



Michael Saunders, Chair

Sean Twilla, Vice Chair	Chris Nelson, Director
Bruce Kamilos, Director	Robert Wichert, Director
Ron Greenwood, Director	Nichole Baxter, Director
Brett Ewart, Director	Michael Grinstead, Director

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026
at 1:30 p.m.**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING VIRTUAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87910700156>

Meeting ID: 879 1070 0156

Dial by your location

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

If we experience technical difficulties and the Zoom link drops and you are no longer able to connect to the Board meeting, please dial 1-877-654-0338 – 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 committee may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

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

3.1 Approve draft meeting minutes of January 27, 2026 Executive Committee meeting; draft minutes of RWA GM and Utility Management Workshop Quarterly Meeting minutes of January 21, 2026; and RWA Special Closed Session – HRLP Workshop of January 26, 2026

Action: Approve Consent Calendar

4. FISCAL YEAR 2025/26 MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW AND FISCAL YEAR 2026/27 PLANNING

Presenter: Tom Hoffart, Finance Director

Action: Provide staff directions on key issues for the FY 2026/27 Budget

5. INFORMATION: STRATEGIC PLAN

Presenter: Ashley Flores, Board Clerk and Project Manager

6. INFORMATION: RWA PROGRAM UPDATES

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

7. RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Approve RWA Board Meeting Agenda for March 12, 2026

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming meetings:

Next RWA Board of Director's Meeting: Regular RWA Board Meeting, March 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m. at the Fair Oaks Water District, 10326 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, CA 95628. The location is subject to change.

Next RWA Executive Committee Meeting: The next RWA Executive Committee Meeting

is scheduled for March 17, 2026, 1:30 p.m. at the RWA Office located at 2295 Gateway Oaks, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833.

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

Posted on: February 13, 2026

Ashley Flores
Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board



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

SUBMITTED BY:	Ashley Flores, CMC Board Clerk	PRESENTER:	Michael Saunders Chair
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

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

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR



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

SUBMITTED BY:	Ashley Flores, CMC Board Clerk	PRESENTER:	Ashley Flores, CMC Board Clerk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item for the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee to review and consider approving the draft minutes of the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee Meeting of January 27, 2026; RWA GM and Utility Management Workshop Quarterly Meeting minutes of January 21, 2026; and Draft minutes of RWA Special Closed Session – HRLP Workshop of January 26, 2026

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

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

BACKGROUND

The draft minutes of the above referenced meetings are included with this Agenda. The minutes reflect the RWA Policy 200.1 to document specific details on items discussed at the meetings. The Executive Director may list on the agenda a "consent calendar," which will consist of routine matters on which there is generally no opposition or need for discussion. Examples of consent calendar items might include approval of minutes, financial reports and routine resolutions. Any matter may be removed from the consent calendar and placed on the regular calendar at the request of any member of the Board. The entire consent calendar may be approved by a single motion made, seconded and approved by the Board.

FINDING/CONCLUSION

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

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1- Draft meeting minutes of the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee Meeting of January 27, 2026
- Attachment 2- Draft minutes of RWA GM and Utility Management Workshop Quarterly Meeting minutes of January 21, 2026
- Attachment 3- Draft minutes of RWA Special Closed Session – HRLP Workshop of January 26, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Saunders called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order on January 27, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at the RWA Board Room located at 2295 Gateway Oaks, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833. Eight of the Executive Committee Members were present at roll call; a quorum was established. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Executive Committee Members

Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, Chair
Nichole Baxter, California American Water
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
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, Michelle Banonis, Monica Garcia, and Ashley Flores.

Others in Attendance:

Andrea Zimmer

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approve draft meeting minutes of December 16, 2025 Executive Committee meeting

3.2 Ratify the 2026 Executive Committee meeting schedule as amended

A motion was made to the Consent Calendar as amended.

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

Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District; Nichole Baxter, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; Chris Nelson, City of

Lincoln; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; and Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes. Motion passed.

Ayes- 8
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 1

4. AD HOC COMMITTEES

Chair Saunders presented this information item to brief the Executive Committee on matters regarding the formation and charge of the 2026 Ad Hoc Committees.

