

MINUTES
OF THE
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
OF THE
SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY

JANUARY 8, 2008

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Anthony, Acting Chair
John L. Anderson (for Wyatt Troxel)
Dave Slawson (for Ron Sullivan)
Don Galleano
Mark Bulot

REPRESENTING

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

ALTERNATE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tom Evans
Ed Killgore
Denis Bilodeau

Western Municipal Water District
San Bernardino Valley MWD
Orange County Water District

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Markus
Irv Pickler
Eleanor Torres
Phil Rosentrater
Ray Harton
Joe Zoba
Cindy Saks
Martha Davis
Paul Jones
Anthony Pack
Melanie Nieman
Celeste Cantú
David Wysocki
Rich Haller
Mark Norton
Karen Williams
Jeff Beehler
Rick Whetsel
Dawna Munson
Patti Bonawitz

Orange County Water District
Orange County Water District
Orange County Water District
Western Municipal Water District
Monte Vista Water District
Yucaipa Valley Water District
San Bernardino Valley MWD
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Irvine Ranch Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District
SAWPA General Manager
SAWPA Legal Counsel
SAWPA Ex. Mgr. of Engr. & Operations
SAWPA Water Resources & Planning Mgr.
SAWPA Chief Financial Officer
SAWPA Senior Environmental Project Mgr.
SAWPA Watershed Planner
SAWPA Administrative Assistant
SAWPA Recording Secretary

The Special Commission Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Acting Chair Phil Anthony at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Office, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503. With three agencies present (SBVMWD, OCWD, EWMD), Chair Anthony noted that a quorum was present. Members of the public were invited to address the Committee on matters within its jurisdiction. There were no public comments received.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS - ERAF Overview: Defending Local Property Tax from State Raids

WMWD External Affairs Officer Phil Rosentrater provided a PowerPoint presentation. He defined ERAF, reviewed its history, and recapped what happened in the 2004 raid (we lost \$84M). He noted that six of the top ten highest-contributing special districts were from the Santa Ana Watershed.

Discussion ensued regarding: 1) next steps (i.e., work with our neighbors and invite them to fight with us). A number of entities and “friends” were discussed (i.e., cities, counties, League of Cities, Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge; ACWA, CASA, CSDA etc.). There is a need to bring a strong, broad coalition of local entities together to prepare for battle; 2) Proposition 1A constraints; 3) ERAF countermeasures (i.e., add to customer billing statements a temporary fee labeled State budget deficit); 4) using different terminology instead of ERAF; 5) accountability (i.e., how can we let the State take our revenues, then not hold them accountable); 6) EMWD’s recent visit with several State Legislators (i.e., support letters are effective); 7) the need to craft a defense that is credible, and establish strength in a unified message through a coalition of Southern California agencies (i.e., cities, counties, water agencies and sub-agencies, flood, OWOW Steering Committee) so that we speak with a singular, united voice on four major, but simplistic points. One focus should be that the economic crisis can be made better by investing in water infrastructure. Another focus should incorporate the mindset that local agencies have the most immediate means to produce new water; all have projects designed, but don’t have the funding, so we need to push previously approved bond funds for water on the street (i.e., Proposition 84). Commissioner Galleano suggested that the private sector (i.e., BIA) be included in the “strike team.” We need to strike quickly and be flexible; and 8) honoring commitment to Proposition 1A.

Other comments received were as follows:

- o IEUA representative Martha Davis agreed with the unified messaging, and that conversations need to occur between the electeds, as well as that our cities need to be involved with us in this battle.
- o Irvine Ranch Water District General Manager Paul Jones encouraged all to be careful of the message and deliver it with a lot of diplomacy. “...We all must share the pain equally.”

It was the consensus of the Commission that starting with the five member agencies’ general managers, that Celeste Cantú immediately schedule an ad hoc meeting to develop strategies that the Commission could start implementing. Chair Anthony noted that the Commissioners need to donate their respective General Managers to this effort.

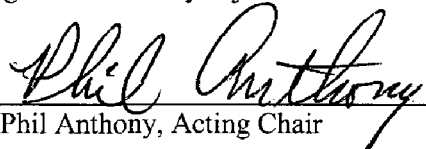
EMWD General Manager Anthony Pack noted that on February 1st, there will be a roundtable discussion on the water crises, and this is a perfect time to discuss this issue further. Dennis Hollingsworth will be the speaker.

Upon motion by Alternate Commissioner Slawson, seconded by Alternate Commissioner Anderson, the motion unanimously carried:

08-01-01
MOVED, approval and authorized Celeste Cantú to schedule a meeting with all the five member agencies’ General Managers to start working on a plan to deal with Proposition 1A, and develop strategies to address the threat to our property taxes from State raids.

There being no further business for review, Acting Chair Anthony adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

APPROVED:
January 22, 2008


Phil Anthony, Acting Chair

