



S A W P A

SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY
11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California 92503 • (951) 354-4220

COMMISSION WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010 – 9:30 A.M.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Terry Catlin, Chair)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address the Commission on any item that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission; however, no action may be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by Subdivision (b) Section 54954.2 of the Government Code.

3. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. SALINITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – PHASES 2 AND 3 (CM#8260).....5

Presenter: Rich Haller/CDM
Recommendation: Receive and file.

B. SARI FINANCIAL MODEL (CM#8261).....7

Presenter: Rich Haller/FCS Group
Recommendation: Receive and file.

C. OWOW UPDATE

- Conference Update
- Dream Team Results

Presenter: Jeff Beehler
Recommendation: Receive and file.

D. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS - HELPING COMMUNITIES REALIZE THEIR GOALS

Presenter: Dana Sands, Alinda Capital Partners LLC
Recommendation: Receive and file.

ADJOURN WORKSHOP; CONVENE MEETING

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. SARI REACH V TRENCH REPAIR PROJECT (CM#8262).....11

Presenter: David Ruhl
Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to award a contract for public works construction to the lowest, responsible bidder.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by the Committee by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Committee votes, unless any Committee members, staff, or the public requests specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.

- A. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD 2-16-10**.....13
Recommendation: Approve as mailed.

6. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive and file unless otherwise noted.

- A. **GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT**
- B. **CHAIR’S COMMENTS/REPORT**
- C. **COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**

7. **CLOSED SESSION**

- A. **PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9 (b) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**
Significant Exposure to Litigation – One Potential Case

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Any person with a disability who requires accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should telephone Commission Secretary Patti Bonawitz at (951) 354-4230, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting in order to make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation.

PLEASE NOTE:
Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Authority’s office at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, during normal business hours. Also, such documents are available on the Authority’s Website at www.sawpa.org, subject to staff’s ability to post the documents before the meeting.

Declaration of Posting

I, Patti Bonawitz, Clerk of the Board of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority certify that a copy of this agenda has been posted in the Agency’s office at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California by 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2010.


Patti Bonawitz



2010 - Upcoming Meetings/Events

March

- 3-16-10 Commission Meeting
- 3-17-10 **Water Agencies of the Inland Empire: State Legislative Reception, Sacramento**
- 3-24/26-10 **International Drought Symposium – Riverside Marriott Hotel**

April

- 4-6-10 Commission Workshop
- 4-20-10 Commission Meeting
- 4-22-10 **OWOW Conference – Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim**

May

- 5-4-10 Commission Workshop
- 5-4/7-10 ACWA Spring Conference – Monterey
- 5-18-10 Commission Meeting

June

- 6-1-10 Commission Workshop
- 6-15-10 Commission Meeting

July

- 7-6-10 Commission Workshop
- 7-20-10 Commission Meeting

August

Dark

September

- 9-7-10 Commission Workshop
- 9-21-10 Commission Meeting

October

- 10-5-10 Commission Workshop
- 10-19-10 Commission Meeting

November

- 11-2-10 Commission Workshop
- 11-16-10 Commission Meeting
- 11-30/12-3-10 ACWA Fall Conference – Indian Wells

December

Dark

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM NO. 8260

DATE: March 2, 2010
TO: SAWPA Commission
SUBJECT: Salinity Management Program – Phases 2 and 3
PREPARED BY: Rich Haller, Executive Manager of Engineering & Operations

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive and file a presentation from CDM on Phases 2 and 3 of the Salinity Management Program.

DISCUSSION

CDM will provide a presentation on Phases 2 and 3 of the Salinity Management Program, which focuses on SARI Planning and Operations. A workshop on Phase 2 and 3 results was conducted with member agency staffs in December. The draft Technical Memoranda have been distributed to member agency staff for review.

Background

The purpose of the Salinity Management Program is to evaluate current salt management practices within the watershed and to develop a salt management program that achieves salt balance. Specific objectives will be developed over the near, intermediate, and long-term planning horizons. The SARI's role, as outlined in the Santa Ana Integrated Watershed Plan supporting water supply reliability, recycling, and quality improvement, will be evaluated. Further, the SARI's role in a salt management program that achieves salt balance will be defined.

The work is being completed in three phases. Phase 1 was completed in January.