The following appointments were made:

Watershed Resilience Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Michael Saunders
Members: Reappoint Existing Members

Strategic Plan 2030

Chair: Michael Saunders
Members: Reappoint Existing Members (Brett Ewart, Sean Bigley, Bob Wichert, Chris Nelson)

Procedures for the Selection of the Executive Committee Ad Hoc Committee (Policy 200.3)

Chair: Michael Saunders
Members: Sean Twilla, Tom Gray, Chris Wilson, Sean Bigley, and Audie Foster

Executive Director Performance Review (RWA Policy 400.4)

Chair: Michael Saunders
Members: Sean Twilla and Jay Boatwright

Purchasing Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Todd Jordan, Citrus Heights Water District
Members: TBD

Annual Awards Committee

Chair: TBD
Members: TBD

No action taken, information only.

5. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF AN AMICUS BRIEF FOR THE “BRING BACK THE KERN” CASE

Executive Director Peifer presented this action item for the Executive Committee to

authorize Counsel to prepare and submit an amicus brief to the California Supreme Court in the Bring Back the Kern v. City of Bakersfield case. RWA likely would submit a joint brief with the Northern California Water Association (NCWA). The brief is likely to be due in early April.

A motion was made to authorize Counsel to prepare and file an amicus brief for the *Bring Back the Kern* case.

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

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

Ayes- 8
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 1

6. DISCUSSION: OVERHEAD EXPENSE ALLOCATION METHODOLOGIES

Director Hoffart presented this discussion item for the Executive Committee to discuss staff's recommended shift in financial management for RWA Subscription Programs transitioning from complex overhead allocations to a simplified direct-cost model. Staff recommends modifying the timing of Subscription Programs compensated absence payments. Staff's findings identified that core dues will increase to cover indirect costs, Subscription Program dues will decrease, keeping the total revenue requirement neutral.

No action taken, provided staff direction.

7. APPROVE TASK ORDER #4 FOR WOODARD & CURRAN AGREEMENT

This was an action item presented by Trevor Joseph for the Executive Committee to approve Task Order #4 to Woodard & Curran, Inc. for Phase 3 CoSANA Modeling Analysis and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) support for the Sacramento Regional Water Bank (Water Bank) project.

A motion was made to approve Task Order #4 for Woodard & Curran Agreement

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

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

Ayes- 8
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 1

8. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

This was an action item presented by Ryan Ojakian, Government Relations Manager for the Executive Committee to take position of support on Assembly Bill AB 35.

A motion was made to support position on AB 35

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

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

Ayes- 8
Noes- 0
Abstained- 0
Absent- 1

9. INFORMATION: STRATEGIC PLAN 2030

This was an information/discussion item presented by Executive Director Peifer to brief the Executive Committee on the latest progress on selecting a consultant to work with staff on updating the current Strategic Plan.

No action taken, information only.

10. INFORMATION: PPIC UPDATE

This was an information item presented by Executive Director Peifer to brief the Executive Committee on the Public Policy Institute of California's Accounting for Water initiative. On January 9, 2026, Mr. Peifer attended a workshop that the PPIC held with Sacramento Valley representatives to discuss their Accounting for Water Initiative.

No action taken, information only.

11. INFORMATION: RESILIENCE WATERSHED

This is an information item presented by Jim Peifer, Executive Director briefing the Executive Committee on the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project activities.

No action taken, information only.

12. 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, information only.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

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

14. DIRECTORS’ COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Saunders adjourned the meeting at 3:xx p.m.

By:

Attest:

Michael Saunders, RWA Chair

Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**General Managers & Utilities Management
Quarterly Workshop
Draft Minutes
January 21, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Executive Director Peifer called the General Mangers Quarterly Workshop to order at 11:30 a.m. at City of Citrus Heights – Community Center, 6360 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. A quorum was established of 12 participating members present in person. Individuals who were present are listed below:

RWA Board Members

Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District
Todd Jordan, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
Devin Whittington, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
Rebecca Scott, City of West Sacramento
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District

Others In Attendance

Jeff Karp, PCWA; Mary Elise Conzelmann, CHWD; and Kathy Abarca, CHWD

RWA Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Trevor Joseph, and Ashley Flores

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

4. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

The following items were discussed during this workshop, no actions were taken.

