



**American  
River  
Authority**

c/o: Placer County Water Agency  
P.O. Box 6570, Auburn CA 95604  
(530) 823-4860

**MINUTES**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AMERICAN RIVER AUTHORITY

**Monday, June 22, 2015**

2:00 p.m. Adjourned Regular Meeting

MEETING LOCATION

Placer County Administrative Center  
Conference Room A  
175 Fulweiler Avenue  
Auburn, California

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors' Offices  
Conference Room A  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, California

**ENTITY**

County of El Dorado  
County of Placer  
County of San Joaquin  
El Dorado County Water Agency  
Placer County Water Agency  
Public Member

**DIRECTORS**

Michael Ranalli  
Jennifer Montgomery  
Chuck Winn  
Brian Veerkamp  
Robert Dugan  
Ken Yorde

**ALTERNATES**

Brian Veerkamp  
Robert Weygandt  
VACANT  
Maria Capraun  
Mike Lee  
VACANT

American River Authority (ARA) Members Present:

Robert Dugan  
Jennifer Montgomery, Chair  
Michael Ranalli (via teleconference)  
Brian Veerkamp, Vice-Chair (via teleconference)  
Chuck Winn  
Ken Yorde, Vice-Chair

ARA Staff Present:

Einar Maisch, Executive Director  
Ed Horton, ARA Consultant  
Joseph Parker, Treasurer  
Cheri Sprunck, Secretary  
Chris Williams, Legal Counsel (via teleconference)

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montgomery called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Dugan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call and introductions

Roll call was conducted and introductions were made.

3. Organizational matters:

a. Recognize newly appointed members

Newly appointed members were recognized under item A.2.

b. Make appointments, if any, to the vacant alternate positions

There was brief discussion of the positions that need filling. No action taken.

c. Select Chair and Vice Chair for July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.

**Action: Motion by Director Veerkamp to keep last year's slate of officers; motion seconded by Director Dugan and adopted by unanimous roll call vote of Directors present.**

B. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No member of the public commented.

C. CONSENT CALENDER

1. Approve June 9, 2014, minutes.

**Action: Motion by Director Veerkamp approving Consent Calendar item 1; motion seconded by Director Dugan and adopted by the following roll call vote: Directors Dugan, Veerkamp, Yorde, and Chair Montgomery aye; Directors Ranalli and Winn abstain.**

D. GENERAL ITEMS

1. Receive and file the American River Authority financial statements through May 31, 2015, and approve the proposed 2016 Budget.

Mr. Parker pointed out the written report attached to the agenda shows prior activity—a statement of net position. All the ARA has is cash with the County Treasurer. The Placer County Treasurer holds funds but Placer County Water Agency does the accounting. The rest of the report is the statement of activity showing a comparison of 2014 and the Budget adopted last year. The 2015 year-to-date as of last month shows a little interest income, expenses on the website, and proposed budget.

**Action: Motion by Director Winn approving the ARA financial statements through May 2015 and approving the proposed 2016 Budget; motion seconded by Director Veerkamp and adopted by unanimous roll call vote of Directors present.**

Mr. Horton noted there were little expenditures for the year, but consultants will submit bills so there will be a few charges before end of June.

2. Adopt Resolution 2015-01 Amending the Authority's Conflict of Interest Code.

Mr. Horton noted the one proposed change to the Conflict of Interest Code is to remove the Auditor/Comptroller from the list of positions required to disclose. The Auditor didn't think he needed to file and our Legal Counsel concurred.

**Action: Motion by Director Dugan adopting Resolution 2015-01 Amending the Authority's Conflict of Interest Code; motion seconded by Director Winn and adopted by unanimous roll call vote of Directors present.**

E. REPORTS BY DIRECTORS

Director Winn asked Mr. Maisch to report on Folsom Lake levels.