Phase 1 Salinity Management Program

- Task 1-1 Current Setting
- Task 1-2 Planning
- Task 1-3 Technical Memorandum and Workshop

Phase 2 SARI Planning

- Task 2-1 Impacts of Future Technology
- Task 2-2 System Configuration Changes
- Task 2-3 Industrial Dischargers, Stringfellow
- Task 2-4 Temporary Domestic Discharges
- Task 2-5 Fail Safe Connections
- Task 2-6 Indirect Discharges
- Task 2-7 Technical Memorandum and Workshop

Phase 3 SARI Operations

- Task 3-1 Update Capital Improvement Program
- Task 3-2 Management and Operations
- Task 3-3 Technical Memorandum and Workshop
- Task 4 Final Report

RESOURCE IMPACTS

The Salinity Management Program is budgeted for under Fund No. 240, SARI in the FY2009-10 budget. The contract amount is \$250,000.

RH:pb

CM 8260 Salinity Mgmt Prog 3-2-10

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM NO. 8261

DATE: March 2, 2010
TO: SAWPA Commission
SUBJECT: SARI Financial Model
PREPARED BY: Rich Haller, Executive Manager of Engineering & Operations

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive and file a presentation from FCS Group and staff on the new SARI Financial Model.

DISCUSSION

The SARI Financial Model will be used in determining appropriate SARI rates and evaluating financial implications of agreements and system changes. The Financial Model has the capability to estimate SARI future expenses, capital requirements, appropriate rates, and evaluate potential changes identified in the Salinity Management Program, such as revised flow projections, evolving brine wastewater characteristics, changed annual O&M requirements, and an updated Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Through a series of workshops in which member agency staffs have participated, the direct and indirect rate structure and key assumptions have been evaluated.

Development of the model is nearly complete. FCS Group will present a summary of the model and the process completed to date. They will highlight the policies that affect SARI rates such as the target reserve balances.

Today's presentation is informational only. Proposed FY 2011 rates will be presented for the Commission's consideration at the March 16th Commission meeting.

RESOURCE IMPACTS

The SARI Financial Model is budgeted for under Fund No. 240, SARI in the FY2009-10 Budget. The contract amount is \$78,000.

RH:pb

CM#8261 SARI Financial Model 3-2-10

2010 OWOW CONFERENCE -- DRAFT AGENDA (2-2010)

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.	Registration Coffee Service	Disneyland Center, North & South Lounge
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Welcome – “SAR Watershed: Reaching our Potential” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Del vara, Disneyland Resort Director of Environmental Affairs • Celeste Cantú, SAWPA 	Disneyland Grand Ballroom
9:30 – 9:40 a.m.	The Santa Ana River Watershed – A Regional Powerhouse Ron Craig, Senior Vice President, RBF Consulting	
9:40 – 11:05 a.m.	Local Goals: the “Big Picture” Randy Record, Eastern Municipal WD Board Member and ACWA Vice President Response Panel: “How Do We Pay for What We Need to Do? Funding Options” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Dave Cogdill, State Senator, 14th District • Ronald Gastelum, Interim Executive Director Southern California Water Committee • Joe Grindstaff, Director of Calfed • Tim Quinn, Executive Director of Association of California Water Agencies Audience participation (quizdom)	
11:05 – 11:20 a.m.	BREAK – Networking and Exhibits	
11:20 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	The Watershed Approach: “Working Together to Find Efficiencies and Synergies” Col Thomas Magness, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Response Panel: “Implementing the Vision: OWOW is the Answer” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fran Spivy-Weber, Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board • Ruth Villalobos, VP Environmental and Regulatory Services, RBF * • Beth Jines, Assistant General Manager Environment LA, City of Los Angeles* Audience participation (quizdom)	
12:45 – 1 p.m.	“SHEDDY” Award Ceremony	
1 – 2 p.m.	LUNCH <i>Keynote Address:</i> Peter Senge, founding chair of the Society for Organizational Learning	Disneyland South Exhibit Hall
2 – 3:30 p.m.	“What will the future look like?” A.G. Kawamura, Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture Response Panel: “How Do We Live in the 21st Century?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellen Hanak, Director of Research Public Policy Institute of California • Art Baggett, Board Member of the State Water Board • Randall Lewis, Lewis Group of Companies • Eric Garner, managing partner of Best Best & Krieger Audience participation (quizdom)	
3:30 wrap up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Tamminen, Director of the Climate Policy Program at the New America Foundation 	

8:30 a.m – 3:30 p.m.