- Advanced Clean Fleet (CARB)

- Summer Internship – Partnership Opportunity
- Sacramento County Paving Restoration Standards
- ADA AND WCAG 2.0 Website Design Compliance
- Water Rate Data Collection
- Regional Purchasing Program
- Feedback – Future Meeting Topics
 - None

ADJOURNMENT

Executive Director Peifer adjourned the workshop at 1:30 p.m.

By:

Michael Saunders, Chair

Attest:

Ashley Flores, CMC, Board Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Chair Saunders called a special closed session meeting of Regional Water Authority Board of Directors HRLP participants to discuss the American River Healthy Rivers & Landscapes program to order at 11:03 a.m. at the City of Roseville, 2005 Hilltop Circle, Roseville, CA 95747. A quorum was established of 12 participating members present in person. Individuals who were present are listed below:

RWA Board Members

Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District
Todd Jordan, Citrus Heights Water District
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln
George Hanson, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Anne Sanger, City of Sacramento
Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District
Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
Nicholas Schneider, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
Andy Fecko, Placer County Water Agency
Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Adam Larsen, San Juan Water District
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District

Others In Attendance

Greg Norris, Carmichael Water District; Mary Elise Conzelmann, CHWD, and Elizabeth Evans, SJWD

RWA Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Michelle Banonis, and Ashley Flores

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

None.

Chair Saunders announced the Closed Session item and adjourned the board into Closed Session at 11:05 a.m.

2. **CLOSED SESSION – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE § 54956.9, SUBDIVISION (D)(2): ONE CASE, CONCERNING BAY-DELTA WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN.**
3. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION IN CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Saunders returned the board to regular session at 12:50 p.m., no reportable action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT AT 1:00 P.M.

By:

Michael Saunders, Chair

Attest:

Ashley Flores, CMC, Board Clerk



Topic: Fiscal Year 2025/26 Mid-Year Budget Review and Fiscal Year 2026/27 Planning
Type: New Business
Item For: Information
Purpose: Policy 500.11

SUBMITTED BY: Tom Hoffart
Finance Director

PRESENTER: Tom Hoffart
Finance Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This information item provides the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee with a Mid-Year update on the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget and outlines policies and considerations for developing the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discuss and provide direction for the FY 2026/2027 Budget.

BACKGROUND

Staff has begun the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2026/27 SGA budget. This item includes a presentation reviewing the RWA Budget Policies, Dues Calculation Methodology, Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget Assumptions, Fiscal Year 2025/26 Mid-Year Budget Review, Fiscal Year 2026/27 Budget Outlook and Budget Schedule.

ATTACHEMENTS

- Attachment 1 – RWA Budget Presentation
- Attachment 2 – RWA Policy 500.11 – Budget Policy



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



Regional Water Authority

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget

February 2026



Overview

- Budget Policies
- Dues Calculation Methodology
- FY 2025/26 Budget Assumptions
- FY 2025/26 Mid-Year Budget Review
- FY 2026/27 Budget Outlook
- Budget Schedule

Budget Policies

- Administrative and Management Service Agreement Policy 100.2 – SGA shares 50% of the administrative costs incurred by RWA to run both organizations
 - 5.6 Full Time Employees for RWA:
 - 50% - Executive Director, Manager of Technical Services, Finance Director & Board Clerk/Project Manager (2 FTE)
 - 80% - Associate Project Manager, Manager of Government Relations (1.6 FTE)
 - 100% - Strategic Affairs and WEP Managers (2 FTE)
- Compensation Policy 400.2: salaries within range plus potential for COLA and merit

Budget Policies (*cont.*)

- Financial Designation/Reserve Policy 500.1 –Framework for operating fund and other additional commitments (“designation”):
 1. Operating fund – 4 to 6 months of operating expenses
 2. Membership Dues Stabilization –15% of member dues
 3. Subscription Program Stabilization –10% of subscription program revenues

Budget Policies (*cont.*)

- PERS Liability Funding Policy 500.15
 - Pay off unfunded accrued liability over a 4-year period.
 - Unfunded Accrued Liability \$357,913; per policy FY 26/27 payment would be \$89,500. Down from \$93,800 in FY 25/26
- OPEB Liability Funding Policy 500.10
 - Pay off unfunded liability over a 10-year period.
 - Actuary is working on our updated OPEB valuation. GASB 75 requires valuation every two years and updated annually.