Mr. Maisch reported on Folsom Lake levels and handed out a chart from the California Department of Water Resources website that shows a graph monitoring Folsom Lake levels. The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation said the lake level is projected to go down to 120,000 acre feet by the end of September. The drought is going to have a severe impact on this region and anyone who plans to take water out of Folsom Lake. It is emblematic of the entire system. The State is going through a crises that is a result of fishery agencies making a determined effort not to have a repeat of what happened last year—which is they lost an entire year's class of winter run salmon on the Sacramento River. So they are holding water in Shasta to make sure they have adequate cold water later in the year to keep Sacramento River cool. That is causing an increase in releases from Folsom Reservoir in order to make sure Delta outflows remain where they have to be for the smelt. The areas that take water out of Folsom include the City of Roseville, Granite Bay, and the City of Folsom.

Director Yorde asked if there is more talk about desalination.

Mr. Maisch responded noting it is expensive for San Diego to treat salt water because of regulatory requirements. For organizations needing municipal and industrial water and coastal communities, it is a good option; but it is expensive for agriculture.

Director Dugan said he is concerned about responsibility to water agencies within our jurisdictions. He appreciates a balance across the board; there has to be a dialogue to go with the balance. We are looking this year at the potential hazard associated with a barge in Folsom Lake because it is so low. We have to make sure the lower American River flows are a byproduct of the things we do in our jurisdiction. Dramatically as the flows for the fish goes, so goes the water for San Juan Water District, Folsom, and Roseville. We need to balance that out and be ever judicious.

Director Winn said there are 17 desalination projects on the California coast. Ninety percent of California's population lives within 30 miles of the ocean. They expect the cost to be \$2,200-\$2,400 an acre foot to cover 100,000 residents. In San Joaquin County, they cannot do what they have always done and fix it because this is the new norm. We are not recovering as quickly as we would like to. This isn't an independent agency issue; we are all in the same boat. Last week a district was asked to flush 100,000 acre feet of water to assist fish. Another time 250 acre feet was released to assist the fish. How many fish are we going to benefit? There is no idea. New Melones, their key water source, is being drained. Irrigation districts, because of flood control, have to evacuate at least 100,000 acre feet, to make room.

The water doesn't go for anyone's benefit. They can't send it to another district because they don't have a conveyance system. They can store 1.5 million acre feet underground. This isn't a county, city, or district issue; it is a regional issue. There is an opportunity to talk about how we can work with each other to maximize the water that comes in and out of our counties. He gave an example of water being misused to grow certain crops. He is meeting with representatives from various counties about what can be done. There are opportunities to recycle and maximize water in our region and all areas. We need to plan for the future to protect the water we get. Most districts don't have the resources to build the facilities, but we can join together. We need to build more facilities to capture the water. He suggested talks ensue about what options there are to plan for the future.

Director Veerkamp noted there was a vacancy of the Executive Director position for the El Dorado County Water Agency. Their interim Executive Director is Ken Payne. They are working on updating and reapplying their 2008 water rights project application being amended and strategically being brought forward on a regional water project basis with a component of 40,000 acre feet of storage in the upper American River project through an agreement with SMUD. They would not have to build a storage facility. They would just have to get the rights to the water. They need to work out agreements regionally to share water in the future.

Chair Montgomery reported Placer County understands they are not a water agency but trying to have conversations about how they manage water better in the County. She is working with Health and Human Services and Building Department to expand gray water use in Placer County. They want to make it more understandable, simpler, and cheaper. She and Supervisor Duran will be meeting with the Building Industry Association to discuss large scale development putting in on site gray water recycling. She gave some examples of what it would look like for new development.

She said the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) focus is work in the forests and watersheds. She is concerned about the issue of warming climate. We have less snow and more water. How can we hold water and release it slowly in the watersheds. She is working with SNC and trying to figure out how to fund watershed and meadow restorations.

There was discussion about beaver activity to possibly help hold back water.

F. REPORT BY LEGAL COUNSEL

No report received.

G. REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Maisch reported earlier and didn't have anything further to report.

Mr. Horton noted a year ago the ARA's Joint Powers Agreement was amended to allow the ARA to conduct audits every five years instead of every year as long as we don't spend over a certain amount. He said the County of San Joaquin has signed the amendment and it will be dispersed to the other districts for signature.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Director Veerkamp to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 p.m.; motion seconded by Director Dugan and adopted by unanimous roll call vote of Directors present.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cheri Sprunck  
Agency Secretary/Clerk to the Board  
Placer County Water Agency  
on behalf of the American River Authority