



**Technical  
Customer Advisory Committee (TCAC)**

**ACTION SUMMARY**

**February 6, 2025**

Members Present:

Elias Archuleta  
Mark Begay  
John Fleck  
Brian Freeman  
Kerry Howe  
Donald T. Lopez  
Anjali Mulchandani  
Mario Nuño-Whelan  
Jill Peterson

Members Excused:

Water Authority Staff Present:

Diane Agnew, Water Rights Program Manager  
Amos Arber, Program Manager Water Conservation  
Mark Kelly, Water Resources Manager  
Marta Ortiz, Chief Financial Officer  
Jordan Salas, Executive Services Coordinator  
Mark Sanchez, Executive Director

**Members of the public can view the meeting by joining the video conference. Requests for login information to this meeting and or Public Comment must be submitted to [jsalas@abcwua.org](mailto:jsalas@abcwua.org) before 2:00PM on the date of the meeting.**

**Item 1 – Call to Order - Note presence of quorum.**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chair Mulchandani.

## **Item 2 – Approval of Agenda**

Lopez made a motion to approve the agenda. Freeman seconded the motion. Archuleta is excused as he had not yet arrived at the meeting. The motion passed 8-0 vote.

For: 8 Begay, Fleck, Freeman, Howe, Mulchandani, Lopez, Nuño-Whelan,  
Peterson  
Against: 0  
Excused: 1 Archuleta

## **Item 3 – Approval of January 9, 2025, Action Summary**

Fleck made a motion to approve the January 9, 2025, Action Summary. Howe seconded the motion. Peterson abstained from voting as she was excused from the January 9, 2025, meeting. The motion passed 7-0 vote.

For: 7 Begay, Fleck, Freeman, Howe, Mulchandani, Lopez, Nuño-Whelan  
Against:  
Excused: 2 Archuleta, Peterson

## **Item 4 – Public Comment**

Public Comment was accepted prior to the meeting by email and distributed to members.

## **Item 8 – Rio Chama Sediment Plug Update – Diane Agnew**

***Item 8 was approved to be moved up on the agenda.***

Ms. Agnew provided a status update on the Rio Chama Sediment Plug. Progress has been made with increased channel capacity, progress going well, excavated down to bedrock, and there are no expected sedimentation issues during spring runoff.

## **Item 5 – Non-Functional Turf – Amos Arber, Caroline Koch, Victoria Arling, and Bruk Berhanu**

Mark Kelly introduced consultants with Pacific Institute and provided an opening on the Non-Functional Turf (NFT) Roadmap containing recommendations. Victoria Arling, Caroline Koch, and Bruk Berhanu with Pacific Institute were introduced and presented on transforming Albuquerque landscapes and reducing non-functional turf.

Amos Arber described his background and details about xeriscape and rebates. Described heat and climate change depleting our resources. Discussed the urban forest canopy and its importance, along with entities that support the non-functional turf program.

Ms. Koch discussed the project timeline beginning in 2023. The finalized NFT Transformation Roadmap is expected to be completed Spring 2025. The goal is to reduce 30% of NFT in the Water Authority's service area. The Roadmap is set up as an action plan to effectively reduce NFT. Ms. Koch provided a NFT definition.

Bruk Berhanu explained the areas identified as having NFT using GIS mapping software. 26 million square feet was identified as having NFT. This would require 7.7 million square feet of NFT be transformed. Mr. Berhanu discussed how the sites should be prioritized. Public properties should be prioritized first. Polling was completed to rank considerations for the Water Authority to prioritize the NFT transformation. Pacific Institute offered polling to the TCAC through a QR code. The TCAC was able to vote live on NFT sites to be prioritized.

Ms. Koch discussed a rough budget related to the potential cost of the transformation. The Roadmap outlined three budget scenarios, six factors in each scenario were described, each with different timelines. Pacific Institute recommends the six-year option. Discussed funding mechanisms included in the Roadmap scenarios and budget timelines, and value of water conserved. Provided an overview of benefits-cost analysis.

Ms. Arling discussed outreach and education strategy, community engagement, NFT partnerships, and key messages to do with the program and goals, environmental, economic, and community benefits, eligibility and participation, success stories, local impact, funding, and ratepayer impacts.

### **Item 6 - FY26 One-Year Objectives – Marta Ortiz**

Ms. Ortiz discussed the Water Authority business goals based on American Water Works Association (AWWA) business model and how these goals achieve the Water Authority's overall mission, described FY26 one-year objectives related to completing projects or improving programs, identified performance gaps during the budget process by allocating and prioritizing resources, described how the one-year objectives develop improvement processes to be more efficient and effective in operations and service delivery. Went over goals within the one-year objectives.

**Item 7 – Water Report – Mark Kelly**

Mr. Kelly discussed the current Water Report. There are currently abnormally dry to moderated drought conditions, drought severity and coverage index 179, rolling gallons per capita per day (GPCD) is 125. Record high temperatures recently. Discussed the U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook for January 2025.

**Item 9 – Other Business**

None

**Item 10 – Adjournment: Time 5:43PM**

DRAFT