



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2021

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD MEMBERS ON
COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES
FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2022 AND 2023**

ISSUE:

Authorize Riverside Public Utility Board Members to serve as committee members of the Association of California Water Agencies for the calendar years of 2022 and 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize Riverside Public Utility Board Members Deborah Cherney, Gil Ocegueda, and David Crohn to serve as committee members of the Association of California Water Agencies for calendar years 2022 and 2023.

BACKGROUND:

Appointing representatives from the Board of Public Utilities to outside organizations is the purview of the City Council (Ref. Standing Rules 9).

DISCUSSION:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is the largest statewide coalition of public water agencies in the country. ACWA members account for 90% of the water delivered to cities, farms and businesses in California. ACWA provides comprehensive leadership, advocacy and resources for California public water agencies to ensure a high quality and reliable water supply in an environmentally sustainable and fiscally responsible manner.

ACWA has 13 standing committees that cover a broad range of categories impacting California water policy that members can participate in. By participating in an ACWA committee, members are able to engage in state and local issues and influence policy and legislation. Committees are structured to include representation from all 10 ACWA Regions, bringing together diverse voices on technical and policy matters. Committee members are nominated by Region Chairs and appointed by the incoming ACWA President. Committee members serve two-year terms that begin on January 1 of even-numbered years.

Riverside Public Utilities is a member of ACWA and is located in ACWA Region 9. ACWA Region 9 encompasses the counties of Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino, respectively.

Riverside Public Utilities board members Deborah Cherney, Gil Ocegüera, and David Crohn have expressed interest in serving on the ACWA State Legislative, Groundwater, Water Management, and Energy committees, and, if authorized by Council, may serve on any or all the of the aforementioned committees.

Service on ACWA committees will provide opportunities to communicate, protect, and advance the interests of RPU ratepayers in critical state and regional water technical and policy matters.

The Groundwater, Water Management, and Energy Committees meet between 2-4 times in a calendar year. The State Legislative Committee meets between 10-12 times a year. Currently, committee members may participate in meetings remotely.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

Board representative appointments support the priorities of the City of Riverside's Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan, which contributes to Environmental Stewardship Strategic Priority No. 4 and Goal 4.2 – Sustainably manage local water resources to maximize reliability and advance water reuse to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable water to our community.

1. **Community Trust** – RPU representation on outside water organizations and their boards ensures that Riverside's voice is heard in regional issues and that Riverside's residents are represented in regional decision-making that affects the City and results in greater public good.
2. **Equity** – RPU representation on outside water organizations and their boards ensures that all Riverside residents are represented in regional issues that may impact water supply, quality, and access.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – RPU benefits from outside water organization appointments by exploring potential partnerships that can produce cost savings and ensure that regional water issues are addressed in a way that maximizes benefit and utilities funds responsibly.
4. **Innovation** – RPU representation on outside water organizations and their boards supports regional collaboration and learning both within the City organization and the region to ensure that best practices are utilized and provides opportunities to participate in regional efforts to ensure water availability, quality, and co-benefits for the City.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – RPU representation on outside water organizations and their boards contribute to meeting Riverside's water needs through the ability to participate in regional decision-making that impacts Riverside's water resources as well as participate in watershed protection efforts that support clean air, habitat, and endangered species in addition to preserving Riverside's water supply.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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