



Approved: July 29, 2026

Executive Committee Meeting

ACWA JPIA
2100 Professional Drive
Roseville, CA 95661
(800) 231-5742

June 26, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair: Melody A. McDonald, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District

Vice Chair: J. Bruce Rupp, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Brent Hastey, Reclamation District 784

Chris Kapheim, Kings River Conservation District

Szu Pei Lu-Yang, Rowland Water District (left meeting at 8:15 AM; re-joined meeting at 9:48 AM)

Scott Ratterman, Calaveras County Water District

Randall Reed, Cucamonga Valley Water District

David Wheaton, Citrus Heights Water District

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady, Rancho California Water District, ACWA Vice President

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer/Secretary: Adrienne Beatty

Amber Anderson, Member Services Representative II

Chimene Camacho, Senior Executive Assistant to the CEO (*Recording Secretary*)

Laura Davis, Communications and Events Specialist

David deBernardi, Director of Finance

Adam Dedmon, Employee Benefits Manager

Camille Heinrichs, Workers' Compensation Examiner II

Erik Kowalewski, Lead IT Analyst

Joe Rumenapp, IT Manager

Jillian Sciancalepore, Administrative Assistant III

Judy Shiu, Liability and Property Claims Manager

Dan Steele, Finance Manager

Kayla Villa, Litigation Manager (joined at 8:08 AM) (*via Zoom*)

Tony Waterford, Director of People and Culture

Nidia Watkins, Member Services Representative II

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Coleman, Rowland Water District (joined at 8:05 AM; left at 8:27 AM)

Tiffany Giammona, ACWA, Senior Director of Operations and Member Engagement

Kellie Murphy, ACWA JPIA General Counsel, Johnson Schachter & Lewis

WELCOME

Chair McDonald welcomed everyone in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER, ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. She announced there was a quorum. She then asked the Executive Committee and staff to introduce themselves. After introductions, she welcomed JPIA's newest employee, Camille Heinrichs, Workers Compensation Examiner II.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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 welcomed.

President McDonald read the following statement: "As many in our community are aware, the ACWA family and its leadership have experienced a sudden and tragic loss. To Ernie Avila, on behalf of the JPIA, I want to express our sincerest condolences to you, your family, and everyone who knew Cathy and loves the Avila family. Our hearts are heavy, and we are lifting you all up in prayer as you navigate this difficult time. God's word says, we are to carry one another's burdens. Please know that you are deeply loved and supported by your colleagues and friends."

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

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

I. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair McDonald called for approval of the Consent Agenda:

M/S/C (Hastey/Lu-Yang) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the minutes of the March 27, 2026 and April 27, 2026 meetings; Ratify JPIA Disbursements of: Vendor Payments, Employee Benefits Claim Payments, Payroll, And Summary of Confidential Claims Payments for The Liability, Property, & Workers Compensation Programs: March 16-31, 2026; April 1-15, 2026; April 16-30, 2026; May 1-15, 2026; May 16-31, 2026; and June 1-15, 2026, pursuant to Government Code Section 53910 et seq.; approve an excused absence for any Executive Committee member; the Significant Claims Report; the Claims Settlements Between \$250,000 and \$500,000, and the Revision to the Mission Statement.

II. RECOGNITION

Service Recognition

Chair McDonald recognized Adam Dedmon for his service to the JPIA since joining the organization as Employee Benefits Manager in February 2024. His last day with JPIA will be Friday, June 26, 2026.

During his tenure, Adam played a key role in supporting and advancing JPIA's Employee Benefits programs. He oversaw the daily administration and operations of group benefit plans, participated in committee meetings, and led benefits marketing, member communications, consultations, enrollment, renewals, and member advocacy services. He also managed consultant and carrier/provider contracts, plan rating structures, and supervised the Employee Benefits staff.

On behalf of the JPIA, Chair McDonald expressed her appreciation for Adam's contributions and wished him and his family every success and happiness as they relocate to Latvia and embark on this exciting new chapter.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Report on Meetings Attended on Behalf of the JPIA

Director Reed reported attending the Three Valleys Leadership meeting on June 25, 2026.

Legislative Advocacy Update

Ms. Beatty provided an update on legislative advocacy efforts regarding SB 1001, which aims to create a Statewide Utility Worker Identification Program. In May 2026, the bill was placed in the Appropriations Committee's suspense file, effectively killing it for this year's session. She shared that coalition members and their lobbyists will continue working collaboratively to build support for the legislation through coordinated outreach, letters of support, resolutions, and partnerships with other organizations.

