



Approved: September 26, 2024

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

ACWA JPIA  
2100 Professional Drive  
Roseville, CA 95661

**July 31, 2024**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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Chair: Melody A. McDonald, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District  
Vice-Chair: David Drake, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District  
Ernie Avila, Contra Costa Water District  
Chris Kapheim, Kings River Conservation District  
Szu Pei Lu-Yang, Rowland Water District  
Scott Ratterman, Calaveras County Water District  
Randall Reed, Cucamonga Valley Water District  
J. Bruce Rupp, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District  
David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

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None

### **STAFF PRESENT**

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Chief Executive Officer/Secretary: Adrienne Beatty  
Laura Baryak, Event Planner  
Erin Bowles, Workers' Compensation Manager  
Chimene Camacho, Sr. Executive Assistant to the CEO (*Recording Secretary*)  
Sarah Crawford, Training Manager  
Debbie Cruz, Lead Member Services Representative  
David deBernardi, Director of Finance  
Adam Dedmon, Employee Benefits Manager  
Tyler Dietz, Cost Estimator  
Robert Greenfield, General Counsel  
Ben Hayden, Lead Benefits Analyst  
Jennifer Jobe, Director of Pooled Programs  
Jennifer Nogosek, Liability/Property Claims Manager  
Kevin Phillips, Director of Member Outreach  
Jackie Rech, Benefits Specialist  
Jillian Sciancalepore, Administrative Assistant III  
Heidi Singer, Accountant II  
Dan Steele, Finance Manager  
Kayla Villa, Litigation Manager  
Tony Waterford, Human Resources Manager

## **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

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Fred Bockmiller, Mesa Water District (via Zoom)  
Tiffany Giammona, ACWA Senior Director of Operations & Member Engagement  
Edward Lyons, Cachuma Operation & Maintenance Board, Administrative Manager/  
Chief Financial Officer (via Zoom)

## **WELCOME**

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Chair McDonald welcomed everyone in attendance.

## **CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM**

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Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She announced there was a quorum.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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Chair McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ANNOUNCE RECORDING OF MEETING**

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Chair McDonald announced that the meeting would be recorded to assist in preparation of minutes. Recordings are kept 30 days following the meeting, as mandated by the Ralph M. Brown Act.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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Chair McDonald noted that, as the agenda stated, members of the public would be allowed to address the Executive Committee on any agenda item prior to the Committee's decision on that item. Comments on any issues on the agenda, or not on the agenda, were also welcome. None were noted.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

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Chair McDonald requested the Executive Committee, staff, and others in attendance to introduce themselves. Chair McDonald introduced the JPIA's new Cost Estimator, Tyler Dietz, who then provided a brief background of his work experience.

## **ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

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Chair McDonald asked for any additions to, or deletions from, the agenda. None were noted.

## **I. CONSENT AGENDA**

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Chair McDonald called for approval of the Consent Agenda.

M/S/C (Rupp/Drake) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes ; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes):  
That the Executive Committee approve the minutes of the June 21, 2024 meeting; Ratify the JPIA Disbursements of: Vendor payments, Employee Benefits claim payments, Payroll, and Summary of Confidential Claims payments for the Liability, Property, & Workers' Compensation Programs:

June 16-30, 2024, and July 1-15, 2024, pursuant to Government Code Section 53910 et seq.

## **II. ADMINISTRATION**

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### Report on Meetings Attended on Behalf of the JPIA

Vice-Chair Drake reported on attending the ACWA Strategic Planning Workshop and the ACWA Board of Directors meeting on July 25-26, 2024. Chair McDonald reported on attending the dedication ceremony for the new E.G. “Jerry” Gladbach Water Treatment Plant at the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency last June.

### Review and Approve Proposed Calendar of Meeting Dates for 2025

Ms. Beatty presented the proposed Committee meeting dates for 2025 for approval of the Executive Committee.

M/S/C (Rupp/Ratterman) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the Committee meeting dates for 2025, as presented.

## **III. CALIFORNIA WATER INSURANCE FUND (CWIF)**

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CWIF Vice-Chair Drake reported on the agenda items discussed at the CWIF meeting held on June 21, 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Among the items approved by the CWIF Board at that meeting include the Workers’ Compensation Reinsurance Agreements for 2024-25 Policy Year; appointment of Brent Hastey to the open CWIF board position; and the revised Dividend policy.

## **IV. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

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Committee Chair Rupp reported on the recommendations of the Employee Benefits Program Committee from its meeting on July 31, 2024.

M/S/C (Rupp/Reed) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve an increase of 5% for the Anthem HMO plans, effective January 1, 2025.

M/S/C (Rupp/Reed) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve an aggregate increase of 5.46% to Kaiser HMO rates, effective January 1, 2025.

M/S/C (Rupp/Reed) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve an aggregate increase of 7.83% for the Kaiser Senior Advantage plan, effective January 1, 2025.

M/S/C (Rupp/Reed) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve renewal with no change in rates for the Employee Assistance Program, effective January 1, 2025.

