

**ACTION MINUTES
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date and Location: November 2, 2017 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Laguna Niguel Council Chambers
30111 Crown Valley Parkway
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

****Audio recording for the November 2nd meeting is available [here](#). Recording times noted in the minutes correspond to that item on the recording. ****

ITEM # 1 Roll Call/Self-Introductions (Recording: 00:00:00)

Andrew Hamilton, Chair, City of Lake Forest
Brian Goodell for Trish Kelly, City of Mission Viejo
Carol Moore, City of Laguna Woods
Dave Harrington, City of Aliso Viejo
David Shissler for Rob Zur Schmiede, City of Laguna Beach
E. Max Maximous for Jerry Holloway, City of Rancho Santa Margarita
Ed Mandich, Trabuco Canyon Water District
Elaine Gennawey, City of Laguna Niguel
Jack Hunt, City of San Juan Capistrano
Janine Heft, City of Laguna Hills
Mark Monin, El Toro Water District
Mark Tettermer for Mary Aileen Matheis, Irvine Ranch Water District
Matt Collings for Brian Probosky, Moulton Niguel Water District
Megan Yoo Schneider, Municipal Water District of OC
Rick Erkeneff, South OC Wastewater Authority
Saundra F. Jacobs, Santa Margarita Water District

ITEM # 2 Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items) (Recording: 00:02:35)

Ms. Hoiyin Ip representing the Sierra Club provided information regarding Coastal Cleanup Day volunteer and trash collection results.

ITEM # 3 Approval of Minutes (Recording: 00:6:54)

The minutes of the August 3, 2017 meeting were presented to the Executive Committee.

Recommended Action: Approve the minutes of the August 3, 2017 meeting

Motion: Approve minutes with the following corrections: remove the word Chair after Saundra Jacobs name on page three (3) and on page six (6) change to: Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life Legislation.

First/Second: Saundra Jacobs/Elaine Gennawey

Abstained: Janine Heft/Dave Harrington/Rick Erkeneff
Outcome: Approved unanimously

ITEM # 4 2018 Meeting Dates (Recording: 00:8:35)

Recommended Action: Approve the proposed 2018 meeting dates of February 1, May 3, August 2, and November 1

Motion: Approve the proposed 2018 meeting dates.
First/Second: Sandra Jacobs/Dave Harrington
Abstained: None
Outcome: Approved unanimously

**ITEM # 5 Grant Project Update: Crown Valley Park Project (Recording: 00:10:16)
Ziad Mazboudi, City of Laguna Niguel**

Mr. Mazboudi, City of Laguna Niguel, provided an update on the Crown Valley Park Entry Improvement Project (Project). The Project was funded through the South WMA by the awarded 2015 Proposition 84 IRWM Grant Funding. Mr. Mazboudi's presentation included information on the project development, construction, implementation, and cost.

The funding breakdown for the Project was as follows:

Total Project Cost: \$10,898,825
IRWM Grant: \$700,000
Moulton Niguel Water District: \$300,000
OCTA Tier 2 Grant: \$1,621,962

Ms. Jacobs asked whether the underground vaults included in the project design were intended to capture dry and wet weather flows for recycled water uses. Mr. Mazboudi replied that the captured water is treated and released back into the creek. Mr. Monin asked whether or not the trash boom had been successful. Mr. Mazboudi noted that they hadn't had much flow since completion of the project but that once they did, he would let him know. Mr. Erkeneff asked if the original rocks from the site were reused in the design; Mr. Mazboudi replied that the existing rocks did not meet the new design specifications for flows. Mr. Mandich asked about lessons learned from the project design and implementation process. Mr. Mazboudi replied that coordinating with Moulton Niguel Water District had been an important part of the project and he encouraged others to do the same when implementing projects. Also, he noted the importance of having good as-builts to avoid delays from encountering utilities during construction.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

**ITEM # 6 Update on Arundo Removal in South Orange County (Recording: 00:23:55)
Marilyn Thoms, County of Orange
Derek Ostensen, Derek Ostensen & Associates, Inc.
Jason Giessow, DENDRA, Inc.**

Ms. Thoms provided an overview of *Arundo donax* (Arundo), the reason its removal is a priority for South Orange County watersheds, and the formation and efforts of Team Arundo. Ms. Thoms also noted the South Orange County Team Arundo Implementation & Program management Plan (Team Arundo Plan) finalized in 2008 and County maintenance of the environmental permits necessary for removal work; both resources are for use by groups and agencies in South Orange County. If groups or agencies have need to remove Arundo, Ms. Thoms requested that they contact the County for use of the permits and to align methodologies with the Team Arundo Plan.