Exhibitors

Disneyland Center, North & South Lounge

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM NO. 8262

DATE: March 2, 2010
TO: SAWPA Commission
SUBJECT: SARI Reach V Trench Repair Project
PREPARED BY: David Ruhl, Program Manager

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission authorize the General Manager to award a contract for public works construction to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder (bids to be received February 25th).

DISCUSSION

Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) Operations staff has identified, approximately 1,300 feet of the SARI Reach V trench line in Temescal Canyon Road that is settling. The cause of the settling is most likely due to poor trench compaction during the installation in 2001, and the large volume of heavy vehicle traffic. The County of Riverside Transportation Department has visited the location and is requiring SAWPA to repair the trench. In January 2010, the Commission directed staff to advertise for bids to complete the pavement repairs. The estimated cost is \$100,000.

An advertisement for bids was published in the Press Enterprise on February 17th. A pre-bid meeting was held on February 19th. Bids will be received on February 25th. Upon receipt of the bids, SAWPA staff will review the bids received and provide a recommendation to the Commission to award to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The bid results will be presented at the meeting.

RESOURCE IMPACTS

There are sufficient funds available in the FYE 2010 Budget to complete construction repair activities (Fund No. 320-03).

DR:pb

CM#8261 SARI Reach V Pavement Repairs

SAWPA Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2010

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Catlin, Chair
Phil Anthony
Don Galleano
George Aguilar

REPRESENTING

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Orange County Water District
Western Municipal Water District
San Bernardino Valley MWD

OTHERS PRESENT

John L. Anderson
Denis Bilodeau
Doug Headrick
Randy Van Gelder
Tony Pack
John Rossi
Michael Markus
Robert Ennis
Patrick Shields
P. Ravi Ravishanker
Bob Burness
Patricia Aguilar
Don Lee
Celeste Cantú
David Wysocki
Rich Haller
David Ruhl
Carlos Quintero
Mark Norton
Jeff Beehler
Dean Unger
Karen Williams
Patti Bonawitz

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Orange County Water District
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District
Western Municipal Water District
Orange County Water District
Orange County Water District
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Eastern Municipal Water District
Kobelco EDTI Compressors, Inc.

Tetra Tech
General Manager
Legal Counsel
Ex. Manager of Engineering & Operations
Program Manager
Project Manager
Manager of Water Resources & Planning
Program Manager
Manager of Information Systems & Technology
Chief Financial Officer
Clerk of the Board

The Regular Commission Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chair Terry Catlin at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Office, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503. There were no public comments. Chair Catlin led the flag salute. A quorum was present; however, EMWD was noted as absent. Although he had no voting rights, EMWD General Manager Tony Pack sat in for Commissioners Ron Sullivan and Dave Slawson.

CLOSED SESSION

The Commission went into to Closed Session at 9:35 a.m., A) pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 (a) – Conference with Labor Negotiator: Agency Representative: Terry Catlin, Chair, Unrepresented Employee: Celeste Cantú; B) pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation - Significant Exposure to Litigation – One Potential Case; and C) pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation: SAWPA vs. Castle & Cooke, Case No. RIC 495874, Harding vs. SAWPA, Case No. RIC 445294, and SAWPA vs. Keeton, Case No. RIC 471792.

The Commission reconvened into Open Session at 10:05 a.m. Legal Counsel David Wysocki stated that the Commission took no reportable action.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Rich Haller noted that Bob Burness of Kobelco EDTI Compressors, Inc. was in the audience and had requested the Commission’s consideration of Item 5C (Relocation Agreement for SARI Lateral on Kobelco EDTI Compressors, Inc. Property [CM#8258] first. Item 5C was taken out of order.

