



Regional Water Authority
BUILDING ALLIANCES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Regional Water Authority
Executive Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes
August 26, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lorance called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

Board Members

Andy Soulé, California American Water
Steve Nugent, Carmichael Water District
Joe Dion, Citrus Heights Water District
Ken Payne, City of Folsom
Bill George, El Dorado Irrigation District
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company
Gray Allen, Placer County Water Agency
Rob Roscoe, Sacramento Suburban Water District (Vice Chair)
Shauna Lorance, San Juan Water District (Chair)

Staff Members

John Woodling, Executive Director
Paul Bartkiewicz, Legal Counsel
Rob Swartz
Nancy Marrier
Linda Higgins
Cecilia Partridge

Others in Attendance

Ed Formosa

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes of the June 24, 2009 Executive Committee meeting.

Motion/Second/Carried (M/S/C) Mr. Payne moved, with a second by Mr. Nugent, to approve the consent calendar.

4. DELTA LEGISLATION UPDATE

A major focus of the Legislature before they recess in September will be water and Delta related legislation. A package of five bills, numbered Preprint SB1, SB2, SB3, AB1 and AB2 were released in late July. A one-page summary of the five bills, as well as a more detailed summary of each bill was included in the packet. The Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee held a joint informational hearing on August 18, 2009 to solicit input on the bills. A second hearing is planned for August 25, 2009. A letter from a coalition of over 40 water and business organizations regarding the legislation and a letter from Governor Schwarzenegger to the Legislature were included in the packet.

John Woodling, RWA Executive Director, gave an information update summarizing the background and current status of the preprint bills. The general consensus was that the issues being addressed in these bills would not be passed by the Legislature and ready to go to the Governor by September 11th. Mr. Woodling briefed the board on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, possible governance and fees, water rights protection and water rights seniority and how these could impact water supplies in the future.

Mr. Woodling has been working with the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber on a delta policy position. The Chamber's Executive Committee adopted the position and it will go to their board next for approval.

There was discussion about how involved RWA needs to be to get our voice heard and to gain credibility on these issues. Mr. Woodling suggested that we maintain our contact with Northern California Water Association and be ready to support the position that the Sacramento Valley ag side develops. A copy of the SRCSD position statement was handed out to the committee. It was felt that changes need to be made to their position statement in order for RWA to support it.

Ms. Lorance asked whether RWA should develop a task force to work on this issue. It was agreed that RWA should work with other groups who have similar positions. Mr. Woodling commented that the previous RWA adopted policy was very broad and general. Ms. Lorance directed Mr. Woodling to draft a new, more detailed policy to include the current issues being discussed for presentation to the RWA board for adoption.

5. WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

The WEP Public Outreach contract with Incommunications includes a research component. A 10 minute telephone survey was conducted beginning August 20, 2009 to gauge knowledge, perceptions and attitudes about water conservation, potential actions people are willing to take to be more efficient outdoors, barriers

to those actions and potential incentive programs. The survey will also provide benchmarking data about exposure to water efficiency messages and insight into the best methods for reaching customers. Staff and the Public Outreach Subcommittee provided feedback and reviewed draft survey questions. Interviewing will be completed by September 6, 2009 and the final draft report will be available for staff during the week of September 14, 2009.

Staff has given final approval on the site plan for the new WEP website that will incorporate a search feature for "Who is my water provider" utilizing Google earth. Staff has also collected Water Waste Ordinances from member agencies and is developing a table of similarities for review.

Staff is participating on the CUWCC's new BMP reporting database committee which will shape the two-year reporting database for all CUWCC signatories, Water Forum signatories, and Bureau contractors. The committee held its first meeting on July 30, 2009.

The RWA Strategic Plan called for development of a two-year plan for the Regional Water Efficiency Program. Staff will convene a workshop in the fall with RWA general managers and conservation staff to explore the future direction of the program.

6. RWA AWARDS COMMITTEE

The annual RWA/SGA Holiday Social is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009. The RWA Water Statesperson of the Year and Distinguished Service Awards highlight the event.

Chair Lorance appointed Paul Selsky, Joe Dion and Ken Payne to serve as members of the 2009 RWA Awards Committee.

Mr. Woodling requested that speaker suggestions for the RWA Holiday Social be sent to him.

7. SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 RWA BOARD MEETING AGENDA

M/S/C Mr. Dion moved, with a second by Mr. Roscoe, to approve the September 10, 2009 RWA Board meeting agenda.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a) CALFED Water Use Efficiency Incentives Project – RWA was notified that it was successful in its application for a \$294,184 grant from the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant Program administered by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region. The grant will be used to offer incentives to customers to install evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation controllers. El Dorado Irrigation District, City of Folsom, Orange Vale Water Company, and Sacramento Suburban

Water District will be participating in the program. A draft funding agreement is expected around the end of August.

b) Grant Funding Update – RWA recently received payments from the state for invoices submitted under several grant programs, including \$639,000 from the Proposition 50 IRWM Grant, \$411,522.50 from the Proposition 13 Conjunctive Use grant, and \$226,202.79 for toilet rebates. We were also notified that we could continue work under the Proposition 50 planning grant.

c) ACWA State Legislative Committee – Nominations for ACWA Committee appointments are due September 30, 2009. With our increased focus on legislative outreach and advocacy, participation by the RWA Executive Director on the State Legislative Committee could be beneficial. As RWA is a Friend of ACWA, nominations would have to come from one of the RWA member agencies.

d) RWA Strategic Plan Update – The vision, values, goals and objectives of the 2009 RWA Strategic Plan were adopted by the RWA Board on July 9, 2009. A draft of the document to be published is attached for comment by the Executive Committee. One of the objectives for the strategic planning process was to “review founding documents and determine if revisions are needed to perform roles, and satisfy goals and objectives in Strategic Plan.” Two areas for potential changes include the unanimous consent provisions of the RWA JPA and the subscription program surcharge of 20% for non-members. Staff will prepare issue papers for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting.

e) Communications Survey – Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan is to “inform and educate members and interested parties by providing a forum for discussion of issues, outreach to stakeholders, and a clearinghouse for sharing information,” including updating the RWA website by December 31, 2009. Staff has developed a survey to solicit feedback on the website, newsletters, and Water List. Members were asked to please provide comments on the draft survey by August 31, 2009. A second survey, regarding meetings, workshops, and events will follow a month later.

f) Integrated Regional Water Management Update – With the authorization to proceed on the Prop 50 planning grant, staff will be working with our consultant to scope out work with the remaining grant budget and complete these tasks by the end of the calendar year. Staff has met with a few stakeholder groups and is planning for an inaugural stakeholder forum in the fall. The initial results of the Region Acceptance Process are expected in late August or early September.

g) Water Use Trends – Several RWA member agencies have provided data that indicates water use is down 9% or more in 2009 compared to 2008. The data may indicate that our outreach on water conservation is working, although other factors may contribute to the decline as well. Mr. Woodling suggested that an all-agency news release is warranted.

h) Regional Water Security Study Update – RWA has received its first reimbursement from the grant (\$16,152) to fund consulting support on a regional water security plan. A draft of the security plan is expected by September and a tabletop training exercise to test mutual aid agreements is being developed for October. The final plan is still on schedule for completion in December 2009.

i) Holiday Social/Awards Banquet Update – The annual RWA/SGA Holiday Social and Awards Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2009. Please provide ideas for a speaker to RWA staff.

j) Lower American River Flow Management Standard – The RWA Executive Director continues to serve on the FMS Steering Committee. A special water caucus meeting was held July 14, 2009 to re-evaluate the Water Caucus commitment to preparation of the EIR for the flow standard. Purveyors support the implementation strategy proposed by Water Forum staff with minor modifications, including 1) a check in with caucuses after modeling assumptions are compiled, 2) a commitment not to move to the modeling phase without concurrence of NMFS and Reclamation on the operational changes that may be necessitated by the salmon and steelhead biological opinion, and 3) delaying issuing the Notice of Preparation until these details are clarified. RWA staff and Water Forum staff met with NMFS and Reclamation on August 14, 2009, and there was agreement of all parties that we should jointly pursue clarifying the impacts of the biological opinion.

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Payne said that the City of Folsom received a letter from the Save the American River Association regarding a conflict with them on cleaning up a landfill. The Association filed a protest with the Water Quality Control Board. The President of the Association met with City of Folsom and agreed that they would use City of Folsom as a source of communication for any future concerns. Mr. Payne announced that the City of Folsom received notification from the Bureau of a \$300,000 grant.

Mr. Schubert reported that Golden State Water Company received notification that they received a \$9 million grant to install 7,700 meters.

Mr. Dion announced that the ACWA JPIA is in the process of purchasing a building in Roseville and are making plans for the move.

Mr. Allen reported that Placer County Water Agency has sent out bids for proposals to market for hydro-electric operations.

Mr. George reported that El Dorado Irrigation District's new General Manager, Jim Abercrombie, will begin his new position after Labor Day.

Mr. Roscoe mentioned that there is a Central Valley Groundwater Workshop scheduled on August 31st to develop a strategy to protect groundwater quality in the Central Valley.

Mr. Bartkiewicz said, in regards to the flow standard, the water supply impact analysis is important to this region. Another related matter is that the Bureau has selected a consultant to do an environmental review for the M&I Storage Policy. The purveyors that are affected are requesting a meeting with the Bureau to discuss what policy is the subject of the review.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chair Lorange adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

By:

Chairperson

Attest:

Nancy Marrier, Board Secretary / Treasurer