

**NEWPORT BAY WATERSHED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Date and Location:** April 8, 2009 – 2:00 p.m. - 3:37 p.m.  
Conference Room 2A  
2301 N. Glassell, Orange, 92865

**Participants:** Hon. John Moorlach, County of Orange Board of Supervisors  
Hon. Kathryn McCullough, City of Lake Forest  
Hon. Nancy Gardner, City of Newport Beach  
Hon. Deborah Gavello, City of Tustin  
Dr. Steven Choi, City of Irvine  
Mr. Joseph Edwards, The Irvine Company  
Mr. Peer Swan, Irvine Ranch Water District  
Mr. Fred Ameri, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Committee Staff:** Ms. Mary Anne Skorpanich, County of Orange  
Chris Crompton, County of Orange  
Kari Schumaker, County of Orange

**Attendees:** Nardy Khan, County of Orange  
Rick Francis, Deputy Chief of Staff to Supervisor Moorlach  
Irwin Haydock, Orange County resident  
Mike Loving, City of Irvine  
Roger Mallett, Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends  
Rolando Mateo, City of Santa Ana  
Bob Stein, City of Newport Beach  
Paul Jones, Irvine Ranch Water District  
Mark Tetteimer, Irvine Ranch Water District  
Alex Waite, City of Tustin  
Bob Woodings, City of Lake Forest  
Marsha Westropp, Orange County Water District  
Jack Keating, Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends

## **Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by the Executive Committee Chair, Supervisor John Moorlach at 2:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions.

## **Agenda Item 2 – Discussion of Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Options for Central Orange County Watershed Management Area**

Supervisor Moorlach introduced the discussion for the meeting: whether or not to join with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's One Water One Watershed (OWOW) for the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program under Proposition 84.

One of the points discussed at the last Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee meeting was whether or not the OWOW governance document reflects an equitable distribution of authority and decision-making power.

Supervisor Moorlach recapped a meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> between Ms. Celeste Cantu, Mr. Ron Sullivan and Mr. Jeff Beehler of SAWPA and himself, Mr. Paul Jones, Ms. Nancy Gardner, Mr. Rick Francis, and Ms. Mary Anne Skorpanich representing the Central Orange County Watershed Management Area (WMA). That meeting focused on the efficacy of working together, which went well. Ms. Gardner said that some issues were clarified at that meeting, but that it was not conclusive and that she was looking forward to comments from the rest of the Executive Committee today. Mr. Jones commented that the existing OWOW governance is not clear on a few points: (1) who would make decisions on project prioritization and who would develop and be responsible for the IRWMP; and (2) how OWOW Steering Committee members are replaced. The Central Orange County WMA wants the ability, when Orange County's representatives' terms expire, to select its Steering Committee members. Ms. Cantu and Mr. Sullivan had agreed that the OWOW governance document was not clear on those points and invited the Executive Committee to make those changes. The question posed to the Executive Committee then was, if SAWPA agrees to make those changes, is the Central Orange County WMA comfortable joining them?

Supervisor Moorlach noted that the potential partnership between OWOW and Central WMA was a visionary concept of everyone working together. Mr. Ameri commented that all of the Executive Committee members have the same concerns: what is the authority of the OWOW Steering Committee; how are priorities going to be established for OWOW; and how can we as Orange County get our fair share, specifically, is the Central Orange County WMA going to be penalized because it has already been doing IRWM planning and some groups within OWOW may not be as far along? The main concern is, when priorities set, is the Central Orange County WMA going to be treated fairly? This question goes back to the authority of the OWOW Steering Committee and the makeup of its membership.

Ms. Mary Anne Skorpanich clarified that the OWOW prioritization process is under development and that OWOW will do a call for projects once later in their process.

Supervisor Moorlach commented that the goal with the IRWM planning is that we work together to achieve an outcome and that to collaborate with SAWPA is a step of faith. Ms. Mary Anne Skorpanich also noted that the Region Acceptance Process (RAP) for Prop. 84 IRWM funding will occur again next year.

When asked for their opinions on the issue at hand, the majority of the Executive Committee favored joining the OWOW Plan for the current RAP, provided that SAWPA provides the Central Orange County WMA with assurances of equitable treatment regarding funding and project prioritization. Ms. Skorpanich reminded the Committee that it had given staff direction to submit an RAP application for the Central Orange County WMA unless different direction is provided on April 16, 2009.

**Agenda Item 7 – Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.