RELOCATION AGREEMENT FOR SARI LATERAL ON KOBELCO EDTI COMPRESSORS, INC. PROPERTY (CM#8258)

Rich Haller commented that this location, which is the former Alcoa site in Corona, is being redeveloped. The developer has no plans for a SARI connection; however, he would like the option for one in the future. The lateral in its current location conflicts with the proposed site development. This agreement will allow for relocation of the existing lateral, raise the maintenance access structure lid, move the air release/vacuum relief valve, and clarify ownership of the lateral. SAWPA has owned an easement on this property since 1982. Bob Burness was available for any questions. There was no discussion.

Upon motion by Commissioner Aguilar, seconded by Commissioner Anthony, the motion unanimously carried:

10-02-01

MOVED, approval of an agreement with Kobelco EDTI Compressors, Inc. permitting the relocation of the existing SARI lateral on their property, and authorized the Chair to execute the agreement.

SARI BILLING FORMULA (CM#8255)

Rich Haller reviewed the proposed increase of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) imbalance in the billing procedure formula. The “measured TSS imbalance” is the difference between what is measured at the Orange County line versus the sum of the discharges into the system. For some unknown reason (which CDM is attempting to identify), TSS imbalance has been significantly higher recently than historical monthly imbalances. Staff proposed increasing the TSS imbalance from 375,360 lbs/month to 750,720 lbs/month, which is a 100% increase, effective with the January SARI billings. Discussion briefly ensued regarding these financial shortfalls and where the monies come from to pay the difference (operations, which ultimately impacts the SARI CIP). There is no change to the BOD imbalance formula.

Upon motion by Commissioner Galleano, seconded by Commissioner Catlin, the motion unanimously carried:

10-02-02

MOVED, approval and directed staff to revise the SARI billing formula, raising the monthly target TSS imbalance to 750,720 lbs/month, effective with the January SARI bills.

SARI RELOCATION AT PRADO DAM (CM#8254)

David Ruhl commented that Phase II of the SARI Relocation at Prado Dam work was completed in 2008. There are excess funds in the escrow account in the amount of \$247,000. Per the escrow agreement, those funds can only be released upon the completion of the Corps’ Mainstem Project, which is anticipated for several years from now. In order to return these funds to SAWPA, Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) has offered to pay SAWPA the remaining balance plus accrued interest from an OCFCD account that is separate from the escrow account. In return, SAWPA would assign to OCFCD any rights to the remaining funds. Within 90 days of a final accounting from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, OCFCD will return the excess funds to SAWPA. Commissioner Anthony questioned whether or not Legal Counsel had any concerns with this procedure or the amendment (no).

Upon motion by Commissioner Aguilar, seconded by Commissioner Anthony the motion unanimously carried:

10-02-03

MOVED, approval of an amendment to the agreement with OCFCD for the SARI Relocation at Prado Dam.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE: REQUEST ASSIGNMENT OF SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED DEDICATED STAFF (CM#8259)

Due to a recent reorganization of this Federal agency, its Carlsbad office will handle “coastal” permit issues, while their Palm Springs office will handle “inland” permit issues in the Santa Ana River Watershed. Jeff Beehler requested that the Commission send a letter requesting that the agency assign/dedicate one specific staff member to work on regulatory issues related to our watershed. He noted that there is a staff person willing to do so. Commissioner Galleano stated that the Commission should send a letter, and if that letter is not effective, then we should go to our Congressional delegation.

Upon motion by Commissioner Galleano , seconded by Commissioner Anthony, the motion unanimously carried:

10-02-04

MOVED, approval to send a letter from the SAWPA Commission requesting that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service dedicate an experienced staff member to work on regulatory issues related to the Santa Ana River Watershed.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

The following reports will received and filed:

A. Legislative Update

Celeste Cantú reported that Assembly Member Jose Solorio, Chair of the Select Committee on Regional Approaches Committee addressing the State’s water crisis, has a new staff member, Alf Brandt, who is highly respected. They want to do some exciting things - perhaps set up a template that communities/counties can use to manage their stormwater permits that would be consistent with integrated regional water management plans. He intends to introduce a spot bill before Friday, February 19th.

Also, all bills regarding the Delta Restoration are now effective and we should hear about appointments to the Council this week.