Dues Calculation Methodology

- Small Agency – Up to 7,000 Connections
- Medium Agency – 7,001 to 30,000 Connections
- Large Agency – Over 30,000 Connections
- FY 25/26 Dues
 - Small Agency:
 - First 3,000 Connections = \$2.39 per
 - 3,001 to 7,000 Connections = \$1.20 per
 - Medium and Large Agency
 - First 30,000 Connections = \$2.39 per
 - 30,001 to 40,000 Connections = \$1.20 per
 - 40,001 to 50,000 Connections = \$0.60 per
 - 50,001 to 60,000 Connections = \$0.30 per
 - Over 60,000 = \$0.07 per

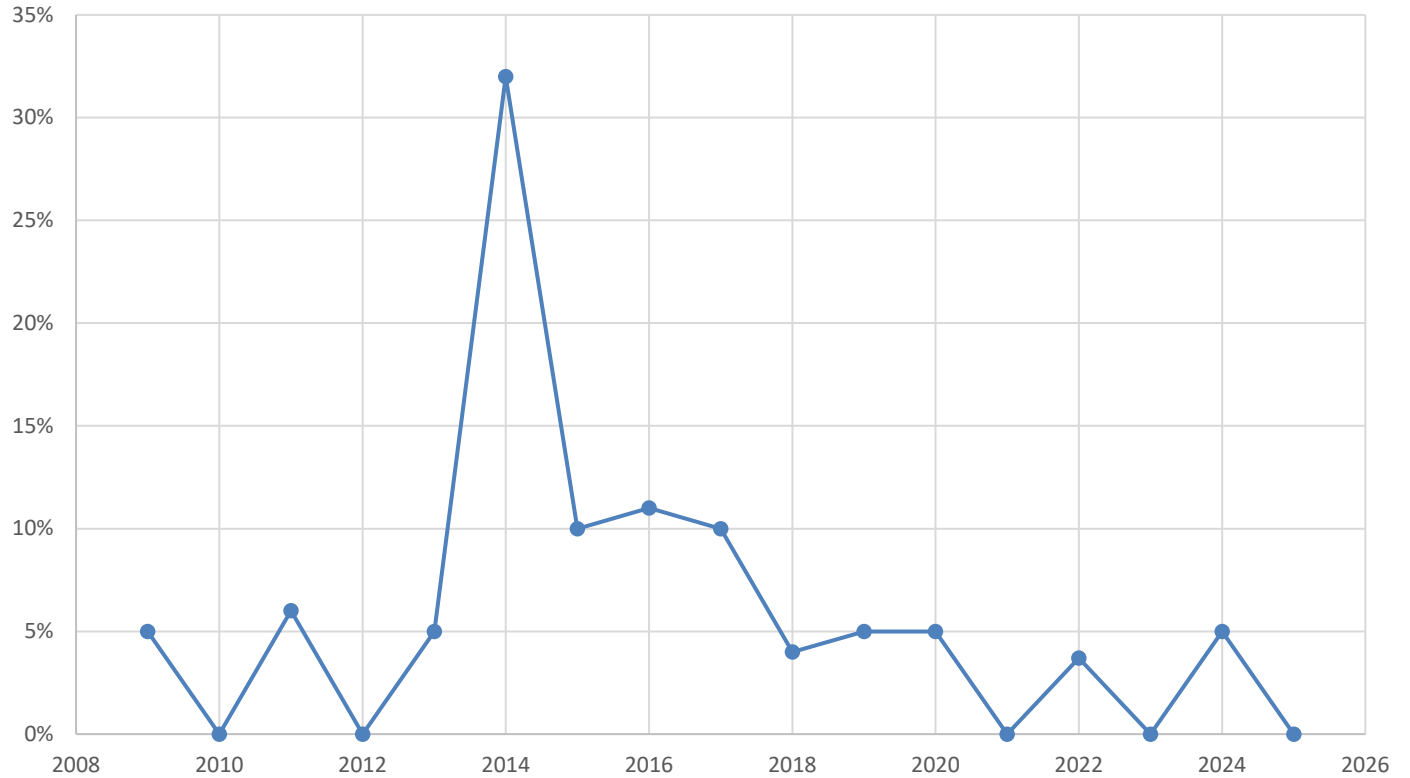


Dues Calculation Methodology (cont.)

- Exceptions:
 - Agencies outside core American River Basin region receive a 10% discount on calculated dues.
 - San Juan Water District is treated as the minimum size of a large member agency.
 - Rate x 30,000 Connections
 - New Members – 50% discount in first year/25% discount in second year

Dues History

Annual Dues





FY 2025/26 Budget Assumptions

When FY 25/26 Budget was approved, RWA assumed:

- \$93,800 additional PERS unfunded accrued liability pension funding
- \$315K in Program/Grant Staff Time Reimbursements (Excluding WEP and CIMS)
- \$60K for ARCAP Consulting
- \$40K for Strategic Plan Update Consulting



FY 2025/26 Mid-Year Budget Review

- Budget included a planned deficit of \$196,651, Projected Actual deficit is \$138,167
- Staff Expenses, Office Expenses and Professional Fees are all below budget.
- Expense Reimbursements from SGA, Subscription Programs and grants are less than anticipated primarily due to Staff Expenses, Office Expenses and Professional Fees being below budget.

Regional Water Authority
Core Operating - Mid-Year - Budget to Actual Projections
Fiscal Year 2025-2026

	RWA Adopted Budget FY 25-26	RWA Projected Actuals FY 25-26	Variance with Budget Positive (Negative)
ANNUAL CORE REVENUES			
<u>REVENUES</u>			
General Membership Dues	\$ 1,150,751	\$ 1,150,751	\$ -
Associate Membership Dues	\$ 74,922	\$ 74,922	\$ -
Affiliate Membership Dues	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -
Misc. Revenues	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Interest Income	\$ 70,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 5,000