Ms. Beatty noted that coalition members have discussed the potential need to hire outside consultants to help move the bill forward in the next session and requested guidance from the Committee on whether they wished to approve a not-to-exceed amount for JPIA to contribute to such services.

M/S/C (Hastey/Rupp) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve up to \$10,000 to support SB 1001 and associated advocacy efforts.

Review and Take Action on Settlement Authority Policy

Ms. Shiu presented proposed revisions to the Settlement Authority Policy intended to improve operational efficiency, reduce administrative bottlenecks, and streamline the claims settlement process. She explained that, due to organizational changes over the past year, a higher-level internal approval layer that previously existed within daily operations is no longer available. As a result, the current manager-level settlement and

check approval authority of \$75,000 frequently requires claims to be escalated to the Chief Executive Officer, creating unnecessary delays. Staff reported that eight claims exceeded the current authority limit during the previous month, highlighting the need for an increase.

To improve efficiency and ensure consistency across programs, Ms. Shiu recommended increasing the manager-level settlement and check approval authority from \$75,000 to \$250,000 and aligning reserve and settlement authority limits for the Liability, Property, and Workers' Compensation Programs. She noted that the approval authority of the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Committee would remain unchanged, preserving the existing governance structure.

Ms. Shiu also presented proposed revisions that add the Deputy Executive Officer to the approval process to ensure continuity when the Chief Executive Officer is unavailable. Following discussion, the Committee requested clarifying language specifying that the Deputy Executive Officer's settlement authority applies only during the Chief Executive Officer's absence to eliminate any ambiguity. Committee members emphasized the importance of clearly documenting the delegated authority within the policy to promote transparency while allowing day-to-day administration of delegated authority to continue internally.

Following discussion, the Committee approved the proposed revisions to the Settlement Authority Policy, as revised.

M/S/C (Ratterman/Wheaton) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the proposed revisions to the Settlement Authority Policy, as revised.

IV. PROGRAMS

Review and Take Action on the 2026-27 Cyber Liability Renewal

Ms. Beatty provided a comprehensive update on the Cyber Liability Program renewal for 2026-27. Staff's recommendation was presented to establish a self-funded layer that would cover one-half of each member's deductible while maintaining the existing carrier attachment points of \$50,000 or \$100,000. The proposal included a 5% rate increase to strengthen program reserves and reduce premium volatility over time. If approved, the contributions collected would increase the reserve balance from approximately \$503,000 to \$825,000. The program's claims history was reviewed, noting that of 29 reported claims, only six resulted in payments totaling approximately \$641,000, with many claims resolved through mitigation efforts at no cost.

Ms. Beatty also discussed the program's long-term strategy of gradually increasing self-funded attachment points to reduce reliance on the commercial insurance market while maintaining stable and predictable annual rate adjustments. It was noted that JPIA's Cybersecurity Risk Specialist Hunter Sargent's work plays an important role in reducing member vulnerabilities, strengthening member risk mitigation efforts, and supporting favorable carrier pricing.

The Committee suggested that staff consider proposing larger rate increases in future years to more efficiently build up the reserve balance.

M/S/C (Hastey/Ratterman) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the purchase of the 2026-27 Cyber Liability policy offered by Coalition, approve the addition of a risk-sharing layer to fund one-half of existing member deductibles, and authorize staff to charge Cyber Program members a proportionate share of total costs based on the expiring year's contribution cost, with an applied increase of 5%.

Review and Take Action on the 2026-27 Cyber Liability Memorandum of Coverage (MOC)

Ms. Beatty reported that since its inception, the Cyber Liability Program has operated as a fully insured group-purchase program. As the program has grown and accumulated sufficient equity, staff has evaluated opportunities to introduce a pooled risk-sharing component to provide additional value to members while reducing reliance on the commercial insurance market.

Ms. Beatty presented a proposed Memorandum of Coverage (MOC) to support implementation of the pooled risk-sharing layer, effective July 1, 2026, as approved by the Executive Committee at this meeting. She explained that the MOC establishes the coverage terms, conditions, member responsibilities, and administrative provisions governing the pooled layer. The document follows a reverse follow-form structure, generally mirroring the Cyber Liability reinsurance policy except where otherwise specified, an approach currently used for the Pooled Property Program to maintain consistency between the pooled and insured components while clearly defining member and Authority responsibilities.