B. OWOW Update

Our Dream Team convened Friday, February 12th. Celeste Cantú noted that these folks were not compensated for their day’s efforts -- they all volunteered. She shared an email from Mark Wildermuth thanking her for including him in the Dream Team. He said he was awestruck by the day, and “...Everybody worked well together, and the environment you created contributed to the great success of the day...” Discussion briefly ensued regarding some of the concepts that resulted from the Dream Team meeting: repurposing Lake Perris, water connections that haven’t been made, redoing flood management plans, and much more. Ultimately, this information will be shared at the OWOW Conference. The OWOW Conference is on April 22nd at the Disneyland Hotel. Commissioner Anthony requested that she keep the Commission informed and updated of the conference plans. Senator Feinstein has declined our lunch keynote speaker invitation, and now WEF is seeking Peter Senge, the author of the *Fifth Discipline*. Disney has agreed to be a platinum sponsor.

C. General Manager’s Report

PPIC is conducting focus groups and she will be traveling with WMWD General Manager John Rossi to Los Angeles today to participate.

Celeste Cantú has been invited to meet with the Belgium Consul General and the Prime Minister in Los Angeles on Wednesday evening. The Governor also has been invited, as well as the Chair of the State Water Board. They are very interested in how we manage water.

Last week, Celeste Cantú hosted a watershed tour for Sue Murphy, Chief Executive Officer of Water Corporation in Western Australia. The member agencies provided tours and did a wonderful job of hosting.

As requested, Celeste Cantú will provide a written General Manager's Report in the future.

D. Chair's Comments/Report – None.

E. Commissioners' Comments - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Prior to consideration of the Consent Calendar, Chair Catlin noted that staff requested amending the 2-2-10 Minutes to reflect that Mark Bulot was in attendance.

Upon motion by Commissioner Anthony, seconded by Chair Catlin, the motion unanimously carried:

10-02-05

MOVED, approval of the Consent Calendar.

- A. The Commission approved the Minutes from the meetings held 1-19-10 and 2-2-10 (as amended).
- B. The Commission received and filed the Treasurer's Report –January 2010.
- C. The Commission approved and authorized the General Manager to execute the agreements for California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CalWARN) and Emergency Response Network on the Inland Empire (ERNIE) (CM#8257).

There being no further business for review, Chair Catlin adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

APPROVED:
March 2, 2010

Terry Catlin, Chair



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

February, 2010

Summary of Highlights of Major Activities and/or Projects

- **SARI**

EnerTech's discharge permit was suspended December 21, 2009 after a spill occurred. Significant solids accumulation in the SARI was found and high levels of methane gas were measured up to six miles downstream. SAWPA hired CDM to analyze the impacts of EnerTech's discharge on SARI operations and to determine appropriate BOD and TSS limits and permit provisions to allow the restart of SARI discharges. A draft report was completed by CDM February 22nd. The report noted the significant impact on SARI operations caused by high levels of Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC) found in EnerTech's discharge. Additional liquid treatment processes have been added by EnerTech to control TSS and DOC levels. It is anticipated that a new discharge permit will be issued to EnerTech. SAWPA is working with SBVWMD to determine the costs associated with the EnerTech discharge and to seek payment.

- **Leadership Development**

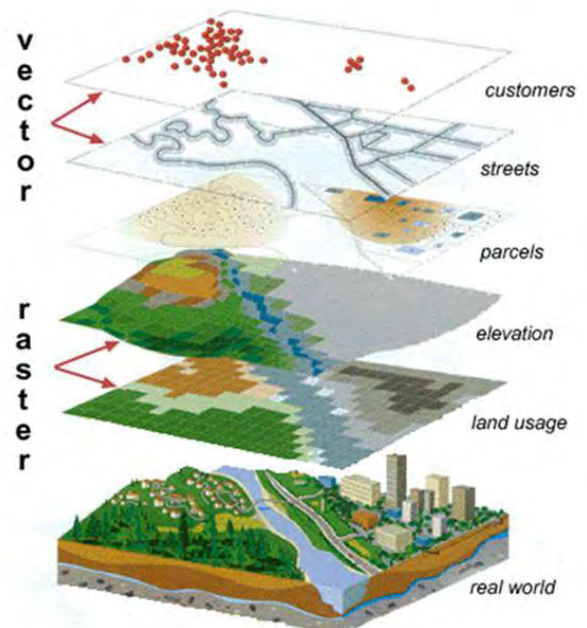
As long-range planners, we must answer the question, "Does the Santa Ana River Watershed have the tools, skills and capacity to address the challenges of the 21st Century?" Two issues come to mind. The first falls under the heading of necessary skills. This watershed enjoys the most technologically advanced staff and consultants of any watershed in California. We could improve our capacity in the area of staff leadership. Focusing on negotiations, conflict resolution, and helping others to come to decisions is an area that I and executive staff from Western have met with the academic communities about developing classes, seminars, and opportunities suitable to working professionals. UC Riverside is working on developing such an offering, perhaps one or two classes resulting in a certificate program. Focusing on encouraging women in the water industry, UCI is hosting *Women in Water Day*, and I have agreed to be their keynote speaker.