TOTAL CORE REVENUES	\$ 1,308,673	\$ 1,313,673	\$ 5,000
ANNUAL CORE EXPENSES			
<u>STAFF EXPENSES</u>			
Staff Salaries/Wages	\$ 1,788,864	\$ 1,725,907	\$ 62,957
Benefits	\$ 508,556	\$ 498,233	\$ 10,323
Pension Plan Unfunded Liability	\$ 93,800	\$ 93,800	\$ -
Payroll Taxes	\$ 122,722	\$ 113,368	\$ 9,354
Travel/Meals/Conferences	\$ 45,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 17,000
Professional Development/Training	\$ 14,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 3,000
TOTAL STAFF EXPENSES	\$ 2,572,942	\$ 2,470,308	\$ 102,634



<u>OFFICE EXPENSES</u>			
Rent & Utilities Contract	\$ 77,000	\$ 76,477	\$ 523
Insurance	\$ 64,000	\$ 65,500	\$ (1,500)
Office Maintenance	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,300	\$ (100)
Postage and Postal Meter	\$ 4,200	\$ 3,400	\$ 800
Internet/Web Hosting	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Meetings	\$ 9,000	\$ 12,000	\$ (3,000)
Events	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 10,000
Printing/Supplies	\$ 20,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 7,000
Dues, Subscriptions and Sponsorships	\$ 31,000	\$ 33,000	\$ (2,000)
Computer Hardware/Software	\$ 14,000	\$ 18,900	\$ (4,900)
Computer Support and Maintenance	\$ 37,000	\$ 37,000	\$ -
Office Furniture & Equipment	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSES	\$ 297,400	\$ 287,577	\$ 9,823
<u>PROFESSIONAL FEES</u>			
RWA Legal	\$ 90,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 10,000
RWA/SGA Audit	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ -
ADP Payroll Services/Banking/Misc. Fees	\$ 4,200	\$ 5,000	\$ (800)
RWA Lobbyist Services	\$ 125,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 5,000
RWA Public Outreach Services	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ -
Actuarial Services	\$ 8,500	\$ 7,425	\$ 1,075
Human Resources Services	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
General Consulting Services	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000
American River Climate Adaptation Program	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -
Strategic Plan Update	\$ 40,000	\$ 22,222	\$ 17,778
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$ 546,700	\$ 493,647	\$ 53,053



