



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Executive Committee Meeting
Final Minutes
January 27, 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~~7p.m.

By:



Michael Saunders, RWA Chair

Attest:



Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board