

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

Date and Location: August 2, 2018 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Laguna Niguel Council Chambers
30111 Crown Valley Parkway
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

****Audio recording for the August 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: 00:00:35)

Jack Hunt, Chair, City of San Juan Capistrano
Debbie Neev, Vice Chair, Laguna Beach County Water District
Brad McGirr, City of Rancho Santa Margarita
Carol Moore, City of Laguna Woods
Ed Mandich, Trabuco Canyon Water District
Elaine Gennaway, City of Laguna Niguel
Mark Monin, El Toro Water District
Mary Aileen Matheis, Irvine Ranch Water District
Matt Collings for Brian Probosky, Moulton Niguel Water District
Megan Yoo Schneider, Municipal Water District of OC
Melody Carruth, City of Laguna Hills
Paul Wyatt, City of Dana Point
Rick Erkeneff, South OC Wastewater Authority
Rob Zur Schmiede, City of Laguna Beach
Saundra F. Jacobs, Santa Margarita Water District
Scott Voigts, City of Lake Forest
William Phillips, City of Aliso Viejo

ITEM # 2 Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items) (Recording: 00:03:50)

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

ITEM # 3 Approval of Minutes (Recording: 00:04:40)

The minutes of the May 3, 2018 meeting were presented to the Executive Committee.

Recommended Action: Approve the minutes of the May 3, 2018 meeting

Motion: *Approve minutes*
First/Second: *Melody Carruth/Saundra Jacobs*
Abstained: *None*
Outcome: *Approved unanimously*

ITEM # 4 Pacific Marine Mammal Center Water Treatment & Recycling System (Recording: 00:05:05)
Jeff Meberg, Pacific Marine Mammal Center
Renaë Hinchey, Laguna Beach County Water District

Mr. Jeff Meberg, Board Chairman from the Pacific Marine Mammal Center (PMMC) and Ms. Renaë Hinchey, General Manager from the Laguna Beach County Water District (LBCWD), provided an overview of the Pacific Marine Mammal Center's Water Treatment and Recycling System Project (Project). The project was submitted for inclusion on the South Orange County Watershed Management Area (SOCWMA) IRWM project list for future IRWM Grant consideration. The project is funded by PMMC and supported by the LBCWD. The estimated total construction cost for the Project is \$5,000,000; construction is likely to begin mid-to late 2019.

Ms. Sandra Jacobs asked how much funding would be requested through the grant and for a summary of what PMMC is doing to raise funds. Ms. Hinchey replied that they would seek \$500,000 from the grant and that they are requesting support from other local groups and agencies. Ms. Melody Carruth and Mr. Scott Voigts inquired about capacity. Mr. Meberg replied that PMMC currently has four pools that provide care for approximately 300 marine animals per year, but are looking to add four more pools, which would allow an additional 100 animals to receive care.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

ITEM # 5 Discussion of San Juan Basin Authority Request to Join South OC (Recording 00:37:00)
Watershed Management Area Cooperative Agreement
Jenna Voss, County of Orange
Norris Brandt, San Juan Basin Authority

Ms. Melody Carruth noted that SJBA has representation on the Executive Committee, as the agencies representing SJBA Joint Powers Authority are already Member Agencies, and inquired as to whether or not SJBA felt that their interests were not being met under the current structure. As a non-member agency, SJBA is advisory to the Member Agencies on matters related to the San Juan Basin. Further, Ms. Carruth asked whether SJBA felt the need to be a voting member before they could cooperate within the watershed context. As SJBA Administrator, Mr. Brandt explained that the desire to join the Cooperative Agreement was more a matter of lending their expertise to the watershed management area and to play a more active role from the perspective of the protection and maximization of groundwater resources. Mr. Rick Erkeneff noted that the SOCWMA Member Agencies include several member agencies of MWDOC, another example of how the SJBA JPA agency overlap would not be an issue. He added that there are many benefits to the professional and expertise that these members bring to the table, so he would support San Juan Basin Authority as a member.

Ms. Elaine Gennaway expressed similar concern to Ms. Carruth, regarding potential double representation, asking whether or not SJBA could become a member of the Executive Committee as a non-voting member. Ms. Gennaway followed by asking if any of the other agencies would feel that they could be underrepresented, considering that the four members of his JPA would have double representation. Ms. Jenna Voss clarified that in the cooperative agreement it does identify the potential to have voting and non-voting members. A non-voting member would not pay as part of the overall group, so it would be considered a non-voting member. Such request has not been made before, so that role is not clearly defined in the cooperative agreement. Ms. Voss further explained that a non-voting member could sit on the committee in an advisory capacity, but would not participate in voting. Mr. Brandt noted that SJBA already provides expertise when requested, but there is a nuance – without voting status on the committee, SJBA would not necessarily have the influence in making sure that issues of concern to SJBA were addressed. Ms. Gennaway stated that the influence would be expressed through the four members of the JPA. Mr. Brandt said that it would, but they are there to represent their individual agencies, not the function of groundwater

management, which is what SJBA provides. Ms. Saundra Jacobs noted that one of the committee's primary functions is the prioritization of and distribution of grant funds for projects, adding that SJBA is expressing through their request the capacity to put forward and review projects for the betterment of the groundwater basin. Ms. Jacobs seconded Mr. Erkeneff's support of SJBA joining the Cooperative Agreement.