<u>CORE PROGRAM (REVENUES)/EXPENSES</u>			
PPIC Contribution - Revenue	\$ (50,000)	\$ (50,000)	\$ -
PPIC Contribution - Expense	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -
Watershed Resilience Grant - Revenue (Consulting)	\$ (1,137,343)	\$ (1,056,955)	\$ (80,388)
Watershed Resilience Grant - Expense (Consulting)	\$ 1,137,343	\$ 1,056,955	\$ 80,388
Powerhouse Science Center	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
TOTAL CORE PROGRAM (REVENUES)/EXPENSES	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
<u>EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS</u>			
SGA Service Agreement Fee	\$ (1,015,605)	\$ (930,000)	\$ (85,605)
Water Efficiency Program	\$ (256,547)	\$ (214,876)	\$ (41,671)
Common Interest Management Services	\$ (349,443)	\$ (380,109)	\$ 30,666
Other Sub. Programs/Grants - Staff Reimbursement	\$ (315,123)	\$ (299,707)	\$ (15,416)
TOTAL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS	\$ (1,936,718)	\$ (1,824,692)	\$ (112,026)
TOTAL CORE EXPENSES	\$ 1,505,324	\$ 1,451,840	\$ 53,484
CORE NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (196,651)	\$ (138,167)	\$ 58,484



FY 2026/27 Budget Outlook

- \$89,500 Additional CalPERS Unfunded Accrued Liability Funding
- Per RWA Compensation Policy - 2027 Salary Survey
- Staff Time Reimbursements will be less in 2026/27
- Overhead Allocation?
- Capitol Caucus Sponsorship?
- RWA 25th Anniversary Celebration?

Budget Schedule

Date	Action
Feb – March	Work on budget numbers including Subscription Programs
April	Draft budget to the EC
May	Draft budget to RWA Board for possible adoption
May	Budget back to EC if not adopted
June Special Board Meeting	Budget to RWA Board for adoption



Questions and Discussion

REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Policy Type : Fiscal Management
Policy Title : Budget Policy
Policy Number : 500.11
Date Adopted : July 9, 2009
Date Amended : September 13, 2012
May 12, 2022 (reviewed by staff)

BUDGET POLICY

The purpose of the budget process is to help the Board and Executive Director make informed choices about the provision of services and capital assets. It is important for the budget process to link organizational goals and objectives, focus on results and outcomes, and incorporate a long-term perspective. The Executive Committee of the Board along with the Executive Director will determine a proposed plan of action for RWA program objectives and deliverables. These objectives and deliverables are based upon the needs of the RWA members. This plan then drives the proposed expenses for the fiscal year.

The Budget

The annual operating budget is a summary of proposed expenditures for a particular fiscal year. The budget format summarizes expenditures by type, such as staffing costs, office costs, external professional costs, and other costs. The operating budget identifies the funding sources to pay for the expenditures, including proposed membership dues and other sources such as grants and investment earnings. The budget also estimates available cash designations/reserves used or contributed to and the estimated remaining balances for the end of the fiscal year.

Budget Approval

Each fiscal year, the Board will authorize a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Adoption of the annual budget typically occurs in the May Board meeting, prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year on July 1. The Board adopts the annual overall budget which summarizes the objectives and the related expenses. The Executive Director is responsible for the execution of the budget, including contracting with vendors and operating within the guidelines of Authority Delegated to the Executive Director, Policy #300.1.