- **Water Neutral Development Tools**

Working with the Planning Conservation League, CSU San Bernardino, and the Southern CA Water Committee, I am helping to create a template and workshops for developers and water agencies to use for developing under a water scarcity scenario.

- **Web Based Collaborative Decision Tool**

We are data rich, but information poor. Building on SAWPA's Santa Ana Watershed Data Base Management System (SAW DMS) tool, we could develop our own platform or work with one of four others with whom I have met. SAWPA is beginning the process of identifying data needs, data availability and the sensitivities surrounding them. The tool would be used by policy makers in the water world and also decision makers outside our industry, but whose decisions impact the water world. The tool would take data points and illustrate their value in accessible maps and charts. SAWPA has created these maps on a case-by-case as needed basis, but this new tool would be decentralized, password protected, and available to member agencies and perhaps others. SAWPA alone cannot afford to populate the data, but SAWPA could host a repository where trusted others could download data that would be used to make watershed-wide planning decisions. This also works toward our responsibility to develop a communication strategy to provide information to customers, businesses, and the development community.



Key Relationships

Maintaining relationships with the regulators is key to our watershed's success. This month I attended two retirements: Secretary of Natural Resources, Mike Chrisman, and EPA Deputy Regional Administrator Laura Yoshii. Both were opportunities to discuss ongoing issues before those agencies and their offices in a relaxed,



Mike Chrisman

somewhat social setting. I met the new Regional 9 Administrator, Jared Blumendeld, and invited him to tour the Santa Ana River Watershed and offered to host a reception for him. His scheduling staff is looking for dates for his visit. I had dinner with Alexis Strauss, Water Division Director, EPA Region 9 and discussed SAWPA's Beneficial Use Attainability Study on storm water quality. I also joined the State Water Board members, the Regional Boards, and their executive staff for dinner while they were meeting in Riverside.



Jared Blumendeld

- **Budget Preparation**

February is the month we begin our budget process. We have begun that work and will present to the Commission at our March business meeting.

- **PPIC Focus Group**

PPIC conducted small focus groups that discussed the most important long-term water policy issues, top State and Federal policy actions that would be useful, and significant challenges that will need to be overcome to accomplish our policy goals. This is another opportunity for us to frame the water discussions in all levels of government.

- **Flanders Trade Innovation and Investment Mission to California**

The Flemish minister-president, Kris Peeters (CD&V), also in charge of the Economy and Foreign Trade portfolios, and the Flemish minister for Innovation, Ingrid Lieten, conducted a week-long economic mission to California. They and their team visited biotech and clean tech companies and SAWPA. This comes after several meetings at SAWPA regarding Algae Bio-refinery and their need for sludge, and our need for data management etc.

- **Ocean Protection Council**

Lester Snow, Secretary for Natural Resources and Chair of the California Ocean Protection Council, invited me to serve as a member of an expert advisory panel that will help guide a five-year evaluation of the California Ocean Protection Council. The OPC's mission is to maintain California's healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. Ocean discharge regulation is key to the SARI line.

- **Legislative Affairs**

Assembly member Jose Solario, Chair of Select Committee on Regional Approaches Committee's principal consultant discussed legislative opportunities that would address storm water and the watershed approaches such as OWOW. The Valley Group and Inland Action invited me to discuss legislative and funding needs regarding water in the Watershed in preparation of their visits to Washington D.C.

- **UC Riverside Drought Symposium**

The SAR Watershed tour is another opportunity to share SAWPA's successes with the SARI line, OWOW, and the Roundtable task forces. We also will learn from the visitors who share an arid climate such as ours.