



**Regional Water Authority**  
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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**RWA Board Meeting  
Final Minutes  
January 8, 2026**

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Saunders called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:02 a.m. the meeting location was at the Carmichael Water District, 7837 Fair Oaks Blvd, Carmichael, CA 95608. A quorum was established of 18 participating members present in person. Individuals who participated are listed below:

### **RWA Board Members**

Audie Foster, California American Water  
Nichole Baxter, California American Water (Online)  
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District  
Cathy Lee, Carmichael Water District  
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District  
David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District  
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom  
Barbara Leary, City of Folsom  
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln  
Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville  
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville  
George Hanson, City of Roseville  
Lisa Kaplan, City of Sacramento (Online)  
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento  
Rebecca Scott, City of West Sacramento  
Paul Penn, El Dorado Irrigation District  
Pravani Vandeyar, El Dorado Irrigation District  
Jon Money, El Dorado Irrigation District (Online)  
Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District  
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District  
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District  
Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District  
Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District  
Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company  
Greg Jones, Nevada Irrigation District – *Entered at 9:09 a.m.*  
Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency  
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency  
Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency  
Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Dan York, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Kevin Thomas, Sacramento Suburban Water District (Online)  
Ted Costa, San Juan Water District  
Adam Larsen, San Juan Water District

George Machado, San Juan Water District  
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District (Online)

**RWA Associate Members**

Rebecca Guo, El Dorado Water Agency; John Hansen, SMUD

**RWA Affiliate Members**

None

**Staff Members**

Jim Peifer, Tom Hoffart, Ryan Ojakian, Michelle Banonis, Trevor Joseph, Monica Garcia, Ashley Flores and Josh Horowitz, Legal Counsel

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 3.1 Approve the draft meeting minutes of November 13, 2025, RWA Regular Board Meeting
- 3.2 Approve revisions to RWA Policies 200.1 (Rules for Proceedings of the Board of Directors) and 500.13 (Business Expense Reimbursement)
- 3.3 Accept the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 RWA Financial Audit Report
- 3.4 Approve the 2026 Policy Principles
- 3.5 Approve the 2026 Federal Affairs Platform

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

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

Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Rebecca Scott, City of West Sacramento; Paul Penn, El Dorado Irrigation District; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District; Sean Twilla, Golden State Water Company; Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; and Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes.

Ayes	17
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	4

**4. 2026 VICE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

This was an action item for the Board of Directors to approve the 2026 Vice Chair and members of the Executive Committee.

**A motion was made to approve Sean Twilla as 2026 Vice Chair and approve Michael Saunders, Sean Twilla, Brett Ewart, Michael Grinstead, Ron Greenwood, Nichole Baxter, Robert Wichert, Chris Nelson and Bruce Kamilos to serve on the RWA 2026 Executive Committee.**

Motion/Second/Carried Director Gray moved, with a second by Director Wheaton

Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Rebecca Scott, City of West Sacramento; Paul Penn, El Dorado Irrigation District; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Tom Gray, 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; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; and Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes.

Ayes	18
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	3

**5. INFORMATION: WATERSHED RESILIENCE PILOT PROJECT UPDATE**

This is an information item presented by Executive Director, Jim Peifer and Ryan Ojakian, Manager of Government Relations briefing the Board of Directors on the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project activities. Staff and consultants continue to work on the Watershed Resilience Pilot Project, which is being funded by a grant from the Department of Water Resources. Most recently, the consultants have been focused on setting up technical tools for analysis and developing a framework for prioritizing the strategies to adapt to climate change. The Board of Directors received a presentation on the recent activities.

The next phase will involve identifying adaptation strategies and projects for inclusion in the Watershed Resilience Plan. DWR has emphasized that regions further along in planning will be better positioned to compete for Proposition 4 funding. Progress to date, supported by the collaboration of local agencies, NGOs, community partners, and Water Forum members, strengthens the region’s ability to attract the resources needed to put resilience strategies into practice.

**No action taken, information only.**

**6. 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 for the Board of Directors to approve a budget amendment of up to \$50,000 for a sponsorship of Public Policy Institute of California’s (PPIC) Accounting for Water initiative, which allows for the collection of funds and disbursement to PPIC. The budget amendment does not increase the cost to the members, rather, the RWA will collect funds and pass them through to PPIC.

**A motion was made to approve a budget amendment of up to \$50,000 for a sponsorship to PPIC.**

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

Audie Foster, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District; Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Rebecca Scott, City of West Sacramento; Paul Penn, El Dorado Irrigation District; Tom Nelson, Elk Grove Water District; Tom Gray, 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; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; and Ted Costa, San Juan Water District; voted yes.

Ayes	18
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	3

**7. DISCUSSION: WATER FORUM AGREEMENT 2050**

This was a discussion item presented by Jim Peifer, Executive Director for the Board of Directors to receive and update on the Water Forum Agreement.

No action taken, information only.

**8. DISCUSSION: STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

This was a discussion item presented by Jim Peifer, Executive Director for the Board of Directors to receive and update on the RFP process for the Strategic Plan 2030 update.

No action taken, information only.

**9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Executive Director Peifer reported out on advocacy and the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program.

**10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Director Roccucci called for a moment of silence for Former United States Representative Doug LaMalfa.

Director Ewart reported that the City of Sacramento has hired a new Director of Utilities Dalia Fadl and City Manager Smith.

Director Kamilos reported that the Elk Grove Water District's Board of Director's have signed and submitted payment on their Phase 3 Water Bank Agreement.

Chair Saunders reported that GDPUD General Manager's contract has been renewed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Saunders adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

By:

  
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Michael Saunders, RWA Chair

Attest:

  
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Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board