The annual budget also may project up to four future years of expenditures and revenues. This information allows the Board and members to understand the impact of the current year's decisions on future costs and programs. It also allows members to

plan for membership expenses in the future. However, approving the annual budget does not approve the projected budget for future years.

The annual budget will also include projections for subscription based services and expenses as part of cash flow planning. However, the subscription based services are usually based upon separate agreements with participating members. Approving the annual budget does not approve these subscription based services revenues and expenses since the separate agreements govern the execution and cost of these services.

Members and Contracting Entities (consistent with the terms of their agreements with RWA) will share in the general operating and administrative cost of operating the RWA, as outlined in the annual budget documents.

The Board of Directors may approve, from time to time, an advance or contribution to proposed projects or program specific activities (subscription-based services). The reimbursement of these start-up costs or contributions from subscribing Members and/or Contracting Entities will be required once the contemplated project or program is implemented as contained in the Project or Program Agreement, unless the Board of Directors determines otherwise by unanimous vote. Sometimes the payment of these proposed projects or program specific activities may have some other source, such as, but not limited to local, state and federal grants.

Overall Operating Principles

The overall operating principles that must be followed by the Executive Director in executing the approved budget are as follows:

- 1) Overall annual expenditures and expenses should be at or below budget, unless previously approved by the Executive Committee;
- 2) The Executive Director must follow Policy Number 300.1, the Authority Delegated to the Executive Director; and
- 3) Annual expenditures and expenses must meet the organizational objectives and goals outlined for the fiscal year.

In executing the Authority's objectives and goals, the Executive Director may re-allocate budget resources from one category to another in order to achieve those objectives. For example, in executing necessary staffing to achieve workload, it may be necessary to hire consulting services if an employee is unavailable to execute their duties. Any reallocation of budget resources shall follow the operating principles above, and must not increase any budget item by the lesser of 35% or \$150,000.

The budget line item re-allocation authority excludes re-allocation to salary costs and related staff benefits. Any changes exceeding a budget line item for these costs must be explicitly approved by the Executive Committee.

Quarterly Reporting

The Executive Director will provide a quarterly report of budget versus actual results for the current fiscal year. Additionally, the Executive Director will provide the information related to re-allocation of budget resources that became necessary to achieve the Authority's objectives.



Topic: Strategic Plan 2030 Update
Type: New Business
Item For: Information; No action required
Purpose: General

SUBMITTED BY:	Ashley Flores, CMC Associate Project Manager	PRESENTER:	Ashley Flores, CMC Associate Project Manager
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an information item for the Regional Water Authority Executive Committee to receive an update on the Strategic Plan 2030 update.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. Information only.

BACKGROUND

At the January 2026 Executive Committee meeting we reported that the Ad Hoc Committee had met and awarded a professional services agreement to Integrated Communications Strategies (ICS). Jerry Azevedo and his team will provide strategic planning to help RWA develop a strategic plan to guide the organization for the next five years.

RWA’s existing strategic plan (i.e. RWA 2025 Strategic Plan) is nearly six years old but provides a helpful foundation. However, improvements are envisioned that will update the plan, including adding specificity, and providing clarity to allow all members to gain a common understanding of the strategic plan. With new RWA member agencies in the upper American River watershed and the Bear/Yuba watersheds, RWA also seeks to update its strategic plan to reflect evolving priorities, strengthen focus, and ensure alignment with its mission and evolving regional needs.

FINDING/CONCLUSION

Staff projects that the draft strategic plan will be available for review Fall 2026 and we anticipate opportunities for the ad hoc committee and executive committee to participate in the process through the year.



Topic: RWA Program Update
Type: Old Business
Item For: Information/Discussion
Purpose: [Policy 200.2](#)

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

This is an information/discussion item for the Executive Committee to have a two-way dialogue with staff regarding various programs and initiatives the RWA currently has underway.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information/discussion only.

BACKGROUND

The RWA and SGA have a number of programs underway, the Executive Director will brief the Executive Committee on the status of many of those programs and initiatives. The report will include key milestones reached to date, the overall status of the programs, upcoming key milestones, and current and future anticipated resources.