M/S/C (Rupp/Reed) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve renewal of life and disability benefits with no change in rates, effective January 1, 2025.

M/S/C (Rupp/Wheaton) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve that annually, the minimum deductible for the Anthem and Kaiser CDHPs will match the IRS minimum deductible.

M/S/C (Rupp/Wheaton) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve an increase of 10% for the Anthem self-funded PPO plans, effective January 1, 2025.

M/S/C (Rupp/Lu-Yang) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the PPO benefit enhancements of 3rd calendar year cleaning and Diagnostic/Preventive Max Waiver with no change in rates to the PPO plans, and no change in rates for the DeltaCare HMO plan effective January 1, 2025.

M/S/C (Rupp/Drake) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve renewing the VSP plans with no change in rates, effective January 1, 2025.

Pricing for the United Healthcare (UHC) Medicare Advantage PPO Plan: Changes in The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) funding for 2025 have delayed the UHC renewal. Since there are no additional meetings scheduled for the Employee Benefits Program Committee for the remainder of the year, the pricing for the 2025 UHC Medicare Advantage PPO Medical Plans will need to be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting on September 26, 2024. The Employee Benefits Program Committee members will be notified of the Executive Committee's decision soon after.

## **V. MEMBERSHIP**

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### Review and Take Action on Membership Applications

#### Union Public Utility District

Ms. Rech provided a background on the Union Public Utility District (UPUD) application for participation in the Employee Benefits Program. UPUD was formed on July 26, 1946 as an independent special district to provide agricultural and domestic water services. The boundaries of UPUD extend in the north to the Utica Canal, north of Murphys, and encompass the community of Murphys, Vallecito, and Douglas Flat; then the boundaries extend south along South Ditch to include the community of Carson Hill. Staff has reviewed census information and employer policies related to health benefits. UPUD has modified its benefits policies to align with JPIA participation requirements. Staff's assessment is that the agency possesses a favorable risk profile, similar to that of the JPIA membership.

M/S/C (Ratterman/Lu-Yang) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve Union Public Utility District's application for participation in the Employee Benefits Program, effective January 1, 2025.

#### Biggs-West Gridley Water District

Ms. Rech provided a background on the Biggs-West Gridley Water District (BWGWD) application for participation in the Employee Benefits Program. BWGWD is a California Water District responsible for providing irrigation water to agricultural water users within its service area and was formed by a vote of landowners on September 24, 1942. The district purchased 28% of the Sutter Butte Canal Company's properties and pre-1914 water rights. Staff has reviewed census information and employer policies related to health benefits. Biggs-West Gridley has modified its benefits policies to align with JPIA participation requirements. Staff's assessment is that the agency possesses a favorable risk profile, similar to that of the JPIA membership.

M/S/C (Ratterman/Avila) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve Biggs-West Gridley Water District's application for participation in the Employee Benefits Program, effective January 1, 2025.

## **VI. UPDATES**

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#### ACWA Update

Ms. Giammona provided a brief update on ACWA's relevant current issues and events, including upcoming regional events and the Executive Edge program to be held in Petaluma in August.

### CEO Update

Ms. Beatty provided an update on staffing and upcoming events. The AGRiP Strategic Planning Session held last July focused on AI, its impact on AGRiP and how it conducts business, and how to assist members in effectively integrating AI into various processes. At the Aon Symposium, Ms. Beatty reported on the parametric insurance presentation, and its potential as a coverage option enhancement for our members.

Moreover, Ms. Beatty reported on the successful amendments accepted by the AB 2735 bill's author, with the next step being the governor's anticipated approval. For the upcoming Fall Summit, she shared that there will be changes to the structure and content, including replacing the Monday morning Executive Committee meeting with additional educational content.

Recruitment is underway or will soon begin for the Training Specialist, IT Manager, and Director of Member Outreach positions. Lastly, she announced Sarah Crawford's promotion to Member Education Manager.

### **VII. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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#### Future Agenda items

None

Availability for Next Meeting: The Executive Committee is scheduled to meet next on September 26, 2024.

### **VIII. CLOSED SESSION**

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Before proceeding into closed session, General Counsel announced the items to be discussed.

M/S/C (Rupp/Ratterman) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee adjourn to closed session.

At approximately 2:50 p.m., the Executive Committee, upon advice of General Counsel, adjourned to closed session to discuss:

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel (tort liability losses, public liability losses/claims, or workers' compensation liability claims) – Pursuant to Government Code Sec. 54956.95.

- 1. Ben Newman v. Soquel Creek Water District (DOL 11/16/2020)

M/S/C (Reed/Lu-Yang) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee reconvene to open session.

The Committee returned to open session at approximately 3:01 p.m.

Closed Session Item A-1: Ben Newman v. Soquel Creek Water District (DOL 11/16/2020)

M/S/C (Ratterman/Drake) (Avila-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Drake-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee give authority to settle this claim in the amount of \$1,200,000.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Attest:

X

Melody McDonald  
Chair

X

Adrienne Beatty  
Secretary