



Regional Water Authority

BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**RWA Board Meeting
Final Minutes
July 9, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Twilla called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order on July 9, 2026, at 9:01 a.m. the meeting location was at the Fair Oaks Water District, 10326 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. A quorum was established of 17 participating members present in person. Individuals who participated are listed below:

RWA Board Members

Evan Jacobs, California American Water
Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District
Ken Payne, Carmichael Water District
David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District
Hilary Straus, Citrus Heights Water District
Barbara Leary, City of Folsom- Exited at 11:50 a.m.
Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln
Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville
Sean Bigley, City of Roseville
George Hanson, City of Roseville
Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento
Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City- Exited at 11:50 a.m.
Paul Penn, El Dorado Irrigation District
Jon Money, El Dorado Irrigation District
Paul Lindsay, Elk Grove Water District- Exited at 11:50 a.m.
Bruce Kamilos, Elk Grove Water District
Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District
Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District – Arrived at 10:50 a.m.
Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District – Arrived 9:12 a.m.
Nicholas Schneider, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District
Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency
Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency- Exited at 10:31 a.m.
Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency
Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District
Craig Locke, Sacramento Suburban Water District (Online)
Ted Costa, San Juan Water District - Exited at 11:50 a.m.
Adam Larsen, San Juan Water District- Exited at 11:50 a.m.
George Machado, San Juan Water District- Exited at 11:50 a.m.
Greg Zlotnick, San Juan Water District (Online)

RWA Associate Members

John Hansen, SMUD

RWA Affiliate Members

Trevor Kent, Intera

Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Ryan Ojakian, Michelle Banonis, Trevor Joseph, Amy Talbot, Raiyna Villasenor, Ashley Flores and Gavin Ralphs, Legal Counsel

General Public

Ashlee Casey, Water Forum; Sirshia Nemani, Jacobs Engineering; Michael Miller

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Chair Saunders arrived at 9:12 a.m. and chaired the remainder of this meeting.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approve the draft meeting minutes of May 14, 2026, RWA Regular Board Meeting

3.2 Approve staff cost of living adjustments

3.3 Approve waiver of RWA Policy 500.3 Non Member Fees for subscription-based program participants of HRLP

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

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

Evan Jacobs, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District; Barbara Leary, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City; Paul Penn, El Dorado Irrigation District; Paul Lindsay, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities 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	17
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	3

4. WATERSHED RESILIENCE PROJECT, PROJECT SCORING AND PROPOSITION 4

This was an information item presented by Executive Director, Jim Peifer presentation on the scoring methodology for projects that was included in the Watershed Resilience Report.

No action taken, information only.

5. AMERICAN RIVER CLIMATE ADAPTION PROGRAM UPDATE

This was an information item introduced by Executive Director, Jim Peifer, presented by Ashlee Casey, Executive Director, Water Forum. Board of Directors received a presentation on the American River Climate Adaption Program.

No action taken, information only.

6. WATER USE EFFICIENCY PROGRAM UPDATE

This was an information item introduced by Executive Director, Jim Peifer, presented by Amy Talbot, Water Efficiency Program Manager. The Board received a presentation providing an annual review of the program. The presentation covered the following topics: the conservation regulation ("Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life"), Assembly Bill 1572 (Friedman) also known as the "Nonfunctional Turf Law," WEP's Rebate Water Savings Study, and WEP's current public outreach campaign. The presentation highlighted two important upcoming regulatory deadlines. Effective January 1, 2027, the State Water Resources Control Board may begin official enforcement actions against urban retail water suppliers that are not in compliance with the conservation regulation. By that same date, public water systems must revise their ordinances and policies to reflect the requirements for public water systems and their customers under the Nonfunctional Turf Law.

No action taken, information only.

7. RWA PROGRAMS

This item was pulled.

8. NEW MEMBERS

This was an action item presented by Jim Peifer, Executive Director, for the approval by the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors of the admission of Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District as an associate member and Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District member of the Regional Water Authority resulting in new annualized contributions of \$1400.00.

RWA Policy 100.6 (RWA Affiliates) governs the admission of affiliate members. An affirmative vote of two thirds of the members is required for Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District to become an associate member and Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District.

A motion was made to approve admission of Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District as an associate member of the Regional Water Authority and the admission of Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District as a member of the Regional Water Authority.

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

Evan Jacobs, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District; Barbara Leary, City of Folsom; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Wade Kirchner, City of Yuba City; Paul Penn, El Dorado Irrigation District; Paul Lindsay, Elk Grove Water District; Randy Marx, Fair Oaks Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities 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	17
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	3

9. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS CLOSED SESSION MATTERS

None.

10. CLOSED SESSION – STARTED AT 10:51 a.m.

10.1 Conference with legal counsel--anticipated litigation; Government Code sections 54954.5(c) and 54956.9(b); significant exposure to litigation involving one case.

10.2 Public Employee Performance Evaluation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

Title: Executive Director

10.3 Closed session regarding labor negotiations (Gov. Code § 54957.6.)

Agency Representative(s): Directors Saunders and Twilla

Unrepresented employee: Executive Director

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 11:55 a.m. - ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPORTABLE ACTION IN CLOSED SESSION

No reportable action taken.

After returning to open session, roll was taken. A quorum was established with 13 RWA Directors remaining.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Chair Saunders presented to the Board of Directors for their consideration the proposed 2.8% Cost of Living Increase effective July 5, 2026 for the Executive Director's compensation.

A motion was made to approve an adjustment to the Executive Director Compensation to reflect a COLA of 2.8% retroactive effective July 5, 2026.

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

Evan Jacobs, California American Water; Ron Greenwood, Carmichael Water District; David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District; Chris Nelson, City of Lincoln; Pauline Roccucci, City of Roseville; Brett Ewart, City of Sacramento; Jon Money, El Dorado Irrigation District; Paul Lindsay, Elk Grove Water District; Tom Gray, Fair Oaks Water District; Michael Saunders, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District; Chris Wilson, Placer County Water Agency; Michael Grinstead, Sacramento County Water Agency; and Robert Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District; voted yes.

Ayes	13
Noes	0
Abstained	0
Absent	6

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Peifer reported on the work being done to prepare for Proposition 4 funding including Recharge-related funding.

14. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Greenwood reported that the recruitment for a General Manager of Carmichael Water District is still underway.

Chair Saunders reported that GDPUD is preparing for their agency's 80th anniversary on July 24 including a ribbon cutting for their solar facility. Please see their website for more information.

Director Wichert reported the passing of SSWD Board of Directors' Dave Jones and Kevin Thomas. Mr. Jones has a remembrance of life on August 15 from 1-2pm at St. Michaels Episcopal Church, in Carmichael.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Saunders adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

By:


Michael Saunders, RWA Chair

Attest:


Ashley Flores, CMC, Clerk of the Board