M/S/C (Ratterman/Rupp) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the Cyber Liability Program Memorandum of Coverage, as presented, effective July 1, 2026.

V. CALIFORNIA WATER INSURANCE FUND

CWIF Committee Vice Chair Ratterman reported on the Committee's agenda items from its meeting on May 29, 2026, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

VI. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Personnel Committee Chair McDonald reported on the Committee's recommendations from its meeting on June 3, 2026.

M/S/C (Hastey/Kapheim) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to approve the updated Salary Schedule, inclusive of a 3% increase in the ranges.

VII. WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Workers' Compensation Program Committee Chair Kapheim reported on the Committee's recommendations from its meeting on June 25, 2026.

M/S/C (Wheaton/Reed) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the recommendation of the Workers' Compensation Program Committee to approve the Memorandum of Coverage, as presented, effective July 1, 2026.

M/S/C (Rupp/Hastey) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the recommendation of the Workers' Compensation Program Committee to approve Safety National's reinsurance renewal terms, as presented, with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

M/S/C (Hastey/Ratterman) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the recommendation of the Workers' Compensation Program Committee to approve Option 2, a 7.5% increase to class code 7520 to a rate of 4.15, with all other rates remaining unchanged for the Workers' Compensation Program, effective July 1, 2026.

VIII. AD HOC GENERAL COUNSEL RFP COMMITTEE

Ad Hoc General Counsel RFP Committee Chair Rupp reported on the Committee's recommendations from its meeting on June 11, 2026.

M/S/C (Rupp/Hastey) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve the recommendations of the Ad Hoc General Counsel RFP Committee to approve the engagement of Kellie Murphy of Johnson Schachter Lewis to

serve as the JPIA's General Counsel, and direct staff to pursue membership in the Liebert Cassidy Whitmore consortium for additional resources for employment practices matters.

The Committee congratulated Ms. Murphy and welcomed her to the team.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

Hi-Desert Water District

Ms. Watkins provided a background on Hi-Desert Water District's (HDWD) application for admission into the Workers' Compensation Program. HDWD provides water service to the Town of Yucca Valley and portions of unincorporated San Bernardino County.

A program member risk assessment was conducted to determine substantial conformance with the JPIA's Commitment to Excellence (C2E) Program, JPIA best practices, occupational safety and health standards, and consensus with public agency loss control methods. Overall, a favorable opinion of the District's staff and operations was developed. Should HDWD join the ACWA JPIA, a service plan will be implemented beginning July 1, 2026 to complement the District's safety and risk management program with ACWA JPIA resources.

M/S/C (Reed/Kapheim) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve Hi-Desert Water District's application for participation into the Workers' Compensation Program.

Exeter Irrigation District

Ms. Watkins provided a background on Exeter Irrigation District's (EID) application for admission into the Workers' Compensation Program. EID is in the Kaweah River Basin and supplies irrigation water to nearly 13,000 acres of farmland and has been serving Tulare County since 1937.

A program member risk assessment was conducted to determine substantial conformance with the JPIA's Commitment to Excellence (C2E) Program, JPIA best practices, occupational safety and health standards, and consensus with public agency loss control methods. Overall, a favorable opinion of the District's staff and operations was developed. Should EID join the ACWA JPIA, a service plan will be implemented beginning July 1, 2026 to complement the District's safety and risk management program with ACWA JPIA resources.

M/S/C (Kapheim/Wheaton) (Gonzales-Brady-Absent; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Absent; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; Rupp-Yes; McDonald-Yes): That the Executive Committee approve Exeter Irrigation District's application for participation into the Workers' Compensation Program.

X. UPDATES

ACWA Update

Ms. Giammona provided a brief update on ACWA's current initiatives and upcoming events, including the Executive Edge Leadership Forum, the ACWA Fall Conference, and regional events. ACWA's new Executive Director is scheduled to begin on September 1, 2026.

CEO Update

Ms. Beatty provided an update on the progress of the new building, implementation of the Strategic Plan, and action items resulting from the Employee Engagement Survey.

Planning for the new building continues to advance across both the leasing and construction phases. Leasable tenant space is being prepared for marketing, with tenant improvements expected to begin after an estimated 90-day lease negotiation period. Enhancements to the training facilities remain a priority, as they are member-facing, revenue-generating assets. Value engineering efforts are reallocating resources within the building project to support these improvements. The geotechnical report identified no unusual findings, and discussions with the Homeowners Association regarding the patio, covered parking, and ADA accommodations are ongoing. An RFP has been issued to design covered parking and solar improvements. Schematic design work for the building's audiovisual and information technology systems is underway, with consultant meetings planned to finalize requirements for training and meeting spaces.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan continues to advance, with year-one initiatives focusing on a long-term equity review, evaluation of governance models, and development of a legislative engagement framework, all of which are expected to be presented to the Executive Committee in September.