Mr. Ostensen discussed Arundo removal efforts in Aliso Creek to date, highlighting the multiple stakeholders involved, funding sources, and improvement to habitat and water quality in Aliso Creek watershed.

Arundo has largely been eradicated from Aliso Creek with plans to address regrowth and remaining stands. The focus of Team Arundo will now shift to addressing Arundo and other invasive plant species in the San Juan Creek watershed. Mr. Giessow provided an overview of the current program to address Arundo in San Juan and Trabuco/Oso Creeks through a joint Proposition 1 Wildlife Conservation Board grant received by the Mission Resource Conservation District (MRCD). Mr. Giessow encouraged agencies to contact him or MRCD if they know of areas where Arundo removal is needed; agencies would coordinate on right of entry but the work would be conducted by MRCD under the grant.

Chair Hamilton asked whether or not there were plans to remove the Arundo at the Veeh reservoir. Amanda Carr, County of Orange, replied that the reservoir is within the Newport Bay watershed and not hydrologically connected to South Orange County. As a result, the permits obtained by the County for use in South Orange County would not apply.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

ITEM #7 Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (Recording: 01:01:43)
Jenna Voss, County of Orange

Ms. Voss provided an overview of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and the IRWM Plan for the South Orange County Watershed Management Area (SOCWMA). The IRWM Plan is currently under revision by the County and Management Committee to update text, technical references, climate change analyses and other plan components to comply with State Department of Water Resources Plan Standards; this is required to be eligible for Proposition 1 IRWM Grant funding.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

ITEM # 8 Executive Officer's Report (Recording: 01:15:43)

Ms. Marilyn Thoms, County of Orange provided the following updates:

- A total of six IRWM Grant programs were administered and/or obtained through the State IRWM Grant Program from 2006 to present. Of the \$35 million dollars received for projects selected by the South Orange County WMA, a total of \$200 million dollars was expended for South Orange County construction projects within the last ten years
- DWR has announced that the release of Implementation Grant Funds will likely be delayed from Spring 2018 to late 2018 or early 2019
- Aliso Creek Mainstem restoration update – The public comment period was held from 9/29/17 through 11/28/17. A public hearing was held on 10/17/17.
- Ms. Thoms announced her plans to retire in early 2018 and acknowledged the committee

Ms. Amanda Carr, County of Orange provided the following updates:

- Reorganization is in progress for the OC Public Works Environmental Resources service area. The reorganization will help with efforts to integrate IRWM coordination, Countywide projects, and management of NPDES permits. The Environmental Resources service area will have four sections, as follows:

- Countywide Programs
- South County Programs
- North County Programs
- Agricultural Commissioner

Mr. Monin asked about the current vacancies and how long it takes to fill them. Ms. Carr stated the five vacancies will be filled soon.

Ms. Jacobs asked if the reorganization will affect the budget. Ms. Carr indicated the budget and group activities will not change.

ITEM # 9 Executive Committee Member Comments (Recording: 02:01:24)

The Chair opened the floor for Executive Committee (EC) comments.

Chair, Hamilton acknowledged Marilyn for her years of service.

Ms. Jacobs also acknowledged Marilyn and asked her to attend the first meeting in 2018 for a proper going away.

Ms. Elaine Gennaway invited all to visit the Crown Valley Park and acknowledged the work of the Executive Committee.

There were no further comments.

ITEM # 10 Adjournments (Recording: 02:03:16)

Non-Committee Attendees:

E. (Max) Maximous	City of Rancho Santa Margarita
Joey Soto	Soto Resources
Kate Freshley	Laguna Woods Village
Katie Klein	Surfrider Foundation
Lisa Zawaski	City of Dana Point
Mark Tetteimer	Irvine Ranch Water District
Mary Vondrak	City of Laguna Beach
Moy Yahya	City of Aliso Viejo
Zachery Salazar	OC Parks
Ziad Mazboudi	City of Laguna Niguel

County Staff: Amanda Carr, Grant Sharp, Marilyn Thoms, and Jenna Voss