Topic: RWA Board of Directors Agenda
Type: Routine
Item For: Action; Approve draft agenda
Purpose: [Policy 200.2](#)

SUBMITTED BY: Ashley Flores, CMC
Board Clerk

PRESENTER: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an action item for the Executive Committee to review and consider approving the draft Agenda of the Regular Regional Water Authority (RWA) Board of Directors Meeting of March 12, 2026.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

A motion to approve RWA Board of Directors Agenda for March 12, 2026, Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND

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

Please be aware that the regularly scheduled Board meeting for March 12 2026, will be held at the Fair Oaks Water District, 0326 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

FINDING/CONCLUSION

The Executive Director has prepared the draft Agenda for the RWA Board of Directors Meeting March 12, 2026 for the RWA’s Executive Committee’s consideration and approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1- Draft RWA Board of Directors Agenda for March 12, 2026 Board Meeting



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

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

**Fair Oaks Water District
10326 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
(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/81591056125>

or dial 1 669-444-9171

Meeting ID: **815 9105 6125**

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.

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 8, 2026 RWA Regular Board Meeting

Action: Approve Consent Calendar items as presented

4. STRATEGIC PLAN 2030

Presenters: Michael Saunders, Chair and Ashley Flores, Associate Project Manager

5. INFORMATION: WATERSHED RESILIENCE PILOT PROJECT

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

6. PROPOSITION 4

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Approve Resolution 2026-01

7. WATER FORUM 2050

Presenter: Jim Peifer, Executive Director

Action: Approve the Water Forum 2050 Agreement and Authorize the Chair to Sign the Agreement

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next RWA Board of Director's Meeting:

May 14, 2026, 9:00 a.m. at Carmichael Water District. The location is subject to change.

Next RWA Executive Committee Meeting:

March 17, 2026, 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 January 5, 2026

Ashley Flores, CMC, Board Clerk

DRAFT



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

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

PRESENTER: Jim Peifer
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information/discussion only.

BACKGROUND

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

On January 23, *The Sacramento Bee* published an op-ed by RWA Executive Director Jim Peifer examining how groundwater banking and regional collaboration are helping the Sacramento region adapt to declining Sierra snowpack and a changing climate. The piece highlights how the Sacramento Regional Water Bank can deliver long-term benefits for water reliability and river health. You can read the op-ed [here](#).

Maven’s Notebook published RWA’s blog post “*We Banked on Collaboration—And It’s Paying Off,*” highlighting new groundwater modeling and long-term data that show how decades of collaborative conjunctive use have improved water supply reliability, strengthened groundwater sustainability, and delivered measurable environmental benefits. The post underscores how coordinated management produces durable, multi-benefit outcomes for the region and beyond. You can read the post [here](#).

On January 14, *The Sacramento Bee* published a story highlighting new research that outlines significant climate-driven threats to the Sacramento region’s water supply. The article draws from a RWA’s Watershed Resilience Pilot Project data, which examines how warming temperatures, reduced snowpack, earlier snowmelt, and increased evaporation are expected to reshape the American, Bear, and Cosumnes river watersheds. Read the story [here](#).

RWA Government Affairs Manager Ryan Ojakian participated as a panelist at the Planning and

Conservation League’s 2026 California Environmental Assembly on January 31. Ryan spoke on the panel *“Status of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: What’s Working and What’s Not.”* He highlighted how incentive-based approaches—such as those used in the Sacramento Regional Water Bank—help encourage participation in recharge activities, improve regional coordination, and deliver multiple benefits for water supply reliability and river health.

A January 30 *Sacramento Bee* article on California’s proposed updates to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan quoted Jim Peifer, highlighting concerns about the proposal’s potential impacts on groundwater basins and long-term water supply reliability. As part of the public comment process, RWA continued to advocate for adoption of the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program (HRLP) as the preferred alternative. The State Water Resources Control Board is accepting written comments through February 2, 2026. You can read the article [here](#).



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

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Peifer Executive Director	PRESENTER: Michael Saunders Chair
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION

None. This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

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