Ms. Mary Aileen Matheis asked staff if there was a limitation on the number of voting members. Ms. Voss replied that there was not a limit; membership was per the approval of the Executive Committee. Ms. Matheis reiterated concerns expressed that SJBA membership may give the SJBA JPA agencies greater weight on decisions regarding distribution of funding. Ms. Jacobs noted that water resource goals have been set through the IRWM Plan, adding that projects would be ranked and considered according to how well they meet the goals. She added that she believes that the ranking system would alleviate concerns associated with distribution of funds for projects. Ms. Matheis replied in support of SJBA joining the Executive Committee. Ms. Megan Yoo Schneider reiterated Mr. Erkeneff's observation that there are other examples of double (or triple) representation for some agencies, but that all of the agencies come together for the benefit of the watershed as a whole. Ms. Schneider supported SJBA membership on the Executive Committee. Ms. Debbie Neev echoed Ms. Megan Yoo Schneider's comments, noting that SJBA would bring a different focus.

Ms. Saundra Jacobs added that having SJBA join the committee aligns with the long term goals expressed in the IRWM Plan. Mr. Rob Zur Schmiede agreed with Ms. Jacobs, in supportive of SJBA joining the Executive Committee.

Mr. Ed Mandich noted that he believes SJBA would better serve the agencies that form the committee as a non-voting member.

Public Comment: Mr. Robert Butow, Clean Water Now, stated that his membership supports SJBA inclusion as a voting member to the Cooperative Agreement with membership on the Executive Committee.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

**ITEM # 6 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Funding Update (Recording: 01:22:05)
Jenna Voss, County of Orange**

Ms. Voss provided an update on the expected schedule and release of IRWM Grant funds and an overview of the revised grant application process based on the guidelines received from the California Department of Water Resources.

Ms. Saundra Jacobs, Santa Margarita Water District asked Ms. Voss to clarify which meetings are open to the public to learn about the process and the projects. Ms. Voss replied that any Executive Committee meeting or Stakeholder Workshop held during the process would be open to the public. The Management Committee and associated project review Ad Hoc are not open to public because they are going through the intensive task of reviewing projects for grant eligibility and verification of benefits claimed. Ms. Carol Moore asked if the workshop presentation to DWR is an important step in the process. Ms. Voss replied in the affirmative and went over the process, which will consist of significant coordination among the people who are proposing projects, the Executive, Management, Ad Hoc, and Stakeholders to ensure we put the highest priority projects forward, reflective of the IRWM Plan.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

ITEM # 7 Executive Officer’s Report (Recording: 01:45:20)

Mr. Grant Sharp, County of Orange, acknowledged Jenna Voss for her efforts to update the South OC IRWM Plan and reported the following:

- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board released a staff report on the Evaluation of Contact Water Recreation (REC-1) Water Quality Objectives and Methods for Quantifying Exceedances; information available here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/docs/triennial_review/staff_rpt.pdf;
- Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Outreach and Water Needs Assessment efforts are ongoing;
- The South Orange County Water Quality Improvement Plan was accepted by the San Diego Regional Water Board on June 20th;
- Irrigation Runoff Discharge Prohibition Audits/Notices of Violation – the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board conducted audits of each city and issued Notices of Violation (NOVs) for Legal Authority; the agencies are responding individually;
- August 7th State Water Resources Control Board Hearing on Bacteria Objectives: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bacterialobjectives/>
- Aliso Creek Mainstem Restoration Study update – the focus is shifting toward a locally preferred alternative;
- Moulton Niguel Water District hosted a State Water Board STORMS Seminar Series event June 14th – Watershed Solutions through Data Sharing, Collaboration and Education;
- The Urban Runoff memorandum of understanding (MOU) group led by Moulton Niguel Water District has started meeting and is working to collaborate on analyzing and collecting data associated with water use and urban runoff priority areas; and
- Moulton Niguel Water District, MWDOC and the County of Orange collaborated on an application for a Metropolitan Water District Future Supplies Action Grant in support of flow data collection.

ITEM # 8 Executive Committee Member Comments (Recording: 01:57:44)

Mr. Jack Hunt, Chair, acknowledged Jenna Voss for her assistance.

Mark Monin acknowledged Grant Sharp during public comment for his presentation at the Laguna Woods City Council meeting in support of their 2018 IRWM Plan adoption resolution.

ITEM # 9 Adjournments (Recording: 01:58:28)

Non-Committee Attendees:

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| Hal Ghafari | City of Laguna Niguel |
| Hazel McIntosh | City of Rancho Santa Margarita |
| Kelly Hoggan | Haley & Aldrich |
| Ken Rosenfield | City of Laguna Hills |
| Kathryn Freshly | El Toro Water District |
| Jeff Meberg | Pacific Marine Mammal Center |
| Joey Soto | Soto Resources |
| Mark Tetterer | Irvine Ranch Water District |
| Mary Vondrak | City of Laguna Beach |
| Moy Yahya | City of Aliso Viejo and Laguna Woods |
| Nancy Gardiner | Haley & Aldrich |
| Norris Brandt | San Juan Basin Authority |
| Rena Hinchey | Laguna Beach County Water District |
| Rich Schlesinger | City of Mission Viejo |
| Roger Bütow | Clean Water Now |

County Staff:

Amanda Carr, Grant Sharp, Jenna Voss, and Maria Tamez