Ms. Beatty provided an update on data integration and analytics initiatives, including implementation of the SPEAR platform and development of an AI-optimized common data platform to enhance training and risk management support.

Regarding employee engagement, Ms. Beatty reported that initiatives continue to advance through monthly manager one-on-one meetings, department meetings, leadership communications, and a four-part team training series planned for 2027. The next employee engagement survey is scheduled to be conducted approximately six months after staff move into the new building to gather feedback on the new workspace and employee experience.

XI. UPCOMING MEETING

Request for Future Agenda Items

Director Reed shared that since there is no Board Member report section on the agenda, he wanted to share that the San Bernardino Chapter of the California Special District Association (CSDA), of which he and President McDonald are members, will be recognized as Chapter of the Year at the upcoming CSDA conference. He noted that

the chapter meets monthly, compared to the quarterly schedule of most chapters, and expressed pride in the recognition.

Director Reed also suggested that staff evaluate the value of maintaining the Workers' Compensation Program's \$2 million excess coverage layer, noting that the coverage has never been accessed and costs approximately \$600,000 annually. He recommended considering whether retaining those funds internally may be more beneficial in the future.

President McDonald commented that Board Member Reports provide an opportunity for Committee Members to share accomplishments, activities, and updates beyond meetings attended on behalf of the JPIA and encouraged members to continue using the agenda item for that purpose.

President McDonald read the following statement: "I have requested that Adrienne add the Request for Future Agenda Items as a recurring item to all our agendas, including program committee meetings. This will provide an opportunity for Committee Members to request more information on specific topics or suggest deeper dives into areas that may not have been fully covered or you just need a better understanding on. Implementing this serves two purposes: it helps determine if there is broader interest in a topic and allows staff adequate time to prepare information for public broadcast to all members.

I would like to discuss at our next Executive Committee meeting, and prior to that, I'd like this placed on the Personnel Committee agenda, to consider a recommendation to the Executive Committee regarding information requests. We need to discuss the potential necessity of a policy to ensure requests remain reasonable. Our staff is exceptionally professional and diligent in fulfilling requests; however, an inordinate amount of requests and depending on the volume of research, can be cumbersome and time-intensive. Given that we have 8–10 years of historical data available on our website, we must be mindful of the resources required to retrieve information that may already be accessible to us.

I look forward to discussing how we can best balance transparency with staff efficiency."

Director Kapheim shared that his agency, Kings River Conservation District, has partnered with actress Meg Ryan's production company to produce a feature highlighting the agency's work, including its fishery management program, dam-raising project, and hydroelectric improvements. The feature is expected to air nationally through outlets such as the History Channel, Discovery Channel, and other media platforms. Director Kapheim noted that, while the long-term impact is unknown, the opportunity offers valuable exposure and underscores the importance of proactively sharing the positive work public agencies are accomplishing.

Committee members congratulated Director Kapheim on the opportunity and emphasized the importance of public outreach and of educating the public about the essential services water agencies provide. They encouraged him to keep the Committee informed as the project progresses and to share broadcast information as it becomes available.

Director Hastey emphasized the importance of telling the stories of public agencies and shared Yuba Water Agency's experience investing in communications and public outreach. He noted that effectively communicating the work of public agencies builds community trust and understanding, particularly during challenging events. Committee members agreed that public agencies provide essential services and should take a more active role in sharing their successes and educating the public about the work done on behalf of their communities.

Availability for Next Meeting

The Executive Committee is scheduled to meet next on July 29, 2026.

V. CLOSED SESSION

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

M/S/C (Reed/Lu-Yang) (Gonzales-Brady-Yes; Hastey-Yes; Kapheim-Yes; Lu-Yang-Yes; Ratterman-Yes; Reed-Yes; Rupp-Yes; Wheaton-Yes; McDonald-Yes); That the Executive Committee adjourn to Closed Session.

At approximately 9:49 AM, 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. Champaco v. Yuima Municipal Water District (DOL 02/02/2021)

The Committee returned to open session at approximately 10:09 AM.

Closed Session Item A: No reportable action.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Attest:

X

Melody McDonald
Chair

X

Adrienne Beatty
Secretary