



## BOARD INFORMATION

**TO:** Governing Board (Operations Committee)  
**FROM:** Management  
**DATE:** March 11, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** ACWA/JPIA *Commitment to Excellence* Program Update

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### **SUMMARY**

In October 2013, the Association of California Water Agencies - Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA) initiated its *Commitment to Excellence* safety outreach program. This long-term effort was intended to help JPIA's membership reduce the frequency and severity of liability, workers' compensation, and property losses by gaining commitment from each participating utility's top decision makers.

On April 23, 2014, the Authority signed the ACWA/JPIA *Commitment to Excellence* agreement. By this action, the Authority committed to provide sufficient resources and support to the *Commitment to Excellence* program.

Staff compared the ACWA/JPIA list of 151 Best Practices with current Authority policies, practices, and procedures. Best Practices are organized into the areas of vehicle operations, construction, infrastructure, employment practices, and ergonomics/falls. Based on this comparison, staff updated several of the Authority's standard operating procedures and work methods. The result is the Authority is aligned with 134 or approximately 89 percent of the Best Practices. The remaining 17 were determined to be neither applicable nor appropriate for the Authority. Due to the length, the full Best Practice Opportunity Review has not been attached, but is available to any Board Member or member of the public upon request, and has also been posted on the Authority's website.

On February 9, 2016, staff met with Peter Kuchinsky, Lead Risk Management Consultant from ACWA/JPIA, to review the Authority's safety programs and discuss achievements related to the *Commitment to Excellence* program. Mr. Kuchinsky noted the decrease in the number and value of liability and workers' compensation claims over the last few policy years and complimented the Authority on the number of Best Practices embedded in the Authority's routine work practices.

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**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is minimal staff administrative effort to be a part of this program; however, the results have shown that costs related to operations are being reduced. Also, it is unknown at this time whether ACWA/JPIA will continue to enhance the *Commitment to Excellence* program, or modify the Best Practices. Staff will continue to monitor the program and items requiring additional commitment of Authority resources will be prioritized for consideration in future year budgets.

**POLICY/STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE**

Strategic Plan Objective SD6 - Staff Development item 004.00 directs staff to report annually on the selected ACWA/JPIA *Commitment to Excellence* program Best Management Practices.


**CONCLUSION**

This report is an informational item only.

Reviewed by:

  
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Jennifer H. Sabine, Assistant General Manager

Approved by:

  
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James L. Smyth, General Manager