3 Approval of Change Order #1 with Khadam Consulting Inc. to extend the term of services provided under Task Order #4 for Sacramento Regional Water Bank (SRWB) project development from December 31, 2025 to May 31, 2026
- 3.4 Approve Change Order #5 to Task Order #22-02 to the Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

A motion was made to the Consent Calendar as amended.

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

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; and Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

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

4. POTENTIAL RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF THE RWA FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

This was an action item presented by Tom Hoffart, Finance Director and Ingrid Shepline, Richardson and Company, LLP for the Executive Committee to consider and recommend approval the fiscal year 2024/25 Independent Auditor's Report, Financial Statements, Internal Control and Compliance Report, and Governance Letter with the RWA's independent auditor.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 RWA Financial Audit Report to the Board of Directors.

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

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Grinstead, County of Sacramento; and Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

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

5. RWA BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA'S "ACCOUNTING FOR WATER" INITIATIVE

This was an action item presented by Jim Peifer, Executive Director and Ryan Ojakian, Government Relations Manager; they provided a brief update on our partnership with Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and their "Accounting for Water" Initiative. The PPIC is requesting financial support from RWA members in the form of a sponsorship for their "Accounting for Water." Many members are interested in sponsoring the initiative, as well as the Water Forum and the Environmental Council of Sacramento. Members have requested that the RWA invoice them and RWA send the payment to PPIC.

A motion was made to recommend approval to the Board of Directors for a budget amendment of up to \$50,000 in member payments towards sponsorship to PPIC's initiative to be dispersed in one payment by RWA.

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

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Grinstead, County of Sacramento; and Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

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

6. STRATEGIC POTENTIAL REVISIONS TO RWA POLICIES 200.1 (RULES FOR PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS) AND 500.13 (BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT)

Executive Director Peifer presented this information item for the Executive Committee to receive a progress report on the Strategic Plan Update. A shortlist has been established; a scope of work was drafted by Director Wichert that was approved by the ad hoc committee. Next steps will be to release the RFP.

The Executive Committee agreed that the written approval would be captured in the financial program/system that the Finance Director and Executive Director review and approve charges through.

A motion was made to recommend approval of revisions to policies 200.1 and 500.13 to the RWA Board of Directors with amended language in Policy 500.13 section A1 and B1 to include "in writing."

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

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Grinstead, County of Sacramento; and Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

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

7. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

This was an action item presented by Ryan Ojakian, Government Relations Manager for the Executive Committee to take positions on state legislation and receive and update on legislative and regulatory actions. Mr. Ojakian provided an updated on Assembly Bill 497 with respect to how it supports the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program.

A motion was made to support position on AB 497

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

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Grinstead, County of Sacramento; and Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

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

8. BUDGETING AND ACCOUNTING POLICY PREFERENCES

This was an information/discussion item presented by Jim Peifer, Executive Director and Tom Hoffart, Finance Director to brief the Executive Committee on certain accounting practices with respect to subscription programs and to receive direction on the separate but related items of budgeting and accounting practices. It was explained that depending on the direction to staff, policies may need to be revised and presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

No action taken, direction was provided to staff to bring the item back next year.

9. APPROVAL OF THE WATER USE EFFICIENCY PROGRAM BUDGET

This was an action item presented by Amy Talbot, Principal Project Manager for the RWA Executive Committee to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Water Efficiency Program Budget as directed in the Subscription Program Agreement and as previously approved by the Regional Water Efficiency Program Advisory Committee (RWE PAC) in May 2025.

A motion was made to ratify the FY 25/26 Water Efficiency Program Budget as directed in the Subscription Program Agreement

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

Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Sean Bigley, City of Roseville; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Grinstead, County of Sacramento; and Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

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

10. WATER FORUM AGREEMENT

This is a discussion item presented by Jim Peifer, Executive Director for the Executive Committee to receive a brief update and discuss the “Water Forum 2050 Agreement” and receive direction on bringing the agreement to the Board of Directors for approval. City of Sacramento staff requested the RWA support in writing the potential agreement requirement of preparing a salary survey to aid in the appropriate compensation for the Water Forum Executive Director, in order to retain (and if needed in the future, attract) a highly qualified Executive Director.

No action taken, staff was provided direction to not submit a letter of support.

11. RWA PROGRAM UPDATES

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

No action taken.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Executive Director Peifer directed the committee in the interest of time to review his written report.

13. DIRECTORS’ COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ewart adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

By: 
Michael Saunders, RWA Chair

Attest: 
Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board