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MEMORANDUM

TO: BAWSCA Board of Directors
FROM: Nicole Sandkulla, CEO/General Manager
DATE: August 9, 2024
SUBJECT: Chief Executive Officer/General Manager’s Letter

California Data Collaborative (CaDC) Workshop:

On July 25, 2024, two BAWSCA staff members presented at a California Data Collaborative (CaDC) workshop held at Alameda County Water District’s Fremont office. This was a hybrid workshop that included both an in-person and remote audience.

Tom Francis, BAWSCA Water Resources Manager, highlighted the work that BAWSCA is doing to document all of the actions taken in the region during the recent drought, collating that data, and using Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) data to dive into the impact of demand management interventions.

Negin Ashoori, BAWSCA Senior Water Resources Engineer, provided an overview of BAWSCA's history of evolving demand forecasting models and the challenges of predicting the future when water demand behaviors keep changing. She detailed how BAWSCA’s latest and planned approaches link econometric models of population, weather, and passive conservation with engineering models of active conservation measures.

The workshop was recorded and can be streamed from this [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jgu8UOI8kjE):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jgu8UOI8kjE>

Water Management Charge:

At its meeting on July 18, 2024, the Board of Directors approved the staff recommendation to fund the development of the Long-Term Reliable Water Supply Strategy 2050 (Strategy 2050) by means of the Water Management Charge as authorized in Section 3.06.A of the 2021 Amended and Restated Water Supply Agreement. The approved budget of \$2,447,000 to develop Strategy 2050 would need to be collected by SFPUC via the Water Management Charge over 18 months starting with bills issued in September 2024.

The Correspondence Packet includes a copy of CEO Sandkulla’s letter to SFPUC General Manager Dennis Herrera notifying him of the Board action and initiating the collection process of the Water Management Charge. BAWSCA has begun the necessary coordination with SFPUC on the administrative matters involved in billing, collecting, and remitting WMC revenue. Consistent with the adopted work plan, development of Strategy 2050 will commence in January 2025 and the work will continue through January 2027.

ACWA Webinar on State Water Use Efficiency:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), in partnership with the California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) and League of California Cities, will hold a webinar on August 20th from 1pm to 2pm on the recently adopted long-term water use efficiency standards, commonly referred to as “Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life.” This webinar is directed towards general managers, city managers, executive staff, and elected officials to enable these officials to better understand the new regulatory landscape that water supplies must comply with. As has been discussed with the board and member agencies, for example, many agencies will need to increase conservation program staffing and budgets to meet the new requirements. Elected officials will be critical for ensuring the appropriate resources are allocated to achieve and maintain compliance.

More information about the [webinar and registration](https://www.acwa.com/events/aug20webinar/) can be found at: <https://www.acwa.com/events/aug20webinar/>.

BAWSCA is an ACWA member and as a Board Member, you should be able to register under BAWSCA. Please contact Lourdes Enriquez at lenriquez@bawasca.org for BAWSCA’s login credentials. Membership with the League of California Cities may offer free or discounted registration as well. A recording of the webinar will be provided to each registrant the day after the webinar.

BAWSCA, in partnership with Valley Water, is developing resources to help member agency staff with understanding and mapping out a compliance pathway for the new regulations.

Tier 2 Plan Update and Minimum Purchase Quantity Amendment Proposal:

BAWSCA and the lead negotiators continue to make progress on the Tier 2 Plan update and a potential amendment to the minimum purchase requirements in the Water Supply Agreement between San Francisco and its Wholesale Customers. BAWSCA staff and the Tier 2 technical consultants are doing a comprehensive QA/QC review and finalizing the Excel-based model that will run the agreed upon calculations. The legal team is developing adoption materials for the agencies to bring to the respective governing bodies for approval. Meanwhile, BAWSCA continues to support the minimum purchase agencies’ efforts to find agreement on the proposed amendment. This includes facilitating group discussions and participating in one-on-one meetings with other agencies to help answer questions.

The objective is to secure agreement from all member agencies at the staff level by the end of September or early October.

CEO/General Manager Recruitment Update:

The recruitment process for BAWSCA’s new CEO/General Manager is ongoing with an August 13, 2024 application deadline. The recruitment [brochure](https://bawasca.org/about/jobs/positions) can be found at <https://bawasca.org/about/jobs/positions>.

Although the window for new applicants is still open, the recruiter does report some potentially promising prospects. The Ad Hoc Committee is working on other preparations to maintain the currently anticipated schedule of candidate interviews in late August/early September and making a candidate recommendation for the Board’s consideration at its September 19, 2